

MEETING OF THE FYLDE COAST ACADEMY TRUST SAFEGUARDING BOARD

Meeting No 8.

Date: Tuesday 1st December 2015
Venue: Aspire Academy
Time: 4.15pm

Present: Dr David Sanders (Chair)
Ms Nicola Anderson (Lead Case Worker, Deputy Safeguarding Lead, Unity Academy)
Dr Phil Anderton (Safeguarding Governor, Blackpool Sixth Form College)
Ms Alana Frith (Safeguarding Governor, Aspire Academy)
Mr Tom Kearns (Deputy Principal of Teaching and Learning and Student Services)
Mr Chris McConnachie (Chair of Governors, Hodgson Academy)
Mrs Gail Neale (Safeguarding Governor, Montgomery High School)
Mr Neill Oldham (Director of Student Welfare, Child Protection and SENDCO, Aspire Academy)
Mr Stuart Ormson (Designated Safeguarding Officer, Blackpool Sixth Form College)
Ms Lisa Shuttleworth-Brown (Vice Principal, Aspire Academy)
Ms Gill Smith (Assistant Principal: Personal Development and Welfare, Montgomery High School)

Mrs Kath Buddle (FCAT Governance Administrator – minutes)

Apologies: Apologies were received and accepted from Simon Brennand and Gail Yeadon.

1. Preliminaries

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, and especially student representatives from Aspire Academy and Blackpool Sixth Form College who were attending the first part of the meeting to feedback on safeguarding issues concerning them.

Introductions were made.

Apologies from Simon Brennand and Gail Yeadon were noted.

2. Declarations of interest

None.

3. Student Perspectives on safeguarding

Students from Aspire Academy and Blackpool Sixth Form College provided information on the following safeguarding issues which they felt were priorities:

- **Use of drugs** – this was identified as an issue by Blackpool Sixth Form College who felt that more awareness raising of the impact of drugs on health and wellbeing needed to be rolled out to students at an earlier age, probably from Year 10. When asked about how the issue was currently discussed in school, the Aspire Academy students explained that although there were termly assemblies on the topic, they felt that the matter needed to be given a greater profile and discussed more regularly. Asked if there were instances of students being offered drugs in school, students confirmed that this was the case.
- **Travel by service bus** – Aspire Academy students identified this as a particular area of concern, explaining that there had been a number of

Action

instances where buses had left students at bus stops, driving straight past them, despite the fact that there seemed to be plenty of room on the buses for more passengers to get on. It was felt that this was a safeguarding issue because students were susceptible to risk taking behaviour in trying to get to school on time and vulnerable to people who might want to do them harm. Asked about how many students this was impacting on, the Aspire students reported that 45 of their colleagues had been late for school the previous day as a result of buses not stopping to pick them up. GS confirmed that the issue was an area of concern at Montgomery High School, and probably other schools, as well as Aspire Academy. Schools had raised the issue with Blackpool Transport but had not received a positive response to date.

- **Dangerous route home** – Blackpool Sixth Form College students highlighted the fact that many of their peers were using a potentially dangerous short cut across an unlit field in order to reduce time taken to get home by 45 minutes. There had been a recent incident where a student had had a mobile phone stolen while using the route, and, although Police had advised against it, students were still using it.
- **Social media** – Aspire Academy students identified the problems being experienced with abuse of social media, especially incidents where students were taking photographs of their peers and posting them on sites. Asked if e-bullying was a particular problem, the students confirmed that this was less of an issue than it had been at the previous Aspire Academy site and they confirmed that they felt confident that processes were in place to report incidents and that these would be addressed effectively. NO explained the importance of ensuring that parents also realised their responsibilities in terms of supervising use of social media sites. The academy had procedures in place to block access to unsuitable sites whilst in school, but out of school had no authority.
- **Knowledge of child abuse** – Blackpool Sixth Form College students explained the potential for them to help identify when their peers might be experiencing child abuse and provide better support if they had more knowledge of the symptoms.
- **Smoking** – both sets of students confirmed that smoking was still prevalent amongst their peers.
- **Safety in town** – both sets of students confirmed that they did not feel safe being in Blackpool town centre after dark.

The Chair thanked the students for raising the issues and they left the meeting.

Laura Ferris, FCAT HR Business Partner joined the meeting for the next item.

4. **Counselling for case managers**

LF explained the counselling services available to staff with difficult safeguarding caseloads from Occupational Health. In addition, Pauline Howard, a governor at one of the FCAT academies, was training to become a life coach and had offered free counselling sessions to FCAT staff as part of her requirement to develop a portfolio of evidence. Pauline is an ex police officer and her approach is solutions focussed and would be able to provide group and one to one sessions for staff at different settings.

Members of the Board raised the fact that some staff might be hesitant about accessing counselling in case it reflected badly on their ability to manage difficult cases. LF assured the Board that any counselling services provided, either by Pauline or Occupational Health would remain confidential in line with

Action

professional standards.

The potential to develop a supervisory structure to provide support for case workers as happens in other professions was also discussed. Staff felt that case workers needed to be assured that they were following the correct procedure and to be able to access emotional support when required. LF confirmed that Pauline would be able to provide emotional support but not, necessarily, have the knowledge to understand safeguarding procedures.

Questions

Asked if counselling services could be provided at different sites, LF explained that Pauline would be prepared to travel to provide services but that services provided by Occupational Health would need to be accessed from their own premises.

In response to a question about whether or not the procurement process had been followed in respect of contracting Pauline to provide counselling services, LF explained that Pauline had not been contracted but had offered her services free of charge whilst in training. There was an opportunity to trial the services she was offering in order to assess effectiveness and identify future potential in advance of an official tendering process.

Following the discussion, the Board agreed to trial the services offered by Pauline, perhaps in a group session, in one of the FCAT academies.

It was also agreed to invite Pauline and a social worker to the next meeting of the Board to learn more about the supervisory structures in place across their profession.

Clerk
(agenda)

The Chair thanked LF for her input and she left the meeting.

Lisa Shuttleworth-Brown joined the meeting.

5. Student Perspective: implications for the FCAT Safeguarding Board

The group discussed actions to address safeguarding issues identified by students earlier in the meeting.

It was agreed that students needed to be better informed about the availability of drugs and the outcomes of drug use at an earlier stage in their school life. The development of the induction programme for students in Years 10 and 11 to incorporate further information about the implications of drug abuse was considered and it was agreed that representatives from each of the FCAT Safeguarding Board organisations would bring examples of their schemes of work on this subject to the next meeting for further discussion.

All

In terms of the issue around access to buses, the Chair agreed to write to Blackpool Transport about the problem and request a meeting/action to address the matter.

Chair

The group considered ways in which students might be discouraged from using the short cut access across the unlit field, noting that it is a public right of way. SO reported that the Sixth Form College had already advised its students not to use the short cut and to be mindful of their personal safety if they were going to do so. It was agreed to raise the matter with police community support officers (PCSOs) and to advise students to at least walk with friends, rather than alone, if they were going to continue to use the route.

SO

The group discussed whether or not risks associated with the use of social

	<u>Action</u>
<p>media sites were being covered widely enough in PSHE (Personal, Social, Health, Economic Education) sessions. Representatives agreed to revisit their syllabuses to identify where further discussion on this could be carried out with children and young people and to include the matter as a regular item on school council meeting agendas.</p>	All
<p>Following a discussion on the potential to provide Sixth Form College students with information that might help them recognise instances of child abuse, SO agreed to look at how the Sixth Form College's Level 1 safeguarding training programme might be adapted for use by students and to report back to the next meeting on this.</p>	SO KB (agenda)
<p>With regard to smoking matters, members of the Board confirmed that they were all continuing to support 'no smoking' campaigns.</p>	
<p>The Chair agreed to contact the Police about the concerns raised by students about their safety after dark.</p>	Chair
<p>The Board agreed that more needed to be done, across Lancashire, to raise awareness of parental responsibility in policing the use of social media sites. However, the focus needed to remain on increasing the resilience of young people to cope with potentially dangerous and offensive content.</p>	
<p>The Chair asked SO and NO to make sure that students were informed of the actions that were being carried out to address their concerns.</p>	
<p>6. Consideration of any items of urgent business None.</p>	
<p>7. Minutes of the meeting held on 15th October 2015 The minutes of the meeting were approved.</p>	
<p>8. Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda</p> <p>8.1 Prevent for FE and Training website (Item 7 from the previous minutes) – the Clerk confirmed that the link had been circulated to members of the Board.</p> <p>8.2 Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board website (Item 10 from the previous minutes) – the Clerk confirmed that the link had been circulated.</p> <p>8.3 Virtual Private Networks and dangerous websites (Item 15 from the previous minutes) – the Clerk confirmed that concerns about the potentially dangerous sites had been passed to the FCAT Strategic Lead in IT. LSB confirmed that geo-fencing software had been installed at Aspire Academy to block access to unsuitable sites.</p>	
<p>9. Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) – revisions This item was deferred to the next meeting.</p>	Clerk (agenda)
<p>10. FCAT Level 1 Safeguarding Training Course LSB reported that an FCAT wide Level 1 safeguarding training programme had been developed and successfully launched with staff at Aspire Academy. GS confirmed that the training had also been delivered to Montgomery High School staff and that another session had been scheduled for 11th January 2016 for those that had not yet attended. This could be opened up to staff from other academies if there was a need. The Clerk agreed to circulate the date to members of the Board.</p>	Clerk

The Clerk reported that three Level 1 training sessions for FCAT governors had also been scheduled.

11. Safeguarding peer reviews

AF reported back on a meeting which had been held to develop a process for implementing safeguarding peer reviews. The procedure to be followed and documentation to support the reviews had been agreed. Aspire Academy had agreed to receive the first review in January 2016, which would be carried out by GY and GS. The intention of the reviews was to identify opportunities for improvement and provide additional support to academies rather than to deliver a safeguarding inspection.

Asked about how files would remain confidential during the reviews, AF explained that the reviewing team would liaise with appropriate staff across the academy and would not access files unless they had been fully anonymised.

It was agreed to discuss feedback from the Aspire review at the next meeting.

Clerk
(agenda)

12. National Developments

The Chair fed back on the following developments:

- **National panel of independent experts on serious case reviews** – the second annual report of the panel focussed on learning from case reviews and was in strong support of local safeguarding children boards (LSCBs).
- **Ofsted inspections** – joint inspections of local authorities and LSCBs which should have begun in October 2015 had been deferred to April 2016.
- **Campaign on tackling child abuse** – Edward Timpson, Minister of State for Children and Families was leading on a campaign to tackle child abuse. His office would be providing templates for completion in suspected cases.
- **Local serious case reviews** – six serious case reviews had been carried out locally over the last 16 months. However, the Chair was concerned that valuable learning was not being disseminated across practitioners. Blackpool Safeguarding would be delivering training on serious case reviews at the Solaris Centre on 26th February 2016.
- **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)** – reductions in cover numbers being reviewed.

13. E-safety – information for parents

LSB agreed to forward latest information on e-safety as shared with Aspire Academy parents.

LSB

14. FCAT Risk Register

The Board considered the FCAT Risk Register and reviewed findings in respect of safeguarding impacts. Following a brief discussion, the Clerk agreed to pass on the need to include risks of not developing a safe environment for children and young people within academies and risks associated with poor student behaviour.

The FCAT Safeguarding Risk Register was reviewed and recent changes agreed.

15. Recent safeguarding case study

The group considered a recent case study presented by one of the FCAT organisations which illustrated how children and young people with low self-

Action

esteem are at risk of abuse because they do not always recognise it as such. The importance of regularly raising awareness of unacceptable behaviour was identified as key to addressing this and similar issues.

A discussion took place about 'Chelsea's Choice', a play on the theme of child sexual exploitation being performed in secondary schools across the country. A similar play for use across primary schools was also in development. The potential for FCAT organisations to share the cost of providing the play was considered.

16. Blackpool LSCB Shadow Board - update

NA provided a summary of the last LSCB shadow board meeting and highlighted the following points which had been discussed:

- A presentation on the Prevent Strategy and Channel programme which aim to tackle radicalisation and extremism.
- The restructuring of local safeguarding teams around themes rather than areas.
- A multi-agency audit of referrals to Blackpool Children's Social Care.
- The development of a tool to assess neglect, based on the NSPCC version, which was being trialled by front line workers. This would be a priority area for the LSCB Shadow Board over the next two years.

The Chair was concerned about the sharing of information across different agencies and proposed to invite the leads from the Child Protection Group and Families in Need to future meetings.

Chair
Clerk
(agenda)

17. Identification of any new risk areas

The following new risks were identified:

- Ensuring safe environment and culture across FCAT organisations
- Travel to school on service buses for students
- Pathway through the field being taken as a short cut by Blackpool Sixth Form College students.

18. Date and time of next meeting

Thursday 11th February 2016 at 4.15pm

Venue: Unity Academy. Montgomery and Unity students will attend the first part of the meeting to feedback on safeguarding issues that concern them.

Signed: _____(Chair)

Date: _____