

MEETING OF THE FYLDE COAST ACADEMY TRUST SAFEGUARDING BOARD

Meeting No. 15

Date: Thursday 27th April 2017
Venue: Hodgson Academy
Time: 4.15pm

Present: Dr David Sanders (Chair)
Ms Fiona Bate (SENCO and Leader of Student Services, Hodgson Academy)
Mr Simon Brennand (Senior Vice Principal, Unity Academy)
Mr Tim Craven (Designated Safeguarding Officer, Blackpool Sixth Form College)
Mr William Greene (Safeguarding Governor, Aspire Academy)
Ms Wendy Middlemas (Safeguarding Director, Blackpool Sixth Form College)
Ms Julie Riley (Family Support Worker, Westcliff Primary School)
Ms Gill Smith (Assistant Principal: Personal Development and Welfare, Montgomery High School)
Ms Amanda Stokes (Principal and Safeguarding Lead, Westcliff Primary School)
Ms Nicola Wheatley (Safeguarding Lead, Mereside Primary School)
Ms Gail Yeadon (Deputy Principal and Safeguarding Lead, Blackpool Sixth Form College)

Mrs Kath Buddle (FCAT Governance Administrator – minutes)
Ms Christina Grindy (Senior Recruitment Consultant, Hays – for part of the meeting)

Apologies: Apologies were received and accepted from Ms N Anderson, Ms S Burrows, Ms A Gibbons, Mr C McConnachie and Ms H Wood.

1. Preliminaries

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and especially pupils from Montgomery High School. Introductions were made.

Apologies were noted.

2. Declarations of interest

None

3. Pupil Perspectives

Pupils from Montgomery High School fed back on safeguarding issues important to them and highlighted, in particular, the following:

- **Congestion in the dining hall** during break and lunch times and the impact on smaller Year 7 and Year 8 pupils who were in danger of getting squashed by older/larger pupils. In response to a question from the Chair, pupils confirmed that there was no bullying as such during this time, just general over-crowding that caused some pupils to push others.

GS confirmed that Montgomery's Senior Leadership Team (SLT) was aware of and looking at ways of alleviating the situation.

- **Impact of social media** on friendships and attitudes to school. Asked if the academy had rules on the use of mobile phones in school, pupils confirmed that this was the case but that students still used their phones secretly during breaks and when out of school. Abuse of social media often caused unpleasantness and broke friendships. Asked if incidents of abuse were reported to staff, pupils confirmed that they were but that

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this did not stop comments and bullying from happening. Asked if pupils knew who to contact when they felt they were being bullied, they confirmed that they did. The Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) had become involved in some incidents but it did not stop the abuse from continuing.

- **Sexting** – a particular problem in Year 9 despite the fact that the academy delivered a number of assembly sessions on the dangers. Asked why they thought this continued to be an issue, the pupils said they felt that teachers were uncomfortable when discussing the subject. The Chair explained that the FCAT Safeguarding Board was working with Barclay's Bank on the development of a DVD which would highlight the dangers of misusing social media and there was an opportunity to incorporate the implications of sexting into this.
- **Town centre** – general fear of going into town in the evenings. The Chair informed pupils that the same issue had been reported by students from other academies and that the FCAT Safeguarding Board was already in contact with the Director of Community and Environmental Services at Blackpool Council to consider how safety in particular places across the town could be improved.

Hodgson students had identified a number of safeguarding concerns including the sexting, the increasing use of e-cigarettes and the spice drug by students; the lack of understanding of the word 'consent' and the dangers of the 'Blue Whale Challenge'. (Their issues had been listed on a paper which was circulated at the meeting). The Blue Whale Challenge was not discussed any further while pupils were in the meeting.

The Chair explained to Montgomery pupils that their concerns would be discussed and actions to address them fed back when possible. He thanked them for bringing the issues to the Board's attention and they left the meeting.

4. **Safeguarding e-learning package**

Christina Grindy from Hays provided a brief presentation on an online safeguarding learning programme developed by her company. The package was already in place across a number of schools in the North West including Hodgson Academy. CG explained that the programme was based on four modules: safeguarding children, roles and responsibilities, health and safety and e-safety and anti-bullying. It allowed for unlimited user access at each school and was regularly updated with alerts. Participants had to pass a test at the end of the course which administrators were able to monitor.

Asked about the added value of the programme compared to the free online courses available on safeguarding, CG explained that the Hays programme was constantly updated to take into account legislative and national/regional developments. Users could log onto the programme as required e.g. to update their knowledge in a particular area or to learn about a new issue. The programme could also be tailored to include FCAT's own initiatives and policies which could be added through web links.

Following a discussion by the Board, CG agreed to contact individual academies for them to trial the programme.

The Clerk confirmed that she would contact the HR Business Partner regarding the discussion as an FCAT wide decision on whether or not to purchase the programme would need to be made.

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5. Road Safety, Sports Barn and Purple Flag initiative

Feedback from John Blackledge on these items was deferred to the next meeting to allow John to meet with representatives from all the organisations experiencing road safety concerns.

6. Consideration of issues raised by pupils

The Board discussed the issues raised by pupils earlier in the meeting and agreed the following:

a) **Dining room congestion at Montgomery** – Montgomery staff to continue reviewing ways of improving this in the future.

b) **Abuse of social media/sexting** –the issues to be incorporated into the DVD that the Chair and Neil Oldham (NO) from Aspire Academy were discussing with Barclays. The Chair reported that he and NO had met with Barclays and that the bank had agreed to support the development of a DVD highlighting the dangers of social media abuse with resources (though not cash). The DVD could then be used by secondary level staff as a teaching aid on the subject in order to help build students' resilience to the dangers of social media. Barclays were happy for the final product to be badged jointly with the Trust and costs to FCAT would be relatively small (£300 - £400). The Head of Drama at Aspire Academy had volunteered to lead on the project but would require support from colleagues across the Trust.

In response to a question about how the impact of the DVD might be measured, the Chair explained that the quality of the final product, the ease of access to content and the impact of this on young people would help determine its effectiveness.

The Clerk agreed to request approval of the DVD by FCAT Directors at their next meeting on 25th May 2017.

Clerk

In response to a comment about the need to develop resilience amongst primary as well as secondary children, the Chair agreed that this was of paramount importance and explained that Paul Turner, Safeguarding Advisor for Blackpool Safeguarding Board, was leading a piece of work on this to support Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) lessons.

c) **Areas in town where students feel unsafe** – the Rock Garden at Bispham, mentioned by Montgomery pupils, to be added to the list of areas where students feel unsafe and passed on to John Blackledge for further consideration/action. Hodgson students had also highlighted Poulton Park and Fleetwood Mount as potentially dangerous places for them to be at certain times. The Clerk was asked to invite a senior Police officer to a future meeting in order to pass on concerns.

Clerk

Clerk

d) **Sales of 'Spice' and e-cigarettes** – the Chair to send a letter to Trading Standards on behalf of the Board, highlighting the extent of sales to under age children and asking for remedial action in respect of this.

Chair/Clerk

e) **Understanding the word 'consent' and the dangers of the 'Blue Whale Challenge'** (a list of challenges circulated amongst young people encouraging them to partake in extreme risk taking activities) – both of these to be incorporated into the PSHE timetable.

All

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13. New Risks

The following new risks had been identified during the meeting:

- Risk of young people being sold legal highs and e-cigarettes.
- Implications of sexting
- Implications of the Blue Whale Challenge.

14. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 20th June 2017 at 4.15pm
Aspire Academy.

Signed: _____(Chair)

Date: _____