

## MEETING OF THE FYLDE COAST ACADEMY TRUST SAFEGUARDING BOARD

### Meeting No. 13

Date: Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016  
Venue: Blackpool Sixth Form College  
Time: 4.15pm

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**Present:** Dr David Sanders (Chair)  
Ms Nicola Anderson (Lead Case Worker, Deputy Safeguarding Lead, Unity Academy)  
Dr Phil Anderton (Safeguarding Director, Blackpool Sixth Form College)  
Ms Fiona Bate (SENCO and Leader of Student Services, Hodgson Academy)  
Ms Sue Burrows (Safeguarding Governor, Westcliff Primary School)  
Mr William Greene (Safeguarding Governor, Aspire Academy)  
Ms Lisa Knowles (Safeguarding Governor, Hambleton Primary 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 Holly Wood (Principal, Hambleton Primary Academy)

Mrs Kath Buddle (FCAT Governance Administrator – minutes)

**Apologies:** Apologies were received and accepted from Alicia Gibbons, Chris McConnachie, and Gail Yeadon.

#### 1. Preliminaries

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and especially students from Aspire Academy and Blackpool Sixth Form College and new members to the Safeguarding Board.

Introductions were made.

Apologies were noted.

#### 2. Declarations of interest

None

#### 3. Student Perspective

##### a) Aspire Academy

Aspire students provided feedback on safeguarding issues pertinent to them and highlighted the current practice of ‘bus trekking’ taking place amongst their peers. This involved students boarding random buses and taking journeys to places they were unfamiliar with, leaving them in potentially dangerous situations. Often, the activity took place in the evenings and involved changing buses so taking them a long way from home.

Asked about why they chose to do this, the students explained that it was something for them to do and helped them to avoid boredom. Often their parents thought they were somewhere else when they were doing this, for example at friends’ houses.

In response to a suggestion about the possibility of providing alternative

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activities, for example youth clubs, students agreed that this might reduce the number of young people engaging in bus trekking.

Asked by the Chair about safety issues in respect of traffic outside their academy, students and Aspire staff members confirmed that this was still a serious matter. Vehicles drove too quickly along the road and the amount of traffic, including heavy industrial vehicles, made crossing the road very dangerous. This had been exacerbated by the current road works at Crossley's Bridge which had diverted more traffic down the road.

Asked by the Chair about incidents of cyber bullying, students confirmed that these had reduced significantly since the introduction of mobile phone policies. At Aspire, phones were not allowed to be used in classrooms or in corridors. A total ban on use of phones during school hours had been introduced at Montgomery and Unity Academies.

Asked by the Chair about relationships with their teachers, students agreed that these were good in the main, but that some students, notably those from minority ethnic backgrounds, sometimes chose to speak to their peers about any concerns rather than approach teaching staff directly.

Students also raised concerns about the lack of supervision at the Sports Barn, an area developed for children and young people to meet, which seemed to be attracting drinkers and smokers, and the fact that the gate to the facility was often left unlocked, leaving young children vulnerable. Students also said they felt unsafe when visiting Claremont Park.

#### **b) Blackpool Sixth Form College**

Blackpool Sixth Form College students raised their concerns about the fact that lanyards were being swapped and borrowed by their peers in order for them to get into classes when they had forgotten their own, and even to get their friends into the College grounds, thus reversing the effectiveness of them as a security measure. The situation had been made worse by the allocation of temporary lanyards to non students.

Asked about an alternative security option to wearing lanyards, students explained the potential to use the lanyards to scan in their QR codes on entry to the College. This would ensure that everyone was identified individually and provide a more robust check on the wearer of the lanyard.

Concern was also raised by students about the potential safety issues should there be an emergency situation at the College which might require a lock down procedure. The Blackpool Sixth Form College Safeguarding Director reassured students that an emergency procedure had been developed and tested with staff and was due to be rolled out to students imminently. He asked that they take this message back to their peers in order to reduce worry about this.

In response to a question from the Chair about the amount and speed of traffic outside the College, students confirmed that this was an issue, especially with large vehicles mounting the pavement to get out of Mowbray Drive, opposite the College. In addition, students did take risks, running across the road to catch buses in particular.

In response to a question from the Chair about online safety at the College, students confirmed that this was good, and highlighted the fact that some students that needed to access particular sites were not able to do so because of the strength of the security in place. SO agreed to look into this to see if

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temporary access to sites for these students could be made available.

Asked about relationships with staff, Police and other outside agencies, students confirmed that this was good.

The Chair thanked students for their time and input to the meeting and explained that the Board would discuss this further and consider how it might use its influence to address issues raised.

*Students left the meeting.*

**4. Consideration of issues raised by students**

Following a discussion on the issues raised, the following actions were agreed:

- To invite John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services at Blackpool Council, to the next meeting to discuss the potential to develop youth clubs or alternative options for young people engaged in 'bus trekking'; traffic and road safety issues outside Aspire Academy and the Sixth Form College; supervision of facilities such as the Sports Barn and lighting issues at various venues across the town identified by students at a previous meeting.
- SO to take the issue re lanyard security back to the College for further debate there.
- SO to raise awareness of students' concerns in respect of emergency situations to the Sixth Form College's Senior Leadership Team.
- Everyone to be mindful of the fact that some students may feel uncomfortable about approaching staff when they have concerns about their safety and to ensure a range of opportunities are available to meet different needs.

Clerk to invite

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All

**5. Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

The minutes of the meeting were approved.

**6. Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda**

**6.1 Lighting in the field used by students from Blackpool Sixth Form College** (Item 5.1 from the previous minutes) – to be discussed with John Blackledge at the next meeting.

**6.2 Staff training on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)** (Item 5.2 from the previous minutes) – confirmation that the link to the online training course has been made available to partners. Those that had participated in the training confirmed that it had been very useful. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed to invite Lisa Lonsdale, the lead nurse on FGM to the next meeting for an insight into the issue across the Fylde Coast.

Clerk to invite

**6.3 Blackpool Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)** (Item 5.3 from the previous minutes) – the Chair explained that the work of the PRU had been a key topic of conversation at the recent Safeguarding Summit in Blackpool. Colleagues had discussed the potential to develop and extend the curriculum offer provided there in order to better meet the needs of young people and keep them in education/training.

**7. Blackpool Safeguarding Summit**

The Chair provided feedback on the Summit which had involved professionals from across the Police, Local Authority, Education and Voluntary, Community and Faith Sectors. Discussions on the high number of Children Looked After in the town as well as those falling into the child protection and children in need

categories and the impact of that on services had taken place.

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It was expected that changes to 'Getting it Right' (GIR), Blackpool partners' comprehensive assessment framework for children and young people in these categories, would be made including a review of the different thresholds of care currently identified and the referral methods. It was intended that the new thresholds would be drafted and trialled over a six month period from January 2017 before being revised and confirmed for implementation at the beginning of September 2017. Feedback on this would be through the Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board. The Chair agreed to bring an update on this to the next meeting.

Chair

Other matters discussed at the Summit included the need to provide earlier help to families in need and to reduce documentation in respect of referrals.

#### 8. Strategies to address risks of using social media

Colleagues shared the strategies in place at their organisations to address misuse and abuse of social media. It was noted that strict rules on the use of mobile phones had helped to reduce bullying as well as improving the focus on teaching and learning.

A lot of work had been done to draw parents' attention to the dangers of social media and several academies provided advice on their websites. However, engagement was difficult and staff often had to manage situations that had started outside school.

Primary colleagues confirmed that strict rules on the use of iPads were in place as were robust firewalls. Pupils were taught about the potential dangers of online communications and what to do if they found themselves in vulnerable situations. Primaries too reported the difficulties they had found in engaging parents on this subject. Hambleton Academy was in the process of developing a play on the dangers to be performed by children to parents in order to raise awareness on the subject. SO offered support from Blackpool Sixth Form College for this.

Following the discussion it was agreed that there was no need currently for an FCAT wide social media policy and to revisit the strategies and their impact in a year.

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#### 9. Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

Colleagues shared their experiences of accessing CAMHS, highlighting problems in referring older children (aged 15+). PA confirmed that services should be available to young people up to the age of 18 and it was acknowledged that there were some issues to address if schools were encountering problems related to this. Transition of young people to adult services was also identified as an area of concern.

Colleagues also highlighted the issues arising when children did not attend appointments. This was often because parents did not want to take them, and resulted in their cases being ignored/let lapse. It was felt that the more immediate needs being accommodated at Accident and Emergency had been identified and addressed, but that the service needed to be more accessible to children and young people prior to reaching this stage.

Following the discussion, the Chair asked that the Director of CAMHS in Blackpool be invited to the next meeting to discuss the matter further. For that meeting, academies were asked to bring in case backgrounds to identify the

Clerk to invite

<p>issues they had identified in respect of difficulties in accessing the service.</p>	<p><b>Action</b> All to provide case studies</p>
<p><b>10. Blackpool Sixth Form College Review</b> SO provided verbal feedback on the review of safeguarding procedures at the Sixth Form College carried out by colleagues from Montgomery, Hambleton and Unity Academies. A number of learning outcomes and good practice had been identified including the Sixth Form College's use of mystery shoppers to assess safeguarding practice.</p> <p>The Chair asked that outcomes for the Sixth Form College, secondary and primary colleagues be collated and shared in a brief report for the next meeting.</p>	<p>SO, GS, HW, NA</p>
<p><b>11. Recent Safeguarding Case Study</b> The Board considered a case study provided by one of the partner organisations which highlighted the importance of having robust policies in place and dealing with information as quickly as possible in order to ensure a positive outcome. The Chair recommended that the case be revisited in the new year to make sure the learning points had been embedded.</p>	
<p><b>12. Regional/Local Developments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NA provided feedback from the Blackpool Local Safeguarding Children Shadow Board and confirmed that the LSCB was in the process of reviewing the paperwork for GIR as discussed earlier in the meeting.</li> <li>• The Chair reported that Delyth Curtis, Director of People (including Children's Services) at Blackpool Council would be leaving the authority imminently to move to another position.</li> <li>• The national review of LSCBs had been carried out but any changes were likely to be implemented slowly with Serious Case Reviews expected to be a priority.</li> <li>• The Chair fed back information he had received at the Blackpool Summit about reviews of the Police Service that were expected to take place in the near future to address some of the concerns raised by agencies about their handling of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and trafficking issues. Sir Michael Wilshaw, Chief Inspector of Schools in England had already written to the Chief Inspector of the Metropolitan (MET) Police Force in respect of safeguarding matters. A Home Office report on the MET was due to be published and the Chair suggested that this group look at the recommendations at a future meeting.</li> <li>• At local level, relationships with the Police were generally good, especially for those schools that had Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) on site to make links when required.</li> <li>• A survey on CSE had been circulated to Lancashire schools. FB agreed to bring the outcomes to the next meeting for information.</li> </ul>	<p>FB</p>
<p><b>13. Online Safety updates</b> The Clerk agreed to re-send the online updates provided by Aspire Academy for information.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p><b>14. Risk Management</b></p> <p><b>14.1 FCAT Safeguarding Risk Register</b> The Board reviewed the Safeguarding Risk Register and highlighted a number of risks that needed to be re-scored and provided with further information including a Red Amber Green (RAG) rating. WG and PA agreed to work with Simon Brennand to strengthen the Register in advance of the next meeting.</p>	<p>Clerk to arrange</p>

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**14.2 New Risks**

The following risks were identified for inclusion on the Safeguarding Risk Register:

- The lack of a PCSO at Unity Academy which might reduce links to the local Police when required.
- Raised concern about the service provided by CAMHS in light of reduced resources.

**15. Date and time of next meeting**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at 4.15pm  
Montgomery High School

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_(Chair)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_