

Wednesday 13 January 2016

Conference Room 1, Education Authority (Antrim)

10.30 am

Present Mrs N Lappin (Chair), Mr D Cargo, Mrs P Carville, Mr R Pollock

In Attendance Dr C Mangan, Mrs P Woods, Miss C Hall

Apologies Ms A M Andrews, Mrs M Culbert, Ms S O'Connor

The Chair welcomed members and officers to the meeting of the Education Authority's Child Protection and Safeguarding Committee.

1 Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded members of the requirement to declare interests during the course of the meeting, where appropriate.

2 Minutes of Meeting held on 2 November 2015

On the proposal of Mrs Carville, seconded by Mr Cargo, the minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2015 were agreed as an accurate record.

3 Draft Interim Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

At the November meeting of the Child Protection and Safeguarding Committee, officers had been asked to prepare an interim draft policy to provide initial governance arrangements for the Education Authority in relation to child protection and safeguarding. It is anticipated that the interim policy will be replaced by an enduring policy following a Department of Education review of guidance for schools and finalisation of the Education Authority's new management reporting structures.

Mrs Woods provided an overview of the Child Protection and Safeguarding Interim Policy and Procedures which have been drafted in compliance with the requirements set out in the Safeguarding Board (Northern Ireland) Act 2011. Mrs Woods referred to safeguarding principles, definitions of terminology, safe recruitment and selection processes, training and support for staff and volunteers, child protection support service for schools and staff code of conduct, including abuse of trust.

Following discussion, members asked that the policy be amended to include the following: the word "recognise" in paragraph 5.1 (line 2); an introductory paragraph similar to that contained in the explanatory note circulated to members; and that a sentence be included to expand paragraph 1.2

highlighting the specific staff to which the interim policy refers and the continued need for an individual policy in local settings.

Subject to the above amendments, it was proposed by Mrs Carville, seconded by Mr Cargo, that the Child Protection and Safeguarding Interim Policy and Procedures be approved and recommended to the board.

Members thanked Mrs Woods for the presentation and commended her on a comprehensive document.

4 Draft Terms of Reference - Child Protection and Safeguarding Stakeholder Reference Group

At the Child Protection and Safeguarding Committee in November officers were tasked to provide a way forward for the establishment of a Child Protection and Safeguarding Stakeholder Reference Group. The stakeholder reference group would advise the Child Protection and Safeguarding Committee on issues pertinent to child protection issues in services within Education Authority directorates and within school and youth settings. The stakeholder reference group would be an advisory group, would have no executive powers. Its work would be facilitated and co-ordinated by the designated Education Authority officers.

Following discussion on the terms of reference and composition of the group, members asked that the composition be amended to reflect the Education Authority's engagement with relevant bodies who could determine the appropriate teacher representation by sector across the region and that the terms of reference for the group would be reviewed annually.

Subject to the above amendments, it was proposed by Mrs Carville, seconded by Mr Cargo, that the draft terms of reference should be approved.

5 Draft SBNI Business Plan 2016-2017: Draft Education Authority Response

Mr Pollock joined the meeting at 11.25 am.

Mrs Woods referred to the Draft SBNI Business Plan for 2016-2017, the purpose of which was to ensure that organisations represented on the SBNI would work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in Northern Ireland.

Mrs Woods provided an overview of the 5 strategic priorities contained in the draft plan and highlighted a number of areas of interest, including: training for adults working with children, the establishment of a child sexual exploitation sub-group, an e-safety strategy for Northern Ireland, emerging concerns impacting on children and young people, the NSPCC/DE pilot for primary schools in the Keeping Safe Programme, case management review methodology and support for families of young people who die of suicide. During discussion she also provided clarification on the memorandum of understanding and e-safety products.

On the proposal of Mr Cargo, seconded by Mrs Carville, the draft Education Authority response to the SBNI Business Plan for 2016-2017 was approved.

6 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Child Protection and Safeguarding Committee would be held during the week commencing 11 April 2016. Members would be notified as soon as a date has been confirmed.

The meeting closed at 11.45 am.

Chair

Date