

## **Child Protection and Safeguarding Committee**

**Tuesday 17 January 2017**

**The Board Room, Education Authority (Antrim)**

**10.30 am**

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

**In Attendance** Dr C Mangan, Miss N Topping, Mrs P Woods

**Apologies** Ms Á Andrews, Ms S O'Connor, Ms M Culbert

On behalf of the committee, the Chair extended condolences to Ms Á Andrews on the death of her husband.

### **1 Declarations of Interest**

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

### **2 Minutes of Child Protection and Safeguarding Committee Meeting held on Thursday 22 September 2016**

On the proposal of Mrs Carville, seconded by Mr Pollock, the minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

### **3 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

#### **3.1 LAC Champion**

Dr Mangan advised members that she had received a response from Caroline Gillan (DE) regarding the issue of Health and Education Departmental collaboration in relation to policy in this area. She confirmed that the Department of Education is working with the Department of Health on a joint LAC strategy and a group is currently being established on which EA representation will be required.

#### **3.2 Item 5 - Case Management Review Process**

This issue will be dealt with on today's agenda at item 5.

#### **3.3 Item 6 - Case Management Review Audit within Education Authority**

It was agreed that this audit should be brought to the April 2017 meeting in line with the agreed format under item 4 on today's agenda.

### **3.4 Item 8 - De La Salle Investigation Report Recommendations**

An officer group has been established in order to take forward the recommended actions.

Mr Cargo brought the recent inspection report to members' attention and they sought assurances that the issues raised therein were being dealt with proactively.

Mrs Woods updated members on action taken to date. Following discussion, Mrs Lappin requested that an update on the investigation be brought to the April meeting, to include a list of actions taken by officers arising from issues in the report.

## **4 Case Management Review Update**

Mrs Woods circulated copies of a template regarding reporting mechanisms to inform future reporting to the committee on this aspect of work.

Miss Topping updated members on CMR Phoenix and reported that no recommendations arising from this case related to the EA.

## **5 Child Protection Support Service for Schools – Annual Child Protection Report (1 September 2015 – 31 August 2016)**

Mrs Woods presented the first EA report and responded to questions from members around Employment Permits, Performance Licenses and Chaperones. She advised members that the Department of Education and the EA are currently looking at this area closely with a view to streamlining the process.

There was also discussion regarding Child Protection training for governors, teachers and staff in schools. Members were concerned to note that this training is not a mandatory or legislative requirement.

Mr Cargo asked if an analysis of safeguarding issues which arose in schools in the last academic year could be provided to the committee.

Mrs Lappin suggested that staffing figures should be presented as a total figure for the EA, rather than by region/area.

On the proposal of Mr R Pollock, seconded by Mr D Cargo, the report was approved subject to an addendum to cover the period from 1 April – 31 August 2015.

## **6 Review of EA Child Protection Support Service Structure**

Mrs Woods spoke to the briefing paper on the proposal to extend the role of the CPSSS to include the role of the existing Youth Service Child Protection officers. Members expressed concerns about the potential volume of calls to the helpline, given the already large number of calls dealt with by the Child Protection Service. Dr Mangan stated that there would be enhanced staffing and a tiered structure that would enable the EA to carry out any extra duties but that it would be closely monitored to see if further resources are required. In the meantime the EA need to progress the appointment of a dedicated head of service with effect from 1 April 2017.

Members agreed in principle to the Child Protection duties of the Youth Service being included in the Child Protection Support Service but requested clarification of the revised remit for the next meeting. Dr Mangan agreed to provide this.

On the proposal of Mrs Carville, seconded by Mr Pollock, members agreed that the appointment of the head of service should be progressed.

## **7 Child Protection and Safeguarding Stakeholder Reference Group Update**

Miss Topping reported to members that the first meeting of the Stakeholder Reference Group was held on 27 October 2016. Members were given an overview of the context and the role of SBNI along with the terms of reference for the group.

The next meeting of the group will be held on 30 January 2017 to consider the SBNI Consultation Report. The closing date for consultation responses is 27 February and Miss Topping sought approval to draw up a draft submission to be brought to the April meeting of this committee. As requested by Mrs Lappin, the draft will be emailed to members in advance of the meeting. Members agreed this course of action.

Mr Cargo asked if the committee could receive a copy of the notes of the meetings. Miss Topping agreed to provide these, along with a breakdown of membership of the group showing which bodies are represented.

## **8 Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland – Regional Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy and Procedures for Northern Ireland – Consultation Report**

See item 7.

## **9 Any Other Notified Business**

There was no other notified business.

Members commended officers in attendance for the volume of work they do in this area and how thoroughly it is undertaken.

**10 Date of Next Meeting**

A date for the next meeting to be confirmed for late April 2017.

The meeting ended at 12.10 pm.

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**Chairperson**

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**Date**