

Monday 2 November 2015

Conference Room 1, Education Authority (Antrim Board Centre)

2.00 pm

Present Mrs N Lappin (Chair), Ms A M Andrews, Mr D Cargo,
Mrs P Carville, Mrs M Culbert, Ms S O'Connor, Mr R Pollock

In Attendance Dr C Mangan, Mrs L McGowan, Mrs P Woods

The Chair welcomed members and officers to the first 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 Draft Scheme for the Child Protection and Safeguarding Committee

Members' attention was drawn to the draft scheme for this committee. Members requested an amendment to the frequency of meetings should be made which should read "at least quarterly".

Subject to this amendment, it was proposed by Mr Pollock, seconded by Mrs Carville that the scheme should be approved.

3 SBNI Section 12 Audit Tool 2015

Mrs Woods, adviser (pupil support services), Belfast region, introduced a brief presentation on the Safeguarding Board (SBNI) Section 12 Audit Tool.

Members were also provided with a summary of the audit tool headings as well as a more comprehensive response to the key themes. While the Draft Section 12 Audit was submitted to the Safeguarding Board in August 2015, it was considered necessary to highlight the key actions that had been completed on behalf of the EA. However, the audit also indicated specific actions that would require redress as part of the EA's work schedule in this area. It was anticipated that this would assist the organisation fulfil its statutory compliances in relation to the key themes, as specified in the Audit Tool.

Members thanked Mrs Woods for her presentation and noted the progress that had been made to date in relation to individual themes.

4 Any Other Notified Business

.1 Child Protection Policy

The Chair informed members that it was important that the EA progressed the finalisation of a policy on Child Protection. While a policy had existed in the legacy organisations, the EA needed to take this work forward. Officers were requested to prepare a draft policy for consideration and agreement for the next meeting.

.2 Stakeholder Reference Group

The Chair emphasised the importance of stakeholder engagement with EA services and schools regarding child protection and safeguarding issues. It was considered that a stakeholder reference group should be established which could reflect key themes and serve as a reference point for the committee, as appropriate. Officers were tasked by the Chair to outline at a future meeting how this could be brought forward.

5 Date of Next Meeting

It was suggested that the next meeting of the Child Protection and Safeguarding Committee is held on Monday 11 January 2016 at 10.00 am in Antrim Board Centre.

The meeting ended at 3.45 pm.

Chair

Date