

**Thursday 23 June 2016**

**Conference Room 1, Education Authority (Antrim)**

**2.00 pm**

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

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

**Apology** Mrs M Culbert

The Chair welcomed members 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 Wednesday 13 January 2016**

On the proposal of Mrs Carville, seconded by Ms O'Connor, the minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2016 were agreed with the follow amendments to be made:

- **Under Item 3 Draft Interim Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy**

This was agreed considering it is a draft interim Child Protection Policy. with an enduring policy to be put in place following due process.

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

The Terms of Reference were proposed in November 2015 and approved in January 2016 with minor amendments.

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

The above response was approved on the proposal of Mrs Carville seconded by Ms O'Connor.

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

None recorded.

#### **4 Safeguarding of Children with Disability Report**

Mrs Woods reported that the Safeguarding Board for NI was asked to consider the aforementioned report and act accordingly. It was acknowledged that more detailed research on a larger scale is required which includes schools. Mrs Woods advised that EA has been represented at recent meetings regarding the key priorities identified from this report and an action plan is being developed.

The involvement of the Education Training Inspectorate (ETI) was noted by members in relation to these issues. It was noted that Mrs Woods would be meeting with ETI on 6 July 2016 and would alert them in relation to this report.

Some discussion took place in relation to the use of restraint. Ms Topping outlined the role of EA Behaviour Support Team (BST) and the use of the accredited programme - Team Teach as a strategy to manage challenging behaviour. This is primarily a de-escalation approach, with holds only being used where absolutely necessary. BST officers are trained trainers for this model and it is available to schools following an assessment of need in respect of the child and the school. Special schools have received this training.

Dr Mangan advised members that BST was one of the services within Children and Young People's Services being reviewed and a regional model of service delivery would be developed in due course.

#### **5 Early Intervention Transformation Programme (Looked After Children (LAC))**

Mrs Woods advised members that the DE had been successful in obtaining funding, through the Early Intervention Transformation Programme (EITP) for a LAC Champion to be appointed in the EA. The three years' funding is to improve the educational outcomes for LAC pupils. Recruitment would take place in early July 2016, with the successful candidate appointed to post for September 2016. Key aspects of their role would be as follows:

- A specific focus on KS2 (P5-P7) in identifying LAC and tracking them over the three years of the pilot programme to see how schools utilise the extra monies they receive for this group of pupils, identify any gaps in need and provision and determine the benefits through outcomes/ achievements. Around fifty eight schools and approximately three hundred pupils will be involved, an audit will be taken during September 2016 and that will determine the cohort.
- Assist DE in the development of a LAC Policy.
- Review the LAC Personal Education Plans (PEPs).
- Improve multi-agency working through agreed protocols.

Members welcomed this initiative and requested regular updates.

Following discussion, members expressed some concern that separate policies existed regarding Looked After Children in terms of government Departments and in light of the new Children's Services Co-operation Bill. Mrs Woods

advised that this project has an emphasis on agencies working together. Other examples of partnership working were also noted. In view of the importance of the duty to co-operate, the chair of the Committee and other members agreed that it would be appropriate for the EA to talk to the DE to explore more fully the policy and partnership dimension of this work.

## **6 Case Management Review (CMR) - Update**

Mrs Woods provided an overview of the process in relation to Case Management Reviews. It was requested by members that EA officers complete two actions for the next meeting of this Committee:

- 1 create a flow chart of the CMR process for members;
- 2 complete an audit of current CMRs within the EA.

## **7 Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Child Protection and Safeguarding Committee would be held on Thursday 22 September 2016 at 9.30 am in Antrim Board Centre.

The meeting closed at 3.30 pm.

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**Chair**

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**Date**