

Tuesday 27 March 2018

Board room, Education Authority (Antrim)

10.00 am

**Present** Mrs P Carville, Mrs M Culbert, Mr G Lundy and Ms S O'Connor

**In Attendance** Dr C Mangan, Mrs P Woods, Mr G Young, Ms L McGovern and Mr C McNickle

**Apologies** Mr D Cargo and Mr R Pollock

Dr Mangan welcomed everyone present to the meeting.

## **1 Office of Chair**

Dr Mangan informed Members that, in the absence of the Child Protection and Safeguarding Committee Chair, it was a matter for Members present to elect a Chair for the meeting. Dr Mangan asked for nominations.

Ms O'Connor proposed Mr Lundy and this was seconded by Mrs Carville.

As there were no other nominations, Mr Lundy was elected Chair for the meeting.

## **2 Declarations of Interest**

Members indicated they had no declarations of interest to disclose. The Chair reminded Members that if required they could declare an interest during the course of the meeting.

## **3 Minutes of Meeting held on 12 December 2017**

On the proposal of Mrs Carville, seconded by Ms O'Connor, the minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2017 were agreed as an accurate record.

## **4 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

### **4.1 Safeguarding and Child Protection in Schools - Guide for Schools (5)**

Dr Mangan confirmed that newly appointed Assistant Directors would receive child protection training as part of their induction.

### **4.2 Virtual Reality Online Safety Awareness Training (6)**

Members noted from the minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2017 that the Chair had enquired whether the virtual reality online safety awareness training, developed and delivered by the PSNI, would be delivered to Youth Service settings.

Mr Young confirmed that he was unable to explore this via the SBNI E-Safety forum as it had not met since the last meeting of the Committee. Members noted that the SBNI E-

Safety forum was scheduled to meet on Wednesday 28 March 2018 and Mr Young undertook to raise this issue and report back to the Committee.

**Action:** Report back on whether the virtual reality online safety awareness training will be delivered to Youth Service settings.

## **5 Case Management Review (CMR) Update**

On the proposal of Mrs Carville, seconded by Ms O'Connor, it was agreed that discussion on this matter would be held in committee.

On the proposal of Mrs Carville, seconded by Mrs Culbert, the Committee agreed to resume the meeting.

While in committee, the Committee noted progress reports on CMR cases and actions to be taken in respect of one CMR case.

## **6 Departmental Correspondence – Schools' Boards of Governors**

Dr Mangan referred Members to correspondence from the Department of Education in relation to arrangements for pastoral care, safeguarding and child protection in school and youth settings. It was noted that the Department intended to write to the Chair of each Board of Governors to highlight Governors' legal duties in relation to safeguarding, drawing attention to the relevant guidance 'School Governors Handbook – Safeguarding and Child Protection'.

It was further noted that the Department had asked EA to engage with controlled schools to ensure that Boards of Governors fully understood their legal responsibilities; remind Governors of the need to undertake relevant child protection training; and ensure that appropriate pastoral care policies were in place and operated effectively within their school.

Mrs Woods informed Members that an annual audit was carried out to determine training needs for Designated and Deputy Designated Teachers with responsibility for child protection within controlled schools. It was noted that the EA Child Protection Support Service (CPSS) was responsible for the delivery of 'Strand 2' training for Chairs of Boards of Governors and Designated Governors for child protection. This training was designed to equip the Chair and Designated Governor with the skills necessary to assist their Board with its child protection governance responsibilities.

Members noted that, despite improved co-ordination in the roll-out of training sessions, not all Chairs and Designated Governors had availed of the training. It was further noted that 30 sessions of training had been delivered on a staggered basis and that a Chair or Designated Governor could attend any session. Members were mindful of the forthcoming reconstitution of Boards of Governors and acknowledged the need to maintain best practice. It was noted that training was not a legislative requirement.

Members noted the Department's appreciation of the support and assistance that CPSS had given to those schools where issues in relation to safeguarding arrangements had been identified by ETI inspections. Dr Mangan drew Members' attention to the need for officers from the School Development Service to be cognisant of this issue also. She undertook to liaise with the Director of Education on this matter.

The Chair expressed the view that the concerns raised in the Department's correspondence should also be relayed to other school sectors, including CCMS. Dr Mangan confirmed that EA's response to this correspondence would make reference to the need to relay such concerns to all school sectors.

Mr Young drew Members' attention to the exemplar code of conduct contained within the revised DE guidance on safeguarding and child protection in schools. It was noted that, following liaison with Trade Union representatives, the code of conduct had been revised. However, to date, EA had not been made aware of any amendments.

**Action:** Dr Mangan to liaise with the Director of Education in relation to safeguarding arrangements which have been identified by ETI inspections.

## **7 Early Intervention Transformation Programme - Adverse Childhood Experiences (SBNI)**

Mrs Woods updated Members on a Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI) project, funded for two years, as part of workstream 4 of the Early Intervention Transformation Programme (EITP). Members noted that the project aimed to better understand the extent to which children and young people were impacted by Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and to strengthen the understanding of ACEs among professionals working with them.

Mrs Woods provided Members with a presentation on Trauma Informed Practice (TIP) and ACEs. This included a draft promotional film produced for Public Health Wales and Blackburn with Darwen Local Authority. Members noted that a similar film, adapted for a Northern Ireland audience, would be rolled out across the region as part of the project. Mrs Woods informed Members of the project objectives and delivery methodology.

Members noted a forthcoming training and awareness programme which included an online resource; TIP awareness events across all the agencies and organisations within the scope of the project; and TIP workshops targeting approximately 120 individuals from within the target organisations. Dr Mangan informed Members that discussion would take place with the SBNI to determine what services would receive the training and awareness programme.

Members noted the project outcomes which included an evidence based influence on policy and practice; development of a Shared Language approach; an informed workforce; a reduction in stigma around childhood adversity; an increase in professional empathy; and developed resilience.

Members expressed concern that ACEs terminology had already become established in some school and youth settings. They agreed that the labelling of children and young people was not conducive to positive educational outcomes.

A Member, whilst welcoming the project, highlighted that the training was targeted at professionals and not parents and several Members commented on the need to include TIP and ACEs training as part of teacher training.

A Member expressed the view that TIP and ACEs training should also be incorporated into antenatal programmes and Mrs Woods referred to workstream 1 of the EITP programme, 'Getting Ready for Baby Project – laying the foundations for effective parenthood'.

Members welcomed the opportunity for the EA, as a SBNI member body, to make a constructive contribution to the roll out of the project and they acknowledged the importance for professionals to work in a therapeutic way with children and families to build resilience.

## **8 EA Performance Licensing Guidance – Body of Persons Approval**

Mr Young informed Members on the Body of Persons Approval (BOPA) process. He outlined that the Child Protection Support Service had responsibility for the issuing of children's performance licences in accordance with the provisions of the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 and the Children (Public Performances) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996 and that 1522 performance licences were issued in 2016/17.

Members noted that, alternatively under the BOPA process, a BOPA could be granted to an organisation, meaning that individual licences would not be required for children who were participating in a performance being facilitated by that organisation. Mr Young highlighted that whilst the new BOPA approval process would benefit the EA it would also benefit the relevant organisations.

Mr Young stressed that, under the BOPA process, there would be no reduction in safeguarding arrangements. He referred to increased safeguards as part of the BOPA process as it would be considered best practice for responsible persons from the organisation to be interviewed by the EA. It was noted that a BOPA was not an exemption under the 4 day rule.

Members noted the intention to gradually roll-out the new process and that, in the first instance, EA would contact suitable organisations to test the new process.

On the proposal of Mrs Carville, seconded by Mrs O'Connor, the Committee agreed to recommend the adoption of the Body of Persons Approval process.

**9 Date of Next Meeting**

A date for the next meeting would be confirmed.

The meeting ended at 11.20 am.

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**Chairperson**

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**Date**