**Torbay Safeguarding Children Board Minutes**

**Independent Chair: Mr D Taylor**

**Date: 13th January 2016**

**Venue: Arlington Room, TLH Toorak Hotel, Torquay**

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| **Agenda Item 1 - Welcome** |

1.1 Mr Taylor welcomed those present, acknowledging that the meeting had been opened up to members of the TSCB Subgroups due to the focus of the meeting being the recent Ofsted inspection.

1.2 Mr Taylor introduced Mr Ian Ansell, informing those present that Mr Ansell will be taking over from him as chair of the TSCB at the end of February.

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| **Agenda Item 2 – Minutes of previous meeting** |

2.1 Minutes of the last meeting held on 17th September 2015 were considered and agreed as an accurate reflection of that meeting.

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| **Agenda Item 3 – Ofsted overview of findings** |
| **Document -** |

3.1 Mr Taylor gave his presentation to those present as attached.

3.2 In relation to performance data, it was noted that currently this relies on two members of staff from Torbay Council. In future, it is expected that there will be more multi-agency approach. A regular meeting of performance leads from all agencies will be arranged.

3.3 A discussion took place regarding the data presented and whether this was reflective of national and regional data. Cllr Parrott suggested that members compare the data with that collected within the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, which can be found at <http://www.southdevonandtorbay.info/>

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| Action no. | Action | Responsible person | Timescale |
| 2016-01-13 3.2 | A meeting of performance leads from each agency to be arranged. | Cath Plewes | End January 2016 |

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| **Agenda Item 4 – Children’s Services Ofsted feedback** |
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4.1 Dr Jensen gave her presentation as attached.

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| **Agenda Item 5 – Group Work** |

5.1 Members of the meeting split into groups to consider four themes from the Ofsted report the notes from those discussions are as follows (*comments on the feedback in italics*):

**Table 1 - Early Help**

5.2 Early Help is not understood by the community. There is a requirement for a communications plan driven by the Board as there is a need to understand the process and how to work with them. Lisa Walker and Gail Rogers to provide a communication strategy to deliver to the community. *It was noted that the Training Subgroup has an action of how to deliver information regarding Early Help to the community.*

5.3 Swift group / integration champions could lead? Help services / organisations put a face to a name. *Gail Rogers to take this as she is leading SWIFT.*

5.4 Drive towards lowering bureaucracy in EHP (otherwise professionals might as well refer into MASH). Some process is needed to reflect what is going on – but needs to be proportionate. This would help facilitate community organisations / individuals refer to EHP.

5.5 Increase tolerance of risk in EHP / not get to EHP until the referrer can say everything else has been tried.

5.6 Use panel for complex issues / Think Family / Where a number of issues are involved.

5.7 How do we capture those lower level inter-agency early help working where no panel has been involved. Where would accountability for completion of actions lie for families?

- Commissioners to contract KPI collection of quarterly data.

5.8 Quantitative: Board:- Increase sight of data – challenge and support the work of early help partners.

5.9 Qualitative: How does the Board ‘hear’ from Frontline Practitioners better? (i.e. case studies / practitioner presentations or CV sector presentations).

5.10 Questions:

5.11 Will the Board ‘hear’ the real picture? (Either corporately or as individuals representing their own organisations.)

5.12 Does the Board want to challenge itself / audit its own health better?

5.13 Do staff and Board members understand the Board function, make-up, purpose, differences in its strategic and operational functions?

5.14 PRIORITY**:-** Board needs to focus on early help with an action plan and include this in the Business Plan.

5.15 *It was noted that Gail Rogers is currently looking for funding for TAF advisors.*

5.16 *In relation to cross partnership working, a half day Board event to kick start this may be beneficial.*

5.17 *In the first week of February the Partnership for families group would be meeting, chaired by either Richard Williams or Jacqui Jensen. Information from this group would then be fed into the Board.*

5.18 *It was generally acknowledged that the TSCB is being asked to do too much. The Children in Partnership Board, which is being set up will be able to share some of the workload.*

**Table 2 - Domestic Violence**

5.19 Drive forwards strategic responsibility / accountability across all public agencies to address key issues of which DV, neglect / poverty are two priority examples.

- Identify opportunities – OFSTED and Peer review of Local Authority

- Shared priority DV

- HWBB discussion

- DV funding

5.20 Pincer movement – Senior Management and Strategic leaders.

5.21 Empower the right people to drive the agenda – resourcing.

5.22 Needs a lead to avoid multiplication of work across Boards. A chairs meeting to be organised between the chairs of the different Boards – Adults, Childrens, HWBB, CSP, Overview & Scrutiny for joint accountability / clarity around leadership.

5.23 *Consideration of a joint DV coordinator post across the partnership.*

*5.24 The first meeting of the Public Services Trust is on 21st January 2016.*

**Table 3 – Ensuring Thresholds are Understood**

5.25 Dissemination of information

5.26 Barriers – confidence of practitioners

5.27 Supervision embedded in practice to prevent inappropriate referrals.

5.28 Partner agencies to take own responsibilities to share messages i.e. training

5.29 Audits – MASH Assessments – reporting to TSCB & HWBB

5.30 Consider ‘different’ methodology of training

5.31 Communication between partners when changes occur needs improvement.

5.32 Risk adverse – working with our own agencies CP v Universal v CIN

5.33 Involvement of adult services – awareness / CYPS consideration – EH etc.

5.34 Focussed intervention – DA / Substance misuse / Adult mental health

5.35 Potential to reduce inappropriate referral / who is making these?

5.36 Parenting

5.37 Maintaining key messages

- ‘holding the child’s hand’

- Shared values

- limited / important core values.

5.38 Clear ‘shared’ expectations.

5.39 *It was noted that the Police don’t use The Child’s Journey*.

**Table 4 - Effective multi-agency working**

5.40 Guidance on one page to be used by all practitioners across all agencies.

5.41 Clarify expectations and responsibilities of referrers (these may be different: Adult / child referrals) – to hold the child’s hand whilst referring to other agencies.

5.42 Improve management / organisation of Core Group meetings – to improve attendance, commitment.

5.43 More cross-working of Children and Adult services / safeguarding e.g. focus on Troubled Families.

5.45 Radical rethink and redesign of the system – a system based approach e.g. Plymouth DV good start.

5.46 Commission services to – multiagency working.

5.47 Agencies to take responsibility for high numbers of inappropriate referrals to MASH.

5.48 Identify & clarify: Safeguarding; Early Help.

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| **Chairs Signature** |

As Independent Chair of the Torbay Safeguarding Children Board, I agree that these minutes are an accurate representation of the discussion and decisions that took place at this meeting.

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| Signature  H:\childrens services\Restricted\LSCB & SUB GROUPS\Signatures\David Taylor signature.JPG | Date: 25th January 2016 |
| **Mr D Taylor** |

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| **Actions** | | | |
| **Action no.** | **Action** | **Responsible person** | **Timescale** |
| 2016-01-13 3.2 | A meeting of performance leads from each agency to be arranged. | Cath Plewes | End January 2016 |