

Update Report regarding Milton Keynes LSCB to the Children and Young Persons Strategy Group – November 2006

The first meeting of the Strategic Group took place on 13th September. At this meeting the LSCB Terms of Reference and Work Programme (attached as appendix 1) were ratified. The Strategic Group also received an update of the budget position and agreed to roll over any unspent funds to the following year.

The LSCB has a new interim chair Carolyn Boyd (Group Director: Strategy, Commissioning and Quality, MKC) who will chair both the Strategic and Executive Group Meetings until the appointment of the Independent Chair.

The role of Independent Chair has been advertised and the closing date for applications is the 10th November. The interview panel has been agreed and possible interview dates are currently being explored.

Interviews for the Business Co-ordinator were held in October but unfortunately no appointment was made. The post is being readvertised with a slightly revised Person Specification. The administrator post is also due to be advertised. Interviews for both posts will be held in December.

The LSCB is holding its launch and first annual conference on 21st November 2006. The theme is Participation and the conference will be chaired by the Director of Children's Services. Workshops are being held on anti-bullying, CAF, participation of young people in recruitment, private fostering, children's rights, sexual health & staying safe and the Community Safety Partnership. The keynote speaker is the founder of the charity Kids Company.

The Executive Group met on October 10th and amongst other things considered the data required by the LSCB to enable monitoring of the effectiveness of arrangements within agencies. A final report regarding options is due to be presented to the December meeting.

Another major piece of work for the LSCB this year is the rewriting of the inter-agency procedures to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in line with the revised Working Together guidance. The Policy and Procedures Group is in the process of commissioning someone to undertake this work.

In terms of individual cases relating to safeguarding activity, the LSCB is due to consider whether a Serious Case Review is required in relation to one case where individual management reviews have already been undertaken. This decision will be taken following the conclusion of the police investigations. The LSCB is also liaising with a school in relation to another case regarding the robustness of their recruitment/vetting policies.

Karen Rogers Assistant Director (Quality) 31/10/06

Appendix 1 MILTON KEYNES LSCB WORK PROGRAMME 2006 –2007

	Task	Completion Date	Lead
1.	Establish explicit governance arrangements for the LSCB in the context of the emerging Children's Trust	January 2007	Director of Children's Services
2.	Review and consult on referral thresholds (inc section 47 enquiries), and clarify boundaries for family support/child protection. Communicate outcomes appropriately.	December 2006	Karen Rogers
3.	Update the inter-agency policies and procedures in the light of the new Working Together guidance. Ensure that agency responsibilities are understood.	March 2007	Judith Knight and Anthony Miller - Policy and Procedure Sub Group
4.	Review any new guidance emerging in relation to safeguarding, and ensure that agency roles and responsibilities are understood and acted upon	Ongoing	Executive Group
5.	Develop processes to monitor effectiveness of safeguarding practices across agencies	March 2007	Executive Group
6.	Monitor policy and practice to ensure it is compliant with NSF Standard 5, and that the associated performance measures are met.	March 2007	Policy and Procedures Sub Group
7.	Undertake serious case reviews and management reviews regarding near misses and ensure that lessons learned are embedded within agencies	Ongoing	Phil Latham and Fiona Miller - Audit and Evaluation Sub-Group
8.	Monitor private fostering arrangements	Ongoing	Executive Group
9.	Contribute to the development of the Domestic Violence Strategy, particularly in relation to communication between agencies	March 2007	Executive Group

	Task	Completion Date	Lead
10.	Review recruitment and selection policies, information sharing, and supervision, and ensure that all agencies have appropriate policies in place. Consider policy and practice in handling investigations into allegations against staff.	March 2007	Policy and Procedures Sub Group
11.	Contribute to the monitoring of the Children and Young People Plan, and to the annual review/update	Ongoing	Executive Group
12.	Monitor the use of the Common Assessment Framework, Vulnerable Children Panel and information sharing around 0-16 whereabouts	January 2007	Executive Group
13.	Consider the implications of the Adoption and Children Act and make recommendations for further action	March 2007	Judith Knight and Anthony Miller - Policy and Procedure Sub Group
14.	Monitor a local policy for children visiting any Custodial Establishments in the area	March 2007	Judith Knight and Anthony Miller - Policy and Procedure Sub Group
15.	Review the guidance for Local Authorities on bullying and make recommendations	March 2007	Judith Knight and Anthony Miller - Policy and Procedure Sub Group
16.	Create and use opportunities to raise the profile of child welfare and the function of the LSCB. Develop a communications strategy, to include communications with children and young people, and also minority ethnic and faith communities	March 2007	Communications Sub Group
17.	Develop a forward plan for 2007 and beyond. Develop an agreed set of outcome targets and KPIs	February 2007	LSCB Business Co-ordinator
18.	Maintain budgetary control on behalf of contributing agencies, and report regularly	Ongoing	LSCB Business Co-ordinator

	Task	Completion Date	Lead
	to the Executive and Strategic Groups		
19.	Contribute a safeguarding perspective to workforce development	March 2007	Karen Rogers
20.	Review LSCB training programme to ensure that it reflects the new Working Together guidance and the Children and Young People's Plan.	Ongoing	Training and Learning Sub Group