



Safeguarding Improvement Programme

Improvement Programme Board Terms of Reference June 2010 (updated September 2010)

Context of the Group

Safeguarding services in Nottinghamshire are facing unprecedented challenge. An unannounced Ofsted inspection in October 2009 and subsequent full inspection of safeguarding and looked after children services in March 2010 found significant weaknesses in our safeguarding services. The latter report, published on the 21st May, finds that the overall effectiveness of our safeguarding services is 'inadequate'. In contrast, services for looked after children are judged to 'adequate' and 'good' in some areas, and with 'good' capacity to improve. The executive summary of the serious case review examining multi-agency engagement with Charlotte Avenall, who died in 2009, was published on the same day. The review identified lessons to be learned, and published accompanying action plans which will be monitored through the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board.

Following the unannounced inspection we developed a Safeguarding Improvement Programme to address the issues raised by the inspectors and through our own self assessment. Although some progress was made between the unannounced and announced inspections, the improvement programme is now being revised to ensure that immediate and short term priorities are clearly distinguished from the medium and long term developments. The programme will also be refocused in light of the Improvement Notice that the Department for Education will be issuing the Council in early June 2010. This notice will set out clear targets relating to performance improvements.

Purpose of the Board

The purpose of the Improvement Programme Board is to ensure effective, cross-partnership oversight of the Safeguarding Improvement Programme, enabling it to deliver the requirements outlined in the Improvement Notice.

Status of the Board

The Board will report to the Leader and Cabinet of the County Council.

Main Tasks of Board:

1. To deliver the necessary improvement set out in the Improvement Programme and Improvement Notice and to hold partner agencies to account
2. To ensure the effective engagement of all partnership organisations to enable the successful implementation of the programme
3. To make decisions as to the scope and priorities of the programme
4. To initiate new projects as required and delegate work to relevant organisations or partnership working groups
5. To address risks and issues escalated to the Board
6. To ensure effective communication of the programme's progress to the Department for Education, Nottinghamshire Children's Trust, Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board and staff within individual partner organisations

Proposed Membership

The Board must be representative of the partnerships (Children's Trust and Safeguarding Children Board) and include representation from the Department for Education. Should members be unable to attend they should nominate a proxy to attend in their place.

- Ged Rowney, Independent Chair
- Mick Burrows, Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire County Council
- Cllr Philip Owen, Children's Trust Chair/Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services
- Anthony May, Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Services, NCC
- Chris Few, NSCB Chair
- Chris Kenny, Director of Public Health, Nottinghamshire County tPCT, Bassetlaw PCT
- Paul Broadbent, Assistant Chief Constable, Nottinghamshire Police
- Fiona Simpson, Chief Executive, NAVO
- Rob Mayall, Children's and Learners Strategic Advisor, GOEM
- George Grist, Intervention Team Representative, Department for Education

Frequency of Meetings

The Board will meet monthly.