

## MEETING OF THE FYLDE COAST ACADEMY TRUST SAFEGUARDING BOARD

### Meeting No. 18

Date: Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017  
 Venue: The Blackpool Sixth Form College  
 Time: 4.15pm

**Present:** Dr David Sanders (Chair)  
 Ms Nicola Anderson (Lead Case Worker, Deputy Safeguarding Lead, Unity Academy)  
 Ms Fiona Bate (SESCO and Leader of Student Services, Hodgson Academy)  
 Mrs Sue Burrows (Safeguarding Governor, Westcliff Primary School)  
 Mr Tim Craven (Designated Safeguarding Officer, Blackpool Sixth Form College)  
 Ms Debra Davies (Designated Safeguarding Lead, Westminster Primary Academy)  
 Ms Alicia Gibbons (Acting Principal, Gateway Primary Academy)  
 Mr Bill Greene (Safeguarding Governor, Aspire Academy)  
 Ms Lisa Knowles (Safeguarding Governor, Hambleton Primary Academy)  
 Mr Tony Nicholson (FCAT CEO)  
 Ms Gill Smith (Assistant Principal: Personal Development and Welfare, Montgomery High School)  
 Mr Bill Wiseman (Designated Safeguarding Lead, Garstang Community Academy)  
 Ms Gail Yeadon (Deputy Principal and Safeguarding Lead, Blackpool Sixth Form College and Safeguarding Governor, Montgomery High School)

Mr Will Britain, Head of Highways and Traffic Management, Blackpool Council (WB)

Mrs Kath Buddle (FCAT Governance Administrator – minutes)

**Apologies:**

Apologies were received and accepted from Ms J Aionesei, Ms V Blakeman, Mr S Brennand, and Ms H Wood.

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|--|---------------|
| <p><b>1. Preliminaries</b><br/>           The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and especially new members.</p> <p>Introductions were made.</p> <p>Apologies were noted.</p>  |               |
| <p><b>2. Declarations of interest</b><br/>           None</p>  |               |
| <p><b>3. Student Perspective – Blackpool Sixth Form College</b><br/>           The meeting heard from one of the Sixth Form College’s Lower 6<sup>th</sup> students on safeguarding concerns identified through his interviews with other students at the College. The following key issues were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bullying.</b> Some students had been the victims of name calling and forced isolation, often via social media, and this was affecting their confidence and their ability to learn. There was an underlying pressure on some students to conform to accepted images/dress codes and much of the bullying behaviour that they were experiencing in college was a continuation of that faced at high school. However, incidents were rare, and, generally, students did feel safe at the college.</li> <li>• <b>Traffic.</b> The speed and volume of traffic outside the college was a safety risk identified by students.</li> </ul> |               |

- **Town Centre and other public places.** Students reported feeling intimidated by individuals and gangs of people, including homeless people, in the town centre and in parks and other public places, especially after dark. This was despite police presence in the town centre. There had been incidents where students had been followed by people asking them for money.

The Chair thanked the student for his report and he left the meeting.

**4. Feedback from Will Britain, Head of Highways and Traffic Management, Blackpool Council**

WB provided the following feedback on developments to address issues raised at earlier meetings with John Blackledge, Director of Environmental and Community Services at Blackpool Council:

- Road safety issues (Montgomery)** – an option to make All Hallows Road one way to improve safety outside Montgomery High School had been discussed with staff at the academy. The option would provide additional parking spaces and make it easier to control the speed of traffic. Staff had approved the proposal and it was now out to further consultation with residents. Work on the development should begin in early 2018.
- Road safety issues (Aspire and Blackpool Sixth Form College)** – work to improve the safety of the road directly outside the two settings had been hindered because responsibility for it lay with both Blackpool Council and Lancashire County Council (LCC). It had been difficult to contact colleagues from LCC to discuss the matter but a meeting with the Head of Service there was due to take place the following week. WB agreed to keep the Board up to date with any further developments.
- Road safety issues (Unity)** – improvements to road markings outside Unity Academy had been carried out.
- Sports Barn** – the Council had earmarked improvements to lighting and intended to provide a stronger police presence at the venue in order to improve safety there. It was also working with volunteers to raise awareness of safety and welfare issues and how to address them. WB agreed to come back to the next meeting with information on timeframes for the developments.
- Sale of e-cigarettes to underage children** – the Council's Trading Standards Team had cautioned a number of shops found to be selling cigarettes and e-cigarettes to underage children and had warned them that formal warnings would be issued if the practice continued. The impact of the warnings on sales to underage children was being monitored.
- Town Centre safety** – the Council had met with EON, the contractor providing lighting in the town centre and asked them to review their lighting strategy with a view to improving safety. WB agreed to feed back the results of this to the next meeting.

WB

WB

WB

Following a request WB agreed to work with the Acting Principal at Gateway Primary Academy to make improvements to the road signage at the academy.

WB/AG

**5. Student Perspective – implications for the FCAT Safeguarding Board**

The Board discussed the issues raised by the Sixth Form College student earlier in the meeting and agreed the following:

- Bullying issues** – GY agreed to investigate the incidents further. The College already issued a student survey which included questions about their safety and bullying had not featured particularly in responses. More

GY

information might be identified through tutorials and by looking through records of disclosures.

- b) **Road safety issues** – it was felt that these were beginning to be addressed through the Safeguarding Board’s relationship with Blackpool Council.
- c) **Town Centre and public spaces issues** – although it was disconcerting to hear about students feeling intimidated by people in town, it was felt that, at this stage, the matter could only be noted rather than addressed. Blackpool Council was already working on a night time strategy which incorporated some of the issues raised and it was expected that WB would keep the Safeguarding Board updated of any developments in this area.

**6. Minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

The minutes of the meeting were approved. The following issues were noted:

**6.1 Feedback to students on developments** (Item 3.2) – the Clerk agreed to amend the briefing paper in light of discussions at the meeting today and to pass the amended version to the Chair for approval.

Clerk/Chair

**6.2 Letter to Cumbria County Council** (Item 3.6) – the Chair confirmed that a second letter had been sent to the Director of Children’s Services at Cumbria County Council chasing a response to a previous letter about the safety of a Looked After Child in Cumbria County Council’s care. There had been no replies to either letter to date. The Chair agreed to take the matter up again in the New Year.

Chair

**6.3 Responses to issues raised with external agencies** (Item 3.6) – the Clerk confirmed that she had received two responses to the Chair’s request for information about problems experienced with external agencies and agreed to pass these on to the Chair.

Clerk

**7. FCAT Safeguarding Risk Register**

The Group considered the risks rated ‘Red’ on the Risk Register and agreed the following:

**Risk 13** (risk of danger to pupils who are permanently excluded from FCAT academies) – ensure robust procedures are followed in the critical period between the time of exclusion and the review meeting and appeals timeframe when the pupil is still on roll at the school. Maintain the risk at ‘Red’. The Chair asked for a case study around permanent exclusions to be considered at the next meeting.

Clerk  
(agenda)

**Risk 15** (risk that complaints from children and young people are not taken seriously) –take this issue back to individual organisations to make sure that appropriate processes and staff training on the matter was in place. Reduce the probability score to 2, and change the risk to ‘Amber’ overall.

All

**Risk 16** (potential for vulnerable young people to lose support at critical times) – ensure that a duty rota is in place during holiday periods and that the senior person in charge is aware of the Social Services contact number to pass on as required. The Chair asked that confirmation that duty rotas were in place be brought to the next meeting. Amend to ‘Amber’.

Clerk  
(agenda)

**Risk 18** (risk to children and young people in receipt of services from support agencies) – discuss this further at the next meeting. It was felt that proposals to base social workers in schools and the development of a hub structure for secondary schools in Blackpool in 2018 could improve referrals and treatment procedures. Retain as ‘Red’ and review in 2018.

	<u>Action</u>
<p><b>Risk 21</b> (risk to children and young people using unsafe routes to and from school/college) – it was agreed that this was an organisational level risk and that it should be removed from the generic FCAT Risk Register.</p>	
<p><b>Risk 22</b> (unsafe use of social media by children, young people, parents and other adults) – it was agreed that a number of initiatives were already in place and in development, to reduce the impact of social media abuse on pupils. However, it was proving very difficult to engage parents on the matter and there were still a significant number of incidents of bullying and sexting in schools and the College. GS agreed to provide information on the number of cyber bullying and sexting incidents at Montgomery High School following the ban on use of mobile phones in school for the next meeting. Retain as ‘Red’.</p>	GS
<p>The Clerk agreed to make the amendments to the Risk Register.</p>	Clerk
<p><b>8. Barclay’s Project</b> The Clerk reported that a working group had been established to develop a script for the DVD (on the dangers of social media and texting for use with secondary students) and that rough costings for the project had been identified.</p>	
<p>The Clerk was asked to contact the Project Lead for more accurate costings.</p>	Clerk
<p><b>9. Recent Safeguarding Case Study</b> The Board considered a case study provided by one of the partner organisations which highlighted the importance of submitting referrals to external agencies as quickly as possible.</p>	
<p><b>10. Safety, Safeguarding and Radicalisation</b> The Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) guidance paper on Safety, Safeguarding and Radicalisation (Paper 10) was noted.</p>	
<p><b>11. Regional and Local Developments</b> The Chair reported that he had resigned as the Chair of the Blackpool Safeguarding Board and that Nancy Palmer, Chair of the Blackburn with Darwen Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) had taken over from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017.</p> <p>The outcome of the national review of LSCBs were expected to be discussed at the LSCB Chairs Conference later that week, though the impact on Lancashire and Blackpool organisations was likely to be minimal.</p>	
<p><b>12. New risks</b> No new risks were identified but it was agreed to review the full Risk Register at the next meeting.</p>	Clerk (agenda)
<p><b>13. Date and time of next meeting</b> Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018 at 4.15pm Montgomery High School</p>	

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_(Chair)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_