

## MEETING OF THE FYLDE COAST ACADEMY TRUST SAFEGUARDING BOARD

### Meeting No. 20

Date: Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018  
Venue: Unity Academy  
Time: 4.00pm

**Present:** Dr David Sanders (Chair)  
Ms Nicola Anderson (Deputy Safeguarding Lead, Unity Academy)  
Mr Simon Brennand (SB) (Designated Safeguarding Lead, Unity Academy)  
Mrs Sue Burrows (Safeguarding Governor, Westcliff Primary School)  
Ms Susan Collins (Designated Safeguarding Lead, Westminster Primary School)  
Mr Tim Craven (Designated Safeguarding Officer, Blackpool Sixth Form College)  
Ms Alicia Gibbons (Principal and Designated Safeguarding Lead, Gateway Primary Academy)  
Ms Rebecca Gudgeon (Deputy Principal and Designated Safeguarding Lead, Westcliff Primary School)  
Mr Tony Nicholson (TN) (FCAT CEO)  
Ms Kim Whitehouse (Deputy Safeguarding Lead, Fleetwood High School)  
Mr Bill Wiseman (BW) (Designated Safeguarding Lead, Garstang Community Academy)  
Ms Gail Yeadon (GY) (Designated Safeguarding Lead, Blackpool Sixth Form College and Safeguarding Governor, Montgomery High School)

Mr Dominic Blackburn (DB) (Community Safety Team, Blackpool Council) – for part of the meeting  
Mrs Kath Buddle (FCAT Governance Administrator – minutes)

**Apologies:**

Apologies were received from Mr B Greene, Ms L Knowles, Mr N Oldham, Ms G Smith, Ms A Stokes, Ms H Wood and Ms F Bate.

Action

**1. Preliminaries**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Introductions were made. Apologies were noted.

**2. Declarations of interest**

None

**3. Student Perspective – Unity Academy students**

Students from Unity Academy provided feedback on their key safeguarding concerns, namely on fire, water and cycling safety. Pupils at the academy had been asked to answer questions on their awareness of dangers in these areas and answers to these were circulated to the Board.

In response to questions from the Chair, the students explained that the three areas had been chosen because they were felt to be the main issues for children and young people at the moment and had been discussed at assemblies over the year. Fire safety had been chosen in the wake of the Grenfell Tower disaster, water safety because pupils were living in a coastal resort and cycling safety because of the number of students riding bicycles.

Students confirmed that fire drills were carried out regularly and ran smoothly. Some students had a good understanding of the different fire extinguishers and how these should be used.

Members of the Board were surprised at the fact that very few young people seemed to understand the importance of wearing cycle helmets and asked what the students would do to address this and other issues identified in their survey. The students explained that the information from the survey would be taken to the Student Council for dissemination to teaching staff and pupils through further assemblies.

Asked if they had identified any other areas of concern, the students acknowledged that safety on the rail network was one. SB confirmed that the academy had provided information for pupils on this in recent assemblies.

Asked if they felt safe in school, the students confirmed that they did. Staff handled behaviour well and pupils knew who to go to with any problems.

Asked if they felt safe on the way to and back from school, the students confirmed that they did and did not expect to have any problems as most lived within a very short distance of the academy.

Asked if they felt safe in the town centre and in public venues, such as parks and sports clubs, students said that they felt safe most times but would not always like to be in the town centre on their own. Some students were involved in sports and other activities, such as the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme, at the academy and confirmed that these were well organised by staff and that they felt safe whilst doing them.

Asked how students kept themselves safe online, the students explained that the academy provided a continual focus on this across the year so that it was always at the front of young people's minds when they used social media.

Asked if they had experienced any instances of substance abuse at or outside school, the students confirmed that they were confident that staff would be able to address any instances in school and that the academy had raised awareness of the dangers of being approached by individuals outside school. Students knew who to go to if they felt that there was a problem with someone using or selling drugs at school.

DB informed the Board that a number of groups were coming into the town and targeting children and vulnerable people by getting them into debt and then forcing them to sell drugs in order to get themselves out of the debt. He had an education video to share with schools to help raise awareness of the issue and offered to share this with staff.

The Chair thanked Unity students for their time and they left the meeting.

**4. Feedback on road and community safety issues from Blackpool Council**

The Chair reported that he had met with John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services at Blackpool Council, to discuss the road safety and other issues raised by students at previous meetings. John had confirmed that the changes to All Hallows Road, making it one-way outside Montgomery High School, would likely be in place for the start of the next academic year. He had also explained that a meeting with colleagues from Lancashire County Council to discuss possible ways to improve road safety outside Aspire Academy and Blackpool Sixth Form College would take place in the next week and that he would attend the next meeting to report back on developments.

Clerk  
(agenda)

DB reported an increase in crime by young people across the borough and cited

vandalism on transport as a large problem in parts of the town, particularly the centre, Layton, Revoe and Grange Park areas. The local authority had put in place monthly meetings with other partner agencies to look into how this could be reduced and a number of interventions had been actioned as a result. DB highlighted the positive impact of providing free bus passes to teaching staff which had reduced the damage to buses and trams by young people. DB also highlighted the dangerous activity of bus and tram 'surfing' by young people which had increased over the last few months.

To address the issues, local authority officers were visiting the families of perpetrators to try to prevent further incidents and offered a range of support to young people and their parents from the Youth Services Team. If necessary, cases were being pursued through the criminal justice system.

Asked if similar problems of vandalism occurred in the Wyre areas, DB confirmed that there were fewer instances but still some taking place, particularly in Fleetwood, where the presence of drugs was well established in parts of the town. He confirmed that support for schools outside the Blackpool Borough boundary was available on request.

Asked about safety improvements at the Sports Barn, DB reported that the area had recently been cleared of debris and security cameras had been put in place there. It was a constant battle for the local authority to keep the facility open but it was anticipated that security would be improved when the Police moved into an adjoining building. A local committee would be supported to run it longer term.

Asked about Blackpool Council's response to the sale of cigarettes and e-cigarettes to underage children, DB confirmed that a strategy was being developed to address this and he would report back on it to the next meeting.

DB

The Chair thanked DB for his time and he left the meeting.

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

The Board discussed the issues raised by students earlier in the meeting and considered how best to address them. SB confirmed that Unity Academy was aware of all the concerns and was providing regular focus on them at assemblies and in PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) lessons. The potential to provide an FCAT Safety Day was discussed.

Following a discussion about improving pupils' swimming ability, one of the issues raised in the survey carried out by the Unity students, TN agreed to meet with other members of the Board to consider FCAT's Swimming Strategy.

TN

**6. Minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018**

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

**6.1 LGBT Champion** (Item 5) – the Clerk confirmed that information from Blackpool Sixth Form College about their LGBT Champion had been passed on to Montgomery High School and that Montgomery had appointed an LGBT senior prefect and established a Stonewall group who meet regularly.

**6.2 Contact Blackpool Transport re new safety issues** (Item 5) – a letter to Blackpool Transport had yet to be sent.

**6.3 Safety on the rail network** (Item 5) – resources to address this had been circulated to members of the Board.

**6.4 Feedback to students** (Item 6.2) – a briefing would be provided

Clerk/Chair

following confirmation of content by Blackpool Council.

**6.5 Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)** (Item 6.4) – this item was deferred to the next meeting.

**6.6 Barclay’s Project** (Item 8) – the Chair reported that there had been delays to the development as more support on the script writing was required. The Chair had also contacted Barclay’s to confirm support that they would be providing. It was acknowledged that it was unlikely that the project would be progressed before the end of the GCSE exams in summer and the Chair asked the Clerk to arrange a meeting between himself, NO and Mark Gold from Barclay’s to discuss it further. He also asked for safeguarding leads to identify potential support with the development of the script from within their own academies.

Clerk/  
All

**7. FCAT Safeguarding Policy revisions**

The Board noted draft revisions to the FCAT Safeguarding Policy (Paper 7) and approved them subject to the final recommendations to ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education’ (key national guidance on safeguarding in schools) due out in June 2018.

BW asked that Garstang Community Academy be included in the policy.

Clerk

**8. FCAT Internal Audit on Safeguarding**

The internal report on safeguarding at FCAT academies was noted (Paper 8). The Chair pointed out that this was a desk top audit only and not a full audit of safeguarding practice at the Trust.

The Clerk asked safeguarding leads to be mindful of the key recommendation from the report which was to ensure that all contact details in Child Protection Safeguarding policies, including those available online, were kept up to date.

**9. Level 2 (Early Help) Provision**

The Chair led a discussion about the increasing expectation on schools to provide what were felt to be social care services to pupils and their families and the impact of this. It was acknowledged that this had come about, in part, to the reduction in funding to social care providers and could become a major risk for the Trust if not addressed. SB pointed out that staff were not trained to deliver such support and that the relationship between schools and families would be compromised by this if it became an established norm.

It was accepted that an initiative to place social workers in schools had not been particularly successful, as, in reality, they had not been established in a full time capacity in any one setting, but were expected to cover a number of different schools. This meant that their impact in Blackpool schools was reduced to a half day per half term presence in most of the secondary schools.

Colleagues working in Lancashire based schools reported that another internal staffing restructure at the authority meant that the consistency of the service provided in schools had been seriously reduced. Colleagues also remarked on the fact that they did not always have access to information that might inform better support for some children and young people at school.

The Chair asked the Clerk to invite Chief Inspector Lee Wilson to the next meeting to discuss the matter further. Safeguarding Leads were asked to bring cases to the meeting to help with the discussion.

Clerk/  
All

**10. Discrimination issues**

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

Action  
Clerk  
(agenda)

**11. Recent Safeguarding Case Study**

The Board considered a case study provided by one of the partner organisations which highlighted the importance of taking control of, and managing a situation, in order to ensure a good outcome for all parties.

**12. Peer Review Audit**

The Clerk was asked to contact safeguarding leads at Hambleton Primary Academy and Mereside Primary School to schedule a peer review of safeguarding at one of the academies. SB and GY offered their support for the exercise.

Clerk

**13. National, Regional and Local Developments**

The Chair asked for links to the following documents to be circulated to the Board:

- Children's Society - Good Childhood Report 2017
- New DfE Guidance on Looked After Children updated 26/02/2018
- City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Board - Multi agency case review Chadrack Mbala-Mulo March 2018
- University of Bedfordshire - Short films for practice – Child Sexual Exploitation research.

Clerk

The Chair reported that there had been no further news about the proposed changes to Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (LSCBs). He did not expect any operating changes to the Blackpool Safeguarding Board in the near future.

**14. New risks**

The following risks were identified:

- Risks associated with fire, water and cycling safety as mentioned by students at the beginning of the meeting.
- The spike in vandalism and 'surfing' on public transport
- The knowledge that gangs were infiltrating Blackpool with the intention of exploiting vulnerable people, including children and young people, by getting them into debt.

**15. Date and time of next meeting**

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2018 at 4.15pm  
Aspire Academy

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

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