

## MEETING OF THE FYLDE COAST ACADEMY TRUST SAFEGUARDING BOARD

### Meeting No. 23

Date: Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2018  
Venue: Mereside Primary School  
Time: 4.00pm

**Present:** Dr David Sanders (Chair)  
Mr Simon Brennand (SB) (FCAT Safeguarding Lead & Designated Safeguarding Lead, Unity Academy)  
Ms Nicola Anderson (Designated Safeguarding Person, Unity Academy)  
Ms Sue Burrows (Safeguarding Governor, Westcliff Primary Academy)  
Ms Susan Collins (SC) (Designated Safeguarding Lead, Westminster Primary School)  
Mr Tim Craven (Designated Safeguarding Person, Blackpool Sixth Form College)  
Mr Bill Greene (BG) (Safeguarding Governor, Aspire Academy)  
Ms Alison McEwan (Safeguarding Governor, Armfield Academy)  
Ms Jennifer Morgan (JM) (Designated Safeguarding Lead, Garstang Community Academy)  
Mr Tony Nicholson (TN) (CEO, FCAT)  
Ms Sian Rawson (Designated Safeguarding Lead, Aspire Academy)  
Ms Sue Robinson (Designated Safeguarding Person, Gateway Primary Academy)  
Ms Gill Smith (GS) (Designated Safeguarding Lead, Montgomery High School)  
Ms Jane Walpole (Designated Safeguarding Person, Mereside Primary School)  
Ms Gail Yeadon (GY) (Designated Safeguarding Lead, Blackpool Sixth Form College and Safeguarding Governor, Montgomery High School)

Mr John Blackledge (JB) (Director of Community and Environmental Services, Blackpool Council)  
Mr Will Britain (WB) (Head of Highway and Traffic Management Services, Blackpool Council)  
Mr Dominic Blackburn (DB) (Community Safety Team, Blackpool Council)

Mrs Kath Buddle (FCAT Governance Administrator – minutes)

**Apologies:**

Apologies were received from Fiona Bate, Victoria Blakeman, Lisa Fleet, Rebecca Gudgeon, Peter Murphy, Neill Oldham and Janette Webster.

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| <p><b>1. Preliminaries</b><br/>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made.</p>  |               |
| <p><b>2. Declarations of interest</b><br/>None</p>   |               |
| <p><b>3. Pupil Perspective</b><br/>The Chair welcomed six Mereside Primary School children to the meeting. They provided the following feedback on safeguarding issues that concerned them and their fellow pupils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Home</b> – included worries about family members falling out amongst themselves and the impact of that on the rest of the family.</li> <li>• <b>School</b> – included concerns about moving up to secondary school and the possibility of being bullied there. Also mentioned was the possibility of strangers coming into school and presenting a danger to pupils.</li> <li>• <b>Around Mereside neighbourhood</b> – possibility of kidnapping.</li> <li>• <b>Blackpool town centre</b> – fast roads, getting lost in town and worries about parents' safety in town.</li> </ul> |               |

- **World issues** - natural disasters. Another world war. Nuclear bombs.
- **Relationships** – leaving best friends from primary school when moving up to secondary. Worries about family members that might be in gaol.

Asked if they thought there was anything that adults could do to lessen their worries, the children mentioned the importance of being able to speak to adults that they trusted.

Asked if they felt safe in school, the children unanimously answered that they did and confirmed that there were teachers there they could go to if they had problems.

Asked if they felt that their neighbourhood was safe, the children said that, generally, it was though, sometimes, there was a bit of danger.

Asked for more information about their worries when in the town centre, the children highlighted getting separated from parents while they were there as a big concern for them.

Asked if they ever felt intimidated by older young people approaching them in the street, they answered that, generally, they did not, that they had phones with them if they needed to contact an adult quickly.

Asked what they would do if offered a cigarette by someone in the street, they confirmed that they would not take one and that they were aware of the dangers.

The Chair thanked the pupils for coming to the meeting and providing their thoughts and they left the meeting.

#### 4. **Road safety updates**

JB, WB and DB joined the meeting for this item and reported back on actions put in place to improve road safety outside Aspire Academy/Blackpool Sixth Form College and Montgomery High School.

JB explained that Blackpool Council was about to take over control of Blackpool Old Road outside Blackpool Sixth Form College from Lancashire County Council (LCC) which would then allow his team to implement any traffic calming measures along the whole stretch of road. The legal teams from Blackpool Council and LCC were putting final arrangements in place for the transfer.

JB confirmed that he had written to businesses on Mowbray Drive to ask them to reduce the use of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) traffic down Westfield Avenue at school start and finish times and some had taken the request on board. The Council would need to make some alterations to Mowbray Drive in order to improve traffic flow of HGVs and this would take some time. His team was also in the process of reviewing school crossing patrols and the potential to introduce a zebra crossing outside Aspire Academy and to implement improvements to the junctions at Westfield Avenue and Plymouth Road as priorities.

In respect of the proposal to make All Hallows Road one way in order to improve safety for children at Montgomery High School, JB acknowledged that feedback from public consultation for this had been negative and, therefore, it was unlikely to happen. His team was working with staff at Montgomery to explore other options to improve safety there.

SB reported back about concerns regarding road safety on Warbreck Hill Road,

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where Unity Academy was situated, and suggested that the installation of cameras to discourage drivers from parking on double yellow lines would help to improve road safety there. Parents had expressed a wish for a zebra/pedestrian crossing at the top of the hill on Warbreck Drive as a way of slowing down traffic when children were going to and from school. JB agreed to ask one of his team to look into this.

JB

**Questions on road safety**

Asked if his team would be able to introduce better signage to improve road safety on Blackpool Old Road, JB confirmed that they may be able to do so but would need to wait for the full transfer of the road still under the control of LCC first. Blackpool Council was hoping to have full control by the end of the financial year.

In response to a question about whether or not signage put in place by schools was legal, JB explained the need to do whatever was necessary to protect the lives of children and young people irrespective of the legislation.

Asked if Blackpool Council would need to consult on proposed changes to Westfield Avenue and Blackpool Old Road, JB emphasised the need to gain full control of the road first before considering consultation requirements.

In response to a question about costs to put changes in place, JB explained that the installation of a zebra crossing would be £30k - £35k, significantly less than putting in place a traffic light. JB agreed to forward costs of crossing patrol staff to the clerk for circulation to Blackpool Sixth Form College and Aspire Academy staff.

JB/Clerk

In response to a question from TN about the problems associated with Armfield Academy being on a split site, JB confirmed that this was being looked at.

**5. Community safety – updates**

DB reported that he had contacted Blackpool Council's Trading Standards Team about work in place to reduce the sales of cigarettes and e-cigarettes to under age children and would feed back more information on this at the next meeting. He acknowledged that there were pockets around the town where illegal sales were taking place and that the Council was aware of the safeguarding implications attached to these. A number of regional networks operating serious organised crime had been identified and the Council was working with the Police to tackle these.

DB/Clerk  
(agenda)

DB thanked members of the FCAT Safeguarding Board for their support in helping to reduce the number of 'bus surfing' incidents over the last few months.

DB also provided feedback on a previous conversation about the 'County Lines' situation i.e. incidents whereby vulnerable young people were being exploited by gangs and organised crime networks across the country and across county lines which made the perpetrators difficult to identify and prosecute. Along with London and Birmingham, Blackpool is a hot spot for this activity and children, often those with physical and learning disabilities, are targeted by groups and trapped by the threat of violence against themselves and their families into carrying out illegal activities.

**Questions on community safety**

In response to a question about safety at the Sports Barn, a venue previously identified by young people as a place where they did not feel safe, JB confirmed that improvements to lighting had been carried out there and that the Council

was working with volunteers and young people at the site to reduce anti-social behaviour. There had been a significant reduction in anti-social behaviour generally across the town, and in Brunswick Ward, in particular, where the Sports Barn was located.

In response to a question about what the Council had been doing to ensure people felt safe in the town centre, JB explained that lighting in St John's Square had been improved and that there had been a concentrated effort put into reducing drinking and begging on the streets with an increased number of community protection notices and prosecutions being issued. More money had been allocated to providing a dedicated police presence in the town centre too.

Asked about the perception of crime in the town, JB agreed that the prevalence of interactive social media made it quicker and easier for people to communicate negative stories and that the Council was looking at how to alleviate this through its own communications.

The Chair thanked JB and his team for their input to the meeting and for their work so far to address concerns raised.

*JB, WB and DB left the meeting.*

The Chair agreed to write a thank you letter to JB on behalf of the FCAT Safeguarding Board.

Chair

## 6. Pupil Perspective: Implications for the FCAT Safeguarding Board

A discussion on the issues raised by Mereside Primary pupils earlier in the meeting took place with the following agreed:

- **Family issues** – ensure concerns had been passed on to the pastoral team
- **Moving to secondary school** – SB confirmed that there were a lot of actions already in place to address primary children's concerns and that the Trust was working with feeder schools to improve transition. However, it was acknowledged that not all primary schools were involved in all of the shared activities. It was agreed that this issue was something that could be discussed in detail at the forthcoming student conference.
- **Strangers in school** – although the children had said that they felt safe in school, they had also mentioned fear of strangers coming on site. The Chair felt this was something that the academy should look into in order to make sure no uninvited people were getting on site.
- **Road and community safety** – it was felt that it would be useful to share with pupils the work going on with Blackpool Council to improve these.

## 7. Minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018 and matters arising

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

- 7.1 **Key findings from peer review audits** (Item 6) – the clerk confirmed that agenda schedules for FCAT academy council meetings had been revised to include reports from peer review audits as they took place so that governors were kept up to date with any safeguarding concerns at their sites.
- 7.2 **Boundary training programme details** (Item 7) – the clerk confirmed that the contact details for the training programme had been passed on to SB for consideration.
- 7.3 **Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)** (Item 8) – SB confirmed that he had contacted the lead agency delivering the programme and would look to arrange training in the future. He also

	<u>Action</u>
<p>reported that he had enquired as to the suitability of the programme for delivery to young people but had been informed that this would not be appropriate.</p>	
<p>GS reported that Montgomery High School would be hosting a mental health first aid training session on 1st March 2019 and would circulate the contact for booking onto this.</p>	GS/Clerk
<p>She also highlighted a link to suicide prevention resources previously circulated by Jeremy Mannino, Assistant Head at St Mary's Catholic Academy, and agreed to forward the details to the Clerk for distribution to safeguarding professionals.</p>	GS/Clerk
<p><b>8. Student Conference</b></p> <p>The Group considered SB's first draft programme for a student wellbeing conference. There was general approval of Lancaster University for the venue and for a Spring Term date. Dean Cody, a trainer specialising in the impact of gang violence, and a senior representative from HeadStart were mooted as possible key note speakers for the event. TN suggested that the event incorporate key coping mechanisms for building resilience and that professionals involved in these areas be included in the development of the conference.</p> <p>The Group also discussed the need to ensure that the conference included some specific sections for primary and secondary pupils in order to focus on specific issues facing both including addressing primary pupil's concerns about moving to secondary school as highlighted earlier in the meeting.</p> <p>Following a discussion, GY, SC and JM volunteered to form a steering group to develop the conference with SB. TN asked that costs to FCAT be avoided and SB agreed to scope external funding options to cover these. It was agreed to discuss progress on the conference at the next meeting.</p>	SB/Clerk (agenda)
<p><b>9. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)</b></p> <p>The need for Blackpool based safeguarding professionals to re-engage with the CAMHS Team was acknowledged. The Chair asked the Clerk to arrange a pre meeting between him and a senior Blackpool CAMHS officer in advance of the next meeting in order to discuss the matter.</p>	DS/Clerk
<p><b>10. Peer Review Programme</b></p> <p>SB confirmed that the first scheduled review would be taking place at Aspire Academy the following week and that he would report back on this at the next meeting.</p>	
<p><b>11. Safeguarding – Governors' roles</b></p> <p>BG raised the need to strengthen the job description for safeguarding governors as currently included as an appendix in the FCAT Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education guidance.</p> <p>Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that BG and SB would meet to discuss this further and bring back a revised version to the next meeting.</p>	BG/SB
<p><b>12. Risk Register</b></p> <p>The 'Amber' and 'Red' rated risks on the Risk Register were reviewed. It was agreed to maintain the existing ratings for these. The following specific issues associated with risks were identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk 10 (escalation of referrals/casework where action has not been</li> </ul>	

carried out) – it was acknowledged that trying to address this was difficult to accomplish from a school setting. It was felt that a stronger relationship with CAMHS would help reduce the level of risk.

- Risk 13 (permanent exclusions and impact on safeguarding) – SB emphasised the importance of following procedure fully but to be mindful of the fact that, once the student had been excluded, the remit for his/her welfare transferred away from the academy concerned to the local authority. TN informed the Safeguarding Board of Blackpool Council's proposal to delegate funding for alternative learning provision directly to schools which would mean schools/FCAT having to take this responsibility on should it be approved.
- Risk 16 (Reduction in capacity of supporting agencies/services) – it was agreed that a refreshed dialogue with CAMHS would help address concerns in respect of this risk.
- Risk 18 (unsafe use of social media by children and young people) – it was felt that this might be a topic for the Student Conference.

### **13. FCAT Safeguarding Board Action Plan**

The Group noted the addition of delivery of ASIST training programme as a milestone against the action to develop an overarching strategy to support good mental health of pupils/students.

### **14. Recent Safeguarding Case Study**

The Safeguarding Board considered a case study provided by one of the partner organisations which highlighted the importance of primary schools sharing information about a pupil's circumstances with secondary schools prior to moving there and the need for greater cooperation with Social Services to better identify and address pupils' needs.

### **15. National, Regional and Local Developments**

The Chair provided information on the following:

- A new national report on child sexual exploitation (CSE) was due to be published imminently.
- The 2018 NHS England Safeguarding Annual Update was now available to view at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/safeguarding-annual-update-2018/> and mentions links to CAMHS.
- An NSPCC learning site had been launched in September 2018 - <https://mylearning.nspcc.org.uk/content/Default.aspx>
- The review of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards was still continuing.

### **16. New risks**

TN emphasised the importance of ensuring key safeguarding risks are addressed as quickly as possible in order to protect children and young people in our care and to meet the requirements of an Ofsted inspection. In the new Ofsted Inspection Framework, safeguarding was incorporated under the Leadership and Management theme and so, any discrepancies would impact severely on final Ofsted ratings.

#### **Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 4.00pm.  
Blackpool Sixth Form College

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

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