

**MEETING OF THE FYLDE COAST ACADEMY TRUST
SAFEGUARDING BOARD**

Meeting No. 24

Date: Tuesday 12th February 2019
Venue: Blackpool Sixth Form College
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 Victoria Blakeman (Safeguarding Governor, Blackpool Sixth Form College)
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)
Ms Lisa Fleet (LF) (Safeguarding Governor, Mereside Primary School)
Ms Rebecca Gudgeon (Designated Safeguarding Person, Westcliff Primary Academy)
Ms Jackie Hughes (Designated Safeguarding Person, Montgomery Academy)
Ms Alison McEwan (Safeguarding Governor, Armfield Academy)
Mr Peter Murphy (Safeguarding Governor, Garstang Community Academy)
Mr Tony Nicholson (FCAT CEO)
Mr Neill Oldham (Principal, Highfurlong School)
Ms Sian Rawson (Designated Safeguarding Lead, Aspire Academy)
Ms Sue Robinson (Designated Safeguarding Person, Gateway Primary Academy)
Mr David Taylor (Designated Safeguarding Lead, Longridge High School)
Ms Jane Walpole (Designated Safeguarding Person, Mereside Primary School)
Ms Janette Webster (Designated Safeguarding Lead, Armfield Academy)
Ms Gail Yeadon (GY) (Designated Safeguarding Lead, Blackpool Sixth Form College and Safeguarding Governor, Montgomery High School)

Mr Will Britain (WB) (Head of Highway and Traffic Management Services, Blackpool Council)
Mr Dominic Blackburn (DB) (Community Safety Team, Blackpool Council)
DCI Rebecca Smith (RS) (Lancashire Constabulary)
DI James Edmonds (JE) (Lancashire Constabulary)
Ms Kara Haskayne (Head of Safeguarding and Principal Social Worker, Blackpool Council)
Mrs Kath Buddle (FCAT Governance Administrator – minutes)
Ms Helen Livsey (FCAT Clerk)

Apologies:

Apologies were received from Julia Aionesei, Fiona Bate, Bill Greene, Jennifer Morgan and Gill Smith

1. Preliminaries

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made.

2. Declarations of interest

None

3. Pupil Perspective

The Chair welcomed students from Blackpool Sixth Form College to the meeting. They provided the following feedback on safeguarding issues pertinent to them:

- Students generally felt that safety had improved especially since the introduction of new locks at the College.
- Students still felt unsafe in Blackpool Town Centre and around some

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specifically identified areas of town, including Claremont and Grange Park where they had witnessed drinking and some drug taking/dealing. LF informed the meeting of the 'Pride of Place' project at Claremont being led by Dame Julia Clevedon which aimed to improve the park area, in particular, and to improve safety for residents through the use of CCTV. The Chair asked LF to liaise with one of the students on developments there.

- Mental health was a key area of concern for students and the need to signpost people to sources of support. They highlighted the influence of social media on young people's mental wellbeing and the impact of people's family backgrounds which often determined whether or not they got the support they needed. The Chair informed the students that the Safeguarding Board was working with Blackpool Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) to try to address some of the problems experienced in getting access to services and would keep the College updated of any developments. A student conference taking place on 25th April would also be focussing on support for students' mental health and wellbeing.
- Students were worried about the prevalence of abuse and, particularly, domestic violence, and the effect of these on their peers. They queried whether or not information was being passed from schools to the College at transition in order for students to be appropriately supported.

Questions to students

Asked how they felt safety had improved at the College, the students explained that the new locks meant that they felt safe from any external parties that could cause them danger e.g. drug peddlers etc. Asked if any of the students found the new access system difficult, the students said that most preferred it and that the access via lanyards was an improvement on the prior system.

Asked if they experienced any problems getting to College, the students said that there were no real concerns. All students seemed satisfied with the free bus service.

Asked if they were aware of any instances of self harming amongst their peers, the students confirmed that they had no knowledge of this but that students were aware of where to go to for support at the College should they need it.

Asked what they thought were the main factors driving concerns about mental health, the students identified the lack of family support some of their peers were experiencing and the difficulties accessing professional help.

The Chair explained to the students that the members of the Safeguarding Board would consider the points raised to identify any actions they might be able to influence and would provide feedback to them as soon as possible.

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

4. Road safety updates

Will Britain, Head of Highway and Traffic Management Services at Blackpool Council provided an update on the traffic safety projects in progress outside schools. He confirmed that Blackpool Council now had sole responsibility for the road directly outside the Sixth Form College and Aspire Academy, following the transfer over of part of it from Lancashire County Council. This would make it easier to put in place any further developments on the highway. Installation of an additional zebra crossing to help slow down traffic directly outside the College

and Academy was planned. The Chair recommended that WB meet with representatives from the College and the Academy to discuss plans and asked the Clerk to provide WB with contact details.

Clerk

Preparation work for the installation of another zebra crossing outside Unity Academy near Leys Road had been completed. The Highways Team was also in contact with staff at Montgomery Academy to consider how to redesign a piece of land at the front of the school for a drop off point and to install a zebra crossing at the pinch points on All Hallows Road. The chicanes already in place on the road would remain. Work on these developments would take place between February and May this year.

Work was also ongoing to improve signage outside Armfield Academy. If this proved unsuccessful in reducing the speed of traffic, the Highways Team would consider the installation of a zebra crossing there as a next step, depending on funding available.

The Chair thanked WB for his attendance and he left the meeting.

5. County Lines

The Safeguarding Board was provided with a presentation from DCI Rebecca Smith and DI James Edmonds from Lancashire Constabulary on 'County Lines', a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more areas within the UK, using dedicated mobile phone lines usually using vulnerable children and adults to do so. RS and JE explained the national and local contexts which often involved children as young as 12. In Blackpool, the situation included upwards of 17 teams operating within a two mile stretch and 25-30 teams operating in the town centre. Teams originated from as far away as Merseyside, Greater Manchester, London, Essex and West Yorkshire, and in addition to using local children, they were bringing others under the age of 16 into the town to deal on their behalf.

RS and JE explained that the system used to recruit young people was similar to that of grooming, and that the process resulted in numerous forms of child exploitation including sexual exploitation. Children became indebted to the teams and, due to the threat of violence to them and their families, found it impossible to break free of them. In some situations, teams were taking over the homes of families in debt to them (term known as 'cuckooing') and were using these as a base for drug dealing activity and often leaving families homeless.

The situation was not helped by the fact that many children and young people did not see themselves as victims and this made it difficult to encourage them to seek help. Kara Haskayne, Head of Safeguarding and Principal Social Worker at Blackpool Council, explained that Blackpool Council had introduced a new referral form to make it easier and quicker to refer children at risk of, and suspected of, being exploited, to social care services. The Chair asked for the referral system to be included as an item for discussion at the next meeting.

Clerk
(agenda)

The Chair thanked RS, JE, KH and DB for their presentation and they left the meeting.

6. Student Perspective: Implications for the FCAT Safeguarding Board

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

- Mental health issues – the Chair reported that he and the FCAT Safeguarding Lead had recently met with Elaine Walker from Blackpool

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<p>CAMHS and expected links with the service to improve. Elaine would be attending the next meeting to discuss this further and members of the FCAT Safeguarding Board were asked to bring examples of poor outcomes from their referrals to the service to the meeting to inform discussions. The FCAT Safeguarding Lead also reported that a trust wide mental health strategy was currently being drafted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition from high school to college – it was agreed that the Chair and SB would attend student councils to discuss and anxieties that students might have. • Safety in areas across the town – the Chair agreed to discuss the problems mentioned in Claremont and Grange Park at his next meeting with Blackpool Council’s Director of Community and Environmental Services. • Awareness of abuse and domestic violence – GY agreed to consider how this might be strengthened in the pastoral programme at the College. 	<p>All</p> <p>Chair</p> <p>GY</p>
<p>7. Minutes of the meeting held on 21st November 2018 and matters arising The minutes of the meeting were approved. The following matters were noted:</p> <p>7.1 Costs of crossing patrol staff outside Blackpool Sixth Form College and Aspire Academy (Item 4) – the Clerk confirmed that these had been passed on to appropriate staff.</p> <p>7.2 Thank you letter to John Blackledge (Item 5) – the Chair confirmed that he had sent an email thanking John and his team for the work done to improve road safety outside academies and the College.</p> <p>7.3 Link to suicide prevention resources (Item 7.3) – confirmation that this had been circulated.</p> <p>7.4 Safeguarding- Governors’ roles (Item 11) – this was deferred to the next meeting.</p>	<p>Clerk (agenda)</p>
<p>8. Blackpool Children’s Social Care – Ofsted Inspection December 2018 The Safeguarding Board considered the highly critical report that Blackpool Council had received following its Ofsted inspection of children’s services in December 2018. The local authority had been rated ‘Inadequate’ for the second time in six years. The Chair reported that staff at the Council had been devastated by the outcome and a new improvement board had been established. The recruitment of Kara Haskayne as Head of Safeguarding would hopefully provide the first step towards a period of change in the Department.</p> <p>The FCAT Safeguarding Lead informed the group of the recent outcome of the Ofsted inspection at Highfield Leadership Academy which had also resulted in an overall ‘Inadequate’ rating.</p> <p>It was agreed that the FCAT Safeguarding Board would assist in any improvement programmes.</p>	
<p>9. Ofsted Summary Evaluation of FCAT January 2019 The FCAT CEO provided feedback from the summary evaluation of the Trust carried out by Ofsted in January 2019. The Trust was still waiting for the final report from inspectors but was confident of a positive outcome. The CEO highlighted the significant amount of focus given to safeguarding across the Trust and that he was satisfied that robust systems and processes were in place across all of its academies. Inspectors had noted, particularly, that students and pupils were given the opportunity to voice their concerns directly to the Safeguarding Board.</p>	

10. Student Conference 25th April 2019

The FCAT Safeguarding Lead tabled a draft programme for the conference, explaining that, due to the content and themes identified for the event, it would be aimed at Year 7 – 6th Form students only. A separate conference for primary pupils would be held in June 2019. Lancaster University had agreed to host the event which would use a range of formats including lectures, smaller group work and a market place. Speakers for the day were still to be finalised. Mental health would be an overarching theme for the day and the objective would be for participants to take good practice ideas back to their academy/college. Organisations would be invited to send between eight and ten delegates each at a cost to the organisation of £100; the money to be used to cover administration and transport costs.

The primary conference would follow a similar structure to the secondary conference but be aimed at Year 3 – 6 pupils. The Blackpool Sixth Form College had been identified as a possible venue for the event. Safeguarding Board members highlighted the opportunity to involve external support agencies in both conferences and to share good anti-bullying practice.

11. Peer Review Programme

The reports from peer reviews of safeguarding at Aspire and Armfield Academies were noted (Papers 11.1 and 11.2). The FCAT Safeguarding Lead reported that both reviews had gone well and that findings for both demonstrated that a strong culture for safeguarding; robust processes and good relationships between staff and students were present.

The Designated Safeguarding Leads for Aspire and Armfield confirmed that the review process had been beneficial and a good experience for their academies.

12. Recent Safeguarding Case Study

The Safeguarding Board considered a case study provided by one of the partner organisations which highlighted the difficulties faced by staff in trying to make referrals to Social Services despite the potential safeguarding impacts on students. The Chair reminded colleagues of the need to challenge the Duty Team on procedure and to escalate matters quickly if they felt that their referral was not being taken seriously enough.

13. National, Regional and Local Developments

The Chair provided information on the following:

- **Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs)** – Blackpool Council was in the process of implementing the new structure for its LSCB which would require three agencies; the Health Service, the Police and the local authority to prepare a safeguarding plan for consultation. The new safeguarding plan from the ‘LSBC’ should be published by June 2019 which the Chair felt was a tight timescale to meet. The Chair also expressed his concern about the new structure which could potentially impact on consistency of provision across the country.
- **New reports** – the Chair drew colleagues’ attention to two reports that might be of interest to them:
 - **Children’s Commissioner’s report on the collection of children’s data by Internet and toy companies** – <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/2018/11/08/childrens-commissioners-report-calls-on-internet-giants-and-toy-manufacturers-to-be-transparent-about-collection-of-childrens-data/>
 - **Home Secretary’s report on a vision for building character**

and resilience <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/education-secretary-sets-out-vision-for-character-and-resilience>

14. New risks

No new risks were identified other than the OFSTED report on Blackpool Children's Services and the concomitant impact on children's services delivery.

15. Any other business

This was the last meeting for the Clerk and the Chair and the FCAT Safeguarding Lead, on behalf of the Safeguarding Board, thanked her for her work with them and wished her well on her retirement.

16. Dates of meetings 2019-2020

The dates for meetings in the next academic year were noted for diaries (Paper 15).

Date of next meeting

Wednesday 24th April 2019 at 4.00pm.
Unity Academy

Signed: _____(Chair)

Date: _____