

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

Meeting No. 26

Date: Thursday 20th June 2019
Venue: Aspire Academy
Time: 4.00pm

Present: Dr David Sanders (Chair)
Mr Simon Brennand (FCAT Safeguarding Lead & Designated Safeguarding Lead, Unity Academy)
Ms Nicola Anderson (Designated Safeguarding Person, Unity Academy)
Ms Fiona Bate (Designated Safeguarding Person, Hodgson Academy)
Ms Sue Collins (Designated Safeguarding Lead, Westminster Academy)
Mr Tim Craven (Designated Safeguarding Person, Blackpool Sixth Form)
Ms Jennifer Morgan (Designated Safeguarding Lead, Garstang Academy)
Mr Tony Nicholson (FCAT CEO)
Ms Sian Rawson (Designated Safeguarding Lead, Aspire Academy)
Ms Julie Riley (Designated Safeguarding Person, Gateway Academy)
Ms Gill Smith (Designated Safeguarding Lead, Montgomery Academy)
Ms Jane Walpole (Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mereside Primary School)
Ms Gail Yeadon (Designated Safeguarding Lead, Blackpool Sixth Form)

Ms Helen Livsey (FCAT Governance Administrator)

Apologies: Apologies were received from Julia Aionesei, Victoria Blakeman, Sue Burrows, Lisa Fleet, Alicia Gibbons, Alison McEwan, Sue Robinson and Janette Webster

1. Preliminaries

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made around the table. The low attendance numbers were noted.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest to note.

3. Student Perspective

The Chair welcomed four students from Aspire Academy, representing Years 7 to 10, to the meeting. They provided the following feedback on safeguarding issues pertinent to them, following discussions with their peers:

- The majority of students felt safe within the academy and knew that the building was secure and only trusted individuals could gain access.
- There was always staff visible, bullying ambassadors and a consequence system that was understood and applied consistently.
- Students mentioned that the corridors were narrow and enclosed, causing bottleneck situations at certain times of the day. Discussions were also held around the windows being fixed and unable to open with students concerned that this could limit exit opportunities if there was a serious fire. Issues were also created with unbearably warm temperatures in lessons during the Summer Term.

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- Discussing how the academy could improve the safety of students, responses had included, requesting students be removed from classes or excluded quicker, more staff in student services, more visits from the school nurse and a permanent PCSO.
- A number of students had requested the installation of metal detectors or bodyguards on the door to prevent gun and knife crime.
- In relation to feeling safe in the community, the students highlighted a mixed response across all year groups, with around half the respondents stating they felt safe and the other half stating they did not feel safe at all.
- Concerns regarding safety in the community included, drugs; weapons; knife crime; child sexual exploitation (CSE – specifically Charlene Downes), wolf whistling at students, gangs and the normalisation of poor behaviour and lifestyle choices.

Questions to students

Addressing the width of the corridors, the FCAT CEO explained that it had always been known that the corridors were too narrow and anticipated that could become an issue. These were highlighted at the planning stage by the Trust.

Asking the students what could assist with the movement of students, it was highlighted that implementing a one-way system could help to limit the pushing on the corridors. It was also suggested that Year 10's and 11's could be responsible for escorting younger children along the corridors to lessons.

The FCAT Safeguarding Lead reassured the students that evacuation plans had been carefully assessed and planned and that everyone would be evacuated quickly and safely in the event of an emergency.

The Chair addressed concerns raised regarding the disappearance of Charlene Downes. He explained that it was an example of CSE taking place within the community and recognised that the case had been brought back into public focus due to the release of a television programme.

Noting that there were serious concerns raised from students, regarding safety within the community, the Board asked for clarification about what the students perceived a gang to be. The students explained that it was big groups of people, who acted irresponsibly, were intimidating and loud.

Recognising there was an issue with feeling safe in the community across all year groups, students were asked if they knew what triggered these feelings. It was explained that there had been an increase in drug use in the town centre and on the local estates by young people. Many try to avoid the situation and encourage others to do the same, by not going out in the evenings.

Students had raised concerns regarding weapons and clarification was sought over what types of weapons were being feared and also, if weapons had been seen. The students explained that keys were often used as weapons instead of a knife. They further explained that some people carried knives and were armed in the community, even though it was illegal. The students clarified that they had never seen a weapon or knife within school.

Querying if there had been a notable impact since the loss of a permanent PCSO, the students confirmed that this was the case. The previous PCSO was a

consistent person who knew everyone and was familiar to talk to about anything. It also provided a level of comfort to know that the school was safe.

Asked if the students appreciated the strict rules in place at the academy, the students explained that some students attempted to rebel against it because they did not like rules. They agreed that it created a sense of order. They also confirmed that the mobile phone ban was definitely a good decision and behaviour in the academy had been improved since that came into force.

Asked if the students were confident that they knew who to approach if they had any issues within school, they all confirmed that this was the case.

The Chair asked for three actions that could be implemented/addressed to ensure all students felt safe within the academy and they agreed:

1. A full time PCSO
2. Opening windows
3. Reduced corridor congestion

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 time and their well-researched presentation and they left the meeting at this point.

4. Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

Mr Brennand provided a verbal update confirming he had held conversations with Elaine Walker from CAMHS regarding how FCAT and its partner organisations might better access the service.

A Healthy Minds Project had been taking place, evaluating how participants felt about the service CAMHS provided. Areas for development highlighted included, crisis, access, transition, digital access and stigma regarding mental health issues. A model was being developed to be more flexible and Ms Walker reminded Mr Brennand that there were services that operated alongside or prior to CAMHS, including youth therapy. The Safeguarding Board acknowledged that this was an excellent service, but that appointments were currently being made for 2020, meaning the provision was unable to keep up with demand. CASHES services were also available through outreach services.

Mr Brennand agreed to circulate the documents provided by Ms Walker to all Safeguarding Board members.

SB

Noting that the current Government stated the ambition to have a mental health provision within every school, Mr Brennand surmised that this could be an individual to signpost to support, rather than a mental health professional.

Many DSL's reported that they had staff members keen to undertake mental health first aid training, but courses were unreliable and cancelled. Ms Smith highlighted that Montgomery Academy were running a mental health market place for staff, students and families to access. She invited members of the Safeguarding Board to attend and would circulate the details in advance.

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| <p>Querying if mental health first aid training was available for students, Mr Brennand explained that this was not an area that was available yet but there were students keen to undertake this. Lancashire Minds had started to train a team of young people, to create a positive mental wellbeing and resilience workforce.</p> | <u>Action</u> |
| <p>Diane Booth (Director of Children’s Services) was keen to implement mental health professionals into local schools and the members of the Safeguarding Board requested she be invited to a meeting to liaise at how this could be progressed further.</p> | Chair |
| <p>The Chair recognised that there were difficulties in terms of referrals and waiting times and this needed to be communicated and escalated further. He requested that in order to do this, DSL’s communicated data relating to these issues to Mr Brennand, so that there was sufficient evidence to take back to Ms Walker. Mr Brennand would circulate a form for data collection to all DSL’s.</p> | SB/ DSLs |
| <p>The Chair and Mr Brennand would meet with Ms Walker to discuss the data collected at a future date.</p> | Chair/ SB |
| <p>5. Minutes of the meeting held on 24th April 2019 and matters arising</p> | |
| <p>The minutes of the meeting were approved. The following matters were noted:</p> | |
| <p>Student Perspective (Item 7) A verbal update was received from Unity Academy regarding progress made with issues pertinent to the students. Mr Brennand confirmed that the supervision model throughout the day had been reviewed and increased significantly, to assist with the flow of students through the corridors. Meetings with the Student Council would be taking place in the coming weeks to gain feedback on the impact of this.</p> | |
| <p>The Chair suggested that as the width of the corridors had been raised by students from varying academies, it would be appropriate to make representation to the Department for Education to try to prevent this issue in future school buildings. He agreed, in conjunction with the CEO and FCAT Safeguarding Lead to write to the Secretary of State regarding the impact of narrow corridors on pupil movement and behaviour and to suggest that the design brief be improved for future new builds.</p> | Chair/SB /CEO |
| <p>6. Student Perspective: Implications for the FCAT Safeguarding Board</p> | |
| <p>A discussion on the issues raised by students earlier in the meeting took place with the following agreed:</p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The loss of a permanent PCSO had been felt within the academy and was due to funding cuts. • In relation to corridor congestion, overshadowing timetables were suggested, although this would be a considerable task to undertake initially. One way systems would also be considered in certain areas. Ms Rawson would discuss the matter further with the academy Principal. • With regards to the fixed windows, the students fear in terms of a fire were inaccurate as fixed windows would be safer in that situation. The effects of the rising temperatures during lessons was notable and uncomfortable for students and staff. A Summer uniform had been implemented and reflective film had been placed on the windows, but there were ongoing issues with classroom temperatures still. Mr Brennand recognised that significant efforts had been made relating to this specific issue already and reassured the academy that he had not stopped looking for solutions to the issue. | SR |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members understood the students concerns with regards to the Charlene Downes case and recognised that the recent TV programme had heightened young people’s fears. It was felt that the best form of defence against CSE was knowledge and all agreed to ensure their academy was providing the right balance of awareness and education of the subject. The Chair explained that he had discussed gangs and antisocial behaviour issues with the local police and John Blackledge (Blackpool Council’s Director of Community and Environment Services). He acknowledged that young people in the community were aware of drug use and knife crime and this had been discussed by students from Blackpool Sixth Form College previously who stated they felt frustrated that the authorities would not listen to their concerns. It was felt that police statistics did not support the issues students were raising and it was agreed it would be beneficial to have a member of the police force attend a Safeguarding Board Meeting and listen to the issues raised by the students. All Board members agreed to make representation for their establishment and the Chair agreed to contact the police to arrange this. | <p>Action</p> <p>DSLs</p> <p>Chair/ Agenda</p> |
| <p>7. Knife Crime</p> <p>The Safeguarding Board was played an audio recording of two students discussing the normalisation of knife crime and postcode wars within the local area. Prominent quotes from the recording included; “it happens quite often...it’s just normal”; “everyone carries a knife...outside of school” and “anything is a weapon”.</p> <p>Discussions around the table took place, with members aware of the postcode gangs and large scale fights based on postcodes. It was agreed that the media coverage of knife crime was creating a more dangerous situation and assisting in the normalisation of the issue. There had been instances of knives being found within academy grounds at numerous academies and all agreed preventative support was required.</p> <p>Ms Yeadon agreed to circulate feedback from a recent conference, where recommendations from a school that had suffered a non-fatal and fatal violent incident had taken place.</p> | <p>Chair/ Agenda</p> <p>GY</p> |
| <p>The Chair and Mr Brennand agreed to discuss concerns raised with the police and invite them to attend a Safeguarding Board Meeting.</p> | <p>Chair/SB /Agenda</p> |
| <p>8. Operation Encompass</p> <p>All members came prepared with their experiences and the impact noted since the launch of Operation Encompass.</p> <p>It was agreed that it had not been a smooth transition and there was significant progress yet to be made. This would be discussed again at a future meeting.</p> | |
| <p>9. Student Conference</p> <p>Mr Brennand discussed the secondary well-being conference (25th April 2019) and the upcoming primary well-being conference (28th June 2019).</p> <p>With regards to the secondary conference, this had been highly successful and thanks was given to all involved in the event. Evaluation information was still being analysed but anecdotal feedback had been overwhelmingly positive.</p> | |

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| <p>The primary conference was largely based on the secondary format, with adjusted marketplaces and trimmed down presentations, whilst ensuring the event was age appropriate. There were smaller numbers attending than anticipated, which was disappointing.</p> | |
| <p>It was agreed that provisional dates for future conferences would be shared as soon as possible.</p> | SB |
| <p>10. Peer Reviews Governors noted the peer review undertaken at Montgomery Academy.</p> <p>Asked if the DSL's felt they were sufficiently challenged during the process, it was agreed that this was absolutely the case and evidence was always provided, with no assumptions made.</p> | |
| <p>11. Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy The annual review of the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy was undertaken and the following were agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Clerk would circulate an updated Appendix B with confirmed DSL contact details • The Clerk would circulate the role of the Safeguarding Governor for inclusion • Blackpool LADO should be updated to be Ruth Lawton (ruth.lawton@blackpool.gov.uk) • Individual academy risks should be inserted and amended as required • Ensure the correct version was published on the academy website | Clerk DSLs |
| <p>12. Safeguarding Governor Role Discussions were held regarding the role of the Safeguarding Governor and it was recognised that as volunteers, it was not appropriate to expect attendance at all five meetings each year. This would instead be amended to "attend at least two meetings per year".</p> <p>Amendments would be made and circulated via the Clerk for inclusion in the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. This would also be circulated to all Safeguarding Governors.</p> | Clerk |
| <p>13. National, Regional and Local Developments The Chair informed the members of the FCAT Safeguarding Board that the National Association of Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (LSCB) Chairs would be disbanded and a new organisation named the Association of Safeguarding Partners would be formally launched in October 2019. Local plans should be completed by 29th June 2019 and sits with the police, healthcare and Local Authority.</p> <p>A parallel group to the Children's Group, the Local Safeguarding Adults Board had focused and reviewed the safeguarding of young adults into adulthood from a social care perspective. The results of this review were expected toward the end of the year. There had been a change in the Chair of the Adult Board from Robert Templeton to Fran Pearson.</p> <p>Care Quality Commission (CQC) had focused work on "declare you care", a campaign relating to racial disparity.</p> | |

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The Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) document from September 2018 would remain the most recent document for the next 12 months.

Blackpool School Nursing Team had been quality assured and it had been identified that their management structure was deemed inadequate. Changes to the team were expected and would be communicated once more was known.

14. New Risks

There were no new risks identified at this meeting.

15. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 08th October 2019

4.00pm

Venue: To be confirmed

Signed: _____ (Chair)

Date: _____