

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

Meeting No. 28

Date: Thursday 21st November 2019
Venue: Mereside Primary School
Time: 4.00pm

Present:

Dr David Sanders (Chair)
Ms Alison McEwan (Safeguarding Governor, Armfield Academy)
Ms Jennifer Markham (Designated Safeguarding Person, Aspire Academy)
Mr Peter Murphy (Safeguarding Governor, Garstang Community Academy)
Ms Christine Butterworth (Designated Safeguarding Person, Blackpool Gateway Academy)
Mr Andrew Kenworthy (Designated Safeguarding Person, Hambleton Primary Academy)
Ms Jane Walpole (Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mereside Primary School)
Ms Gill Smith (Designated Safeguarding Lead, Montgomery Academy)
Mr Simon Brennand (FCAT Safeguarding Lead and Designated Safeguarding Lead, Unity Academy)
Ms Nicola Anderson (Designated Safeguarding Person, Unity Academy)
Ms Amanda Stokes (Designated Safeguarding Lead, Westcliff Primary Academy)
Ms Sue Collins (Designated Safeguarding Lead, Westminster Primary Academy)
Ms Gail Yeadon (Designated Safeguarding Lead, Blackpool Sixth Form College)
Mr Tim Craven (Designated Safeguarding Person, Blackpool Sixth Form College)
Mr Chris McConnachie (Safeguarding Governor, Hodgson Academy)
Mr Tony Nicholson (FCAT CEO)
Ms Helen Livsey (FCAT Governance Administrator)

Apologies:

Ms Janette Webster (Armfield Academy)
Ms Sian Rawson (Aspire Academy)
Ms Laura Royds (Aspire Academy)
Ms Jennifer Morgan (Garstang Community Academy)
Ms Helen Piggott (Blackpool Gateway Academy)
Ms Sue Robinson (Blackpool Gateway Academy)
Ms Linda Roberts (Blackpool Gateway Academy)
Ms Holly Wood (Hambleton Primary Academy)
Ms Sue Burrows (Westcliff Primary Academy)
Ms Victoria Blakeman (Blackpool Sixth Form College)
Ms Fiona Bate (Hodgson Academy)
Mr Dave Taylor (Longridge High School)

1. Welcome

- 1.1 All were welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made.
1.2 Apologies for absence were noted.

2. Declaration of interest

There were no declarations of interest to note.

Action

3. Student Perspective

The FCAT Safeguarding Board welcomed five, Year 5 pupils from Mereside Primary School to the meeting. They provided the following feedback on safeguarding issues pertinent to themselves and their peers:

- The teachers were kind and helpful and would always help with school work or other concerns.
- The school had many first aiders who could help if a pupil was hurt.
- Pupils felt safe in the school and were confident that the building was secure, with only trusted individuals gaining access.
- Pupils felt safe within their community and explained that on the estate, adults were always looking out for the children playing.
- The local community centre was well used for activities, such as sports and youth clubs and was a safe place to meet friends.
- Pollution and overfishing was discussed and pupils were disheartened by the litter near and in the sea. They were also concerned for children in countries that did not have clean water and felt more needed to be done to help and support those people.

Questions to pupils

Asked how often they accessed activities at the community centre, it was highlighted they attended around three times a week. The pupils explained that they walked to and from the centre and they felt safe in doing so.

It was a positive to hear how safe the pupils felt within school and members queried if they felt happy and safe walking to and from school. The pupils explained that they felt very safe on the estate and had no concerns about their journey to and from school.

Querying if the pupils felt safe within Blackpool town centre, the pupils explained that they only go with their parents and that made them feel safer. They had witnessed people in town taking drugs and “not looking after each other or the environment” and noted this made them feel unsafe.

Discussing the online world, the pupils were asked if they felt safe online and they confirmed that they did because they had been taught about the dangers within school and how to be safe online. They expanded to explain that if they received an inappropriate message, they would tell their parents and teachers and possibly the police too.

The Chair asked what could be done to make the pupils feel even safer and they explained:

- there were animals wandering the streets that they were concerned about
- they would like more youth club and community centre activities
- higher fencing around the school
- they would like to see racism stop. The pupils explained that racist incidents were always on the news and in sports and it made them feel unhappy.

Asked if they had seen racism locally, one pupil explained that he had heard racist language when he was in Blackpool town centre and it made him upset as he wanted everyone to be treated the same.

The Chair explained 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 pupils for their time and they left the meeting at this point.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 08th October 2019 and any matters arising:

Members agreed the minutes of the meeting were accurate and the following matters discussed:

4.1 The Chair and FCAT Safeguarding Lead would meet with the Managing Director of Blackpool Transport on Friday 10th January 2020.

5. Student Perspective: Implications for the FCAT Safeguarding Board

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

- Pupils spoke about the school and community positively
- Pupils clearly felt safe and happy within the school and community environment
- The FCAT Safeguarding Lead confirmed that the fencing around the school had been highlighted with it going to tender for secure perimeter fencing in the coming weeks

The Chair agreed to feedback the points regarding stray animals and litter to contacts at Blackpool Council and agreed with members of the board that it was a very positive experience with primary pupils.

Chair

6. Diane Booth (Director of Children's Services, Blackpool Council)

Jeremy Mannino (School's Safeguarding Advisor, Blackpool Council) attended on behalf of Diane Booth, to receive feedback regarding academy experiences of recent developments in Social Care systems.

Mr Mannino discussed the changes within Social Care and the new model of practice. This was beginning at the core with safeguarding and child protection and developing new ways of working with parents, young people and families. This included a cultural shift from Social Care looking for negatives and instead, finding the positives and working alongside the families. This included not seeing these families as a "case load", but as individuals in need of support. Education establishments were encouraged to join the journey alongside Social Care.

The FCAT Safeguarding Lead explained that academy experiences of the referral systems had been more robust lately and referrals were being actioned more swiftly. Academies were making good use of the advice line and this had assisted in completing the referrals process as academies could quote who they had spoken with.

Mr Mannino asked if the advice line had assisted in preventing referrals and the academies confirmed that this was the case. It had instead provided advice and support with regards to de-escalation.

Kara Haskayne (Principal Social Worker, Blackpool Council) had recently been delivering training into changes in Social Care and it was **recommended by many to attend this if an invitation was received.**

All

Clarification around Early Help processes and the completion of Early Help documentation was required. Academies were increasingly finding themselves

being asked to complete the documents, when the need was not primarily from the school and a different agency should be completing the forms. DSL's explained to Mr Mannino that this was primarily coming from the MASH team and if a lead agency was required, they would automatically pass it to the schools. Academies confirmed that if they had capacity then they would complete these forms, despite there often being no needs from within the education perspective. Concerns were raised that it could actually cause friction in relationships built between the academy and families, as well as academies feeling this was an unreasonable burden on their capacity. Mr Mannino confirmed that he was presently visiting schools around the town to identify the size and needs of pastoral teams and this would then be shared with the MASH team.

Mr Mannino asked if there was successful working with the Schools-Families Link worker. It was confirmed that academies within the Trust would usually support one another, but on the occasions they had used the Link, he was available and provided appropriate support.

Asked if the Lancashire academies had positive experiences, it was highlighted that the changes to the structure in the Children Safeguarding Board meant education was no longer directly represented and was a concern to those involved.

Discussing Operation Encompass, DSL's queried how that would be moving forward as they were still overwhelming receiving PVPs. One example included receiving 4 Encompass referrals and 32 PVPs. Mr Mannino highlighted that across Lancashire, there was now a 33% conversion rate although the Board felt this was low as the police force were stating, it was best practice but not mandatory. DSL's were reassured that the Local Authority were disappointed by the conversion rate and were now looking at improving compliance with a range of strategies. The Chair noted that the improvement since the implementation was welcomed, but further improvement was necessary, with a target of at least 80% compliance recommended.

Mr Mannino was thanked for his time and left the meeting at this point.

7. Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

DSL's confirmed that the amended Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, issued via email on Friday 08th November 2019, had been actioned and was now live on academy websites.

Discussing the Keeping Children Safe in Education document that was issued at the last meeting, it was agreed **DSL's would need to circulate this to all staff members and request evidence**, in the form of a signature, that confirmed it had been received by each staff member and had been read.

DSL's

The Clerk agreed to redistribute this document. (Sent via email 22.11.19)

Clerk

The FCAT Safeguarding Lead thanked colleagues for sending Section 175 audits and reminded those that had not yet done this to do so as soon as possible.

DSL's

8. Monitoring of Staff Training

Discussions around the table were held to confirm:

- All members of staff and Governors within each academy had received or

- were in the process of receiving annual Safeguarding training and;
• Senior staff had been adequately trained to deliver these refresher sessions.

The FCAT Safeguarding Lead highlighted the necessity that all staff and Governors, had Safeguarding training at least once a year and it was the responsibility of the DSL to ensure all support and contract staff, were appropriately trained and an up to date training log completed.

Mr Brennand and Ms Anderson offered support if required to deliver refresher sessions. External support had been offered by Laura Gornall who was a Prevent Delivery Officer, free of charge. **The Clerk agreed to circulate this information following the meeting. (Sent via email 22.11.19)**

DSL's were reminded to ensure their own training was up to date and recommended that more than one person within each setting was trained to DSL level.

The FCAT CEO highlighted that Safer Recruitment training was being advertised via FCAT HR and it was **essential that this was renewed at least every two-years.**

Questions from the Board

Noting that Safeguarding training was delivered annually at INSET days, it was asked how often DSL's should undertake refresher training. The FCAT Safeguarding lead recommended at least every two-years and highlighted the benefits of accessing these courses outside of Blackpool.

Discussing available resources for Level 1 Safeguarding Training and the FCAT Safeguarding Lead agreed to share examples of commonly used resources. **It was agreed this would be discussed further at the next meeting.**

Unity Academy would be holding a Safeguarding training called "The Borders Project" – County Lines Awareness for Safeguarders, delivered by Dean Coady. This would take place on Wednesday 04th December, 15.15 to 17.45. **It was recommended that each establishment sent one person to the training and details of how to book would be circulated after the meeting. (Sent via email 22.11.19)**

9. Social Media Strategy

Discussions were held around the table as to whether academies should have their own social media policies or if there should be an FCAT policy similar to the Safeguarding Policy.

All agreed there should be an FCAT policy and the **FCAT Safeguarding Lead agreed to organise this and bring a draft policy to the next meeting.**

10. Student Conferences 2020

The conference dates were agreed as:

Secondary: Thursday 23rd April 2020 at Lancaster University

Primary: Friday 03rd July 2020 at BSFC

Members noted that improvements needed to be made with parking and travel arrangements this year and queried if neighbouring academies could share buses/coaches to Lancaster University. It was recognised that this could extend

Action

Clerk
DSL's

DSL's

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Agenda

DSL's
Clerk

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Agenda

the day significantly for some students and staff and therefore it was preferred for academies to establish their own travel arrangements. Mr Brennand offered support to anyone struggling to do this.

Discussing themes for the conferences, mental health was agreed for the secondary conference. This would include positive stress, self-awareness and an ability to recognise when that was becoming negative stress and self-regulation support.

The primary conference would focus on healthy relationships. This would include friendships, puberty, independence skills, transition support and online safety.

11. Peer Reviews

Members received the Safeguarding Peer Reviews from:

- Blackpool Gateway Academy
- Westminster Primary Academy

The Chair asked if the reviews had been a useful experience and it was agreed that this was the case. It had been a robust audit system that had highlighted areas for improvement and good practice also.

Members were reminded that the following academies were agreed for Safeguarding Peer Reviews:

Autumn Term 2019/20

Hambleton Primary Academy – Gill Smith to lead, Jane Walpole to assist
Mereside Primary School – Sue Collins to lead, Helen Piggott to assist

GS/JW
SC/HP

Spring Term 2019/20

Unity Academy – Gail Yeadon to lead, David Taylor to assist
Hodgson Academy – Simon Brennand to lead, Jennifer Morgan to assist

GY/DT
SB/JM

14. Recent Safeguarding Case Study

Mereside Primary School provided a recent Safeguarding case study.

This highlighted the important role Children’s Centres played in building and maintaining relationships with families, so that accurate information and support could be provided for a child. It was only through information shared by the Children’s Centre that the academy was aware of any concerns as behaviour, attendance and presentation within school were not an issue, as school was a “safe haven” for this child.

All agreed that the academy had done everything possible and it was down to Social Care to drive this case forward with urgency.

15. National, Regional and Local Developments

The Chair highlighted the following developments:

- CQC were completing research into development, which was mainly adult focused but there was elements of the care services and crisis situations with young people being explored. This would hopefully create meaningful changes in these areas in the future.
- Blackburn and Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire Children’s Safeguarding Boards had ceased to exist and were now working under the new framework

of the partnership. The main emphasis of responsibility now sat with health, police and the Local Authority. There were real concerns from an educational perspective that there was no one involved from education when it comes to policy making. The strategic partnership would be Chaired by Steve Ashley.

- IICSA (Independent Inquiry Child Sexual Abuse) reports relating to Child Sexual Exploitation abuse investigations had now had the first phase completed in October 2019. The Chair recommended three reports for reading:
 - Learning about online sexual harm (<https://www.iicsa.org.uk/publications/research/learning-about-online-sexual-harm>)
 - Truth Project report into Child Sexual Abuse in care homes and residential care (<https://www.iicsa.org.uk/document/tp-thematic-report-csa-context-childrens-homes-residential-care-summary-nov-2019>)
 - Review of the Catholic Church (<https://www.iicsa.org.uk/investigations/investigation-into-failings-by-the-catholic-church>)

16. New Risks

There were no new risks identified at this meeting.

17. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 11th February 2020, BSFC, 4.00pm

Tuesday 24th March 2020, Hodgson Academy, 4.00pm

Thursday 18th June 2020, Garstang Community Academy, 4.00pm

Signed: _____ (Chair)

Date: _____