

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

**Meeting No. 29**

Date: Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020  
Venue: Blackpool Sixth Form College  
Time: 4.00pm

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**Present:**

Dr David Sanders (Chair)  
Ms Janette Webster (DSL, Armfield Academy)  
Ms Alison McEwan (Safeguarding Governor, Armfield Academy)  
Ms Jenny Campbell (Safeguarding Governor, Aspire Academy)  
Mr Peter Murphy (Safeguarding Governor, Garstang Academy)  
Ms Helen Piggott (DSL, Gateway Academy)  
Ms Louise Shaw (DSL, Hambleton Academy)  
Ms Jane Walpole (DSL, Mereside Primary School)  
Mr Stuart Ormson (Safeguarding Governor, Mereside Primary School)  
Ms Gill Smith (DSL, Montgomery Academy)  
Mr Simon Brennand (DSL, Unity Academy and FCAT Safeguarding Lead)  
Ms Nicola Anderson (DSP, Unity Academy)  
Ms Sue Burrows (Safeguarding Governor, Westcliff Academy)  
Ms Sue Collins (DSL, Westminster Academy)  
Mr Tim Craven (DSP, Blackpool Sixth Form College)  
Mr Tom Holland (Deputy DSL, Blackpool Sixth Form College)  
Mr Jeremey Mannino (Safeguarding Governor, Blackpool Sixth Form College)  
Ms Sue Fox (Safeguarding Manager, Hodgson Academy)  
Mr Dave Taylor (DSL, Longridge High School)  
Mr Tony Nicholson (FCAT CEO)  
Ms Helen Livsey (Governance Administrator, FCAT)

Ms Laura Gornall (Prevent Delivery Officer)  
PS Warren Jones (Violence Reduction Unit and Knife Crime Team, Police)  
Ins David Wilson (Neighbourhood Inspector, North and Central, Police)  
Ms Jane Cole (CEO, Blackpool Transport)  
Ms Karen Cooper (Head of People and Stakeholders, Blackpool Transport)

**Apologies:**

Ms Sian Rawson (Aspire Academy)  
Ms Gail Yeadon (Blackpool Sixth Form College and Montgomery Academy)  
Ms Jennifer Morgan (Garstang Academy)  
Ms Holly Wood (Hambleton Academy)  
Ms Amanda Stokes (Westcliff Academy)  
Mr Chris McConnachie (Hodgson Academy)

**1. Preliminaries**

**1.1 Welcome**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made around the table. Particular welcome was given to colleagues in attendance from Blackpool Police, Blackpool Transport and Prevent.

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### **1.2 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were noted.

### **1.3 Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest to note.

## **2. Prevent**

Laura Gornall (Prevent Delivery Officer) was in attendance following an agreement to work with all FCAT and associate academies, to discuss the resources available.

She highlighted that following a successful pilot, Lancashire and Kent were now the only two counties taking a county-wide approach to delivering Prevent training. She explained that it was difficult to put Prevent into perspective as it was not a comparable service and levels of need varied. In terms of a threat profile, Lancashire had now been rated fourth at risk, and due to the transient nature of towns within Lancashire, focused, prioritised work was taking place within Blackpool, Blackburn, Burnley, Preston and Morecombe.

Ms Gornall explained that she could complete face-to-face staff training, which would discuss local cases, increase staff confidence for when to refer a case and provide educational resources. Age appropriate assemblies could also be delivered which would focus on stereotyping, anti-social behaviour and social media, which would all be linked back through the Prevent agenda.

Representatives from Blackpool Police highlighted the far-right footprint that was emerging within the local area and encouraged all to engage with Ms Gornall to assist in preventing young people from being radicalised into this threat.

Contact details for DSL's are:

[Laura.gornall@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:Laura.gornall@blackburn.gov.uk)

07813994522

01254 585994

*Ms Gornall was thanked for her time and left the meeting at this point.*

DSL's

## **3. Student Perspective**

The FCAT Safeguarding Board welcomed students from Blackpool Sixth Form College to the meeting. They provided the following feedback on safeguarding issues pertinent to themselves and their peers:

- They were aware that Blackpool had a reputation for its nightlife but students felt the "challenge 25" checks were not happening as regularly as they should. Students discussed the ability to easily obtain fake ID, which led to numerous consequences when gaining access to local nightclubs.
- There was limited knowledge of where to turn for support with drinking and drugs, where an individual would not feel stigmatised or judged.
- When discussing safeguarding concerns with peers, it had been noted that many did not appear to be aware of the term or understand how important it was.
- It had been highlighted that many students were unsure of where to go for support outside of college or during school holidays. It was felt this led to

individuals “bottling up” and leading into dangerous territory such as self-harm, binge drinking and drugs.

- The recent storms had raised concerns with regards to flooding within the local area and damage to some student’s homes.
- In relation to knife crime, students acknowledged that the fear had been increasing over recent years but highlighted that students felt safe within college. Areas within the town were discussed as areas they felt unsafe, such as Stanley Park, Grange Park and the town centre and this stemmed from feeling unsure how to deal with any aggression or conflict they came into contact with.
- Concerns were raised with regards to the increasing risks and fears for safety in St Anne’s recently.

### **Questions to students**

Asked if the students or their peers would drink alcohol on a regular basis, it was highlighted that of ten students that were asked, four admitted to regularly attending nightclubs and drinking alcohol or taking drugs.

It was asked if the alcohol related issues were linked to binge drinking or daily drinking, and it was confirmed it was linked to both.

Querying what support the students would like to see with regards to stopping underage individuals gaining access to nightclubs, they explained they wanted to seek support to bring a greater awareness to “challenge 25” to students and businesses and requested that these checks were enforced more.

Discussing signposting to available support in relation to alcohol or drug concerns, it was asked if there was a worry among students that they would be “in trouble” and it was confirmed that this was part of the concern, but that students felt there was not a confidential person to turn to for support as well.

In relation to knife crime, students were asked if more people were concerned about it because they had seen/experienced it in their local area, or because it was in the media. It was highlighted that few students had had contact with knife crime but due to mass media coverage, there was a greater awareness and fear. It was then that fear that lead individuals into carrying knives for protection.

Acknowledging that students felt very safe within college, it was asked if they felt safe on their journeys to and from home. It was recognised that students generally felt safe if they were in small groups, but there was a significant increase in those that did not feel safe if they were travelling alone. The direct transport with the College provided bus assisted in feeling safe travelling alone, due to checks of travel cards and only students accessing the bus.

Members felt concerned that many students were not aware of the term “safeguarding” and queried why this may be the case. It was recognised that it could be because the students generally felt so safe within college, their local environment and homes resulting in not understanding how much the umbrella term actually covered.

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 students for their time and they left the meeting at this point.*

#### **4. Blackpool Police**

PS Warren Jones and Inspector David Wilson were in attendance to discuss DSL's previous concerns in relation to knife crime, antisocial behaviour, community safety and the new Task Force.

Discussing steps implemented in relation to tackling knife crime, PS Jones explained that funding from the Government had been implemented to support with this. This consisted primarily of a significant increase in "stop and search" taking place and was felt within the Police Force that this was the main power to reducing knife crime. There had been an increase of 80% in the last eight months of Officers on the streets on a Friday and Saturday night, to assist in "stop and search" taking place.

There had recently been eight knife bins placed across Lancashire and in a week, 99 weapons had been recovered from these bins. It was highlighted that whilst this was positive, many of the items recovered were general butter knives or compasses.

A young person's PACT (Police and Community Together) meeting was taking place at Claremont, where young people from the area would come and meet with the Police, to discuss concerns and complete some "myth busting". The Police had recognised the importance of building positive relationships with younger members of communities early. This was also being supported via Mini Cadets which was being offered in some local primary settings at the moment, to break down barriers and build up trust. It was also the aim ensure communities understood that the levels of perceived crime in relation to actual crime, were far removed from one another, and positive links with children and young people within the communities was essential to changing this perception.

Inspector Wilson highlighted the desire to engage with all local schools, but discussed the poor staffing levels within the Police Force, which impacted the capacity and ability to be more involved. There was a hope PCSO's would be placed back into schools in the future, once staffing levels had been increased. Of the 20,000 Officers promised in the Conservative's manifesto, Lancashire Constabulary had placed a bid for 500. There were higher entry levels into the Police Service now, with Officers needing a degree, therefore, any that were accepted would need to complete a degree in partnership with University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN) first and therefore, if the bid for 500 Officers was successful, it could be a number of years before the effects were felt within the service.

#### **Questions to the Police**

Asked if prosecutions had taken place following the finding of knives in "stop and searches", it was confirmed that it was the case that prosecutions occurred, but it was also dependant on other factors such as circumstance, age and if they would be a first time offender. It was discussed further that knife crime and young people was difficult to manage in some aspects, as the Police ethos involved not criminalising young people at first contact and therefore, dependant on the offence, a young person may not go to court for their first criminal activity. If the

same individual was found to continue in the offences, the Police again explained that circumstances would need to be examined and that the Police would, for some crimes, continue to divert young people away from court and towards support.

Members understood the Police perspective on trying to prevent young people being criminalised, and acknowledged the negative impact a criminal record could have on an individual's life into the future. However, they queried if there was any form of deterrent applied to ensure they were discouraged from repeating an offence. It was confirmed that community service was often used instead and referrals to other agencies who could assist in ensuring young people made the most of their "second chance".

Querying if there was any correlation between the national increase in knife crime and young people avoiding court, the Police highlighted that knife crime was driven by social media and news outlets. It was stated that knife crime was not as bad as portrayed in the media and it was the media that was fuelling the need for young people to carry knives or weapons in order to feel safe. Work needed to be completed with young people to break the self-fulfilling prophecy and for them to completely understand that it was an offence to carry a weapon, even if there was no intention of using it.

The Police Force had recognised that it was potentially "part of the problem" in heightening fears surrounding knife crime and therefore it had been agreed that they would no longer be posting pictures online of knives/weapons seized in order to ensure there was less focus on levels of perceived crimes.

Noting the recent news article which stated only 8% of low level crime was taken through to prosecution, it was asked if young people would perceive this to mean they had a 92% chance of escaping justice and if this was a worrying statistic for the Police. It was recognised that this was a low percentage of solved crimes, and it was a consequence purely on the number of Officers that had been lost over recent years. Priorities had to be made and Safeguarding had rightly been the focus. The figures would be nowhere as low for cases involving Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Criminal Exploitation or County Lines for example. It was hoped that as Police Officer numbers increased, more resources could be directed back into traditional crime.

## **5. Blackpool Transport**

Ms Cole (CEO) and Ms Cooper (Head of People and Stakeholders) were in attendance from Blackpool Transport to discuss a recent meeting with the FCAT Safeguarding Board Chair, held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2020, and collaborative working with FCAT and associate academies moving forward.

Ms Cole discussed the work that had been taking place since she had taken on post in 2014. This included securing the Palladium buses and a large investment in staff training and community engagement. Relationships had been built with local schools, to educate pupils about public transport and the expectations for using the buses. There was a hope that Blackpool Transport would build relationships with every school in Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre as it was essential pupils and families were using the transport.

Actions had been taken following feedback from transport users, to ensure they

felt safer and more empowered when using the services. This included work with young people from nursery age, on how to use the services, such as keeping hold of a ticket, how to sit properly and messages of courtesy, kindness and respect threaded through all aspects of the work from nursery to colleges. This had also included staff training, to ensure drivers knew appropriate actions and steps to take in case of any incidents, requests or safeguarding concerns. These actions had already generated a greater respect and tolerance between staff and service users and a better use of the available equipment within the buses and trams.

Ms Cole acknowledged that many complaints previously were with regards to drivers and their attitudes. Following consultations, it had become apparent that many drivers were unsure how to respond to some circumstances, therefore this had been addressed and this had assisted in customers feeling safer using the services.

It was acknowledged that there was a legacy negative perception of using public transport and Ms Cole and her team were working hard to change this within the local communities. Reports of anti-social behaviour had significantly decreased and additional work had been completed to ensure Blackpool Transport was inclusive to all.

Highlighting work that had taken place with individuals in the community that had disabilities, to ensure that the buses were accessible and staff were equipped to assist in any way required, Ms Cole noted that disability awareness training was now mandatory for all staff members.

### **Questions from Members**

Discussing how the FCAT academies could further support in engaging the pupils, students and their families in using public transport, Ms Cole discussed work that had been taking place successfully with Unity Academy and it was intended to roll this out shortly. Ms Cooper discussed the ability to bring a bus into each school on parent's evenings or open evenings, so that the young people could access the bus and engage with them further. DSL's were asked to contact Ms Cooper directly to arrange this.

DSL's

Asked if any work was taking place with children and young people with special needs, such as sensory needs, Ms Cooper explained that work was taking place across the town with a large number of individuals. This included creating a "safe haven" for people with dementia who may have become disorientated whilst using the services. Links had been made with local care homes and special needs schools also. Blackpool Transport had made links through the special schools, to assist children with autism in accessing the service, including taking them out at quieter times and building their tolerance and confidence up.

Members agreed that it must be difficult for drivers, as they are responsible for driving the vehicle safely, but are also expected to have an awareness of what was taking place within the setting and ensuring appropriate steps were taken. Ms Cole confirmed that this was difficult, but the training was strong and drivers had the confidence to do what was required in certain circumstances. She also praised the relationship that had been built up with Blackpool Police, who would often assist in some situations.

The Chair reminded Members to get in touch with Ms Cooper, if they wished to



Action

build relationships further. Ms Cooper reiterated that they would go into every school that they were invited to.

Contact details:

Ms Karen Cooper  
[Karen.cooper@blackpooltransport.com](mailto:Karen.cooper@blackpooltransport.com)  
01253 479524

*Ms Cole and Ms Cooper were thanked for their time and left the meeting at this point.*

**6. Student Perspective: Implications for the FCAT Safeguarding Board**

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

- Mental health support outside of term time was not available via the college, however, better signposting of available phone numbers and resources would be shared with all students.
- With regards to “challenge 25” checks, the Police Officers confirmed that the licencing department at the Local Authority and the Police worked closely on this. DSL’s were encouraged to report any fake IDs to the police online and any intelligence in relation to where these were being produced and distributed.
- There was a need to raise awareness into safeguarding as a general term, as the term was not resonating with a number of students at the college. In response to this, the college had already changed the safeguarding email address from “safeguarding.alert” to “help.me” as this had been previously highlighted as an issue.
- The FCAT CEO agreed that student friendly language needed to be used and felt it important to ensure pupils and students in primary and secondary settings understood the term, or academies adapted to use a term that they did understand. He asked that this be discussed with pupils and students at the upcoming Well-Being Conferences and feedback would then be taken to FCAT Directors.
- There was much concern in regards to alcohol and substance misuse, with many concerned that drugs were easily accessed and cheaper, and therefore, many young people were becoming vulnerable. The Police highlighted that there was no specific evidence, however, anecdotally, there were a number of drugs that were more readily available and were causing issues with young people within the community, more so than alcohol. It was agreed that signposting to available support would again be refreshed and provided to students.
- Blackpool Police agreed to make contact with the Student Council at BSFC once capacity allowed.

DSL’s

SB/TN

DSL’s

*Representatives from Blackpool Police were thanked for their time and left the meeting at this point.*

**7. Minutes of the meeting held on 08<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and matters arising:**

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

**7.1 Level 1 Safeguarding Training** The Clerk would send copies of the Safeguarding Training used by Unity Academy following the meeting.

Clerk

	<u>Action</u>
<p><b>7.2 DSL Training</b> It was recommended that DSL training should be refreshed every two-years, with a different provider used each time. All were asked to forward the Clerk any good quality DSL training providers that had been used. This would be collated and shared among all DSL's to ensure the local context and different perspectives were equally accessed.</p>	DSL's/ Clerk
<p><b>7.3 Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)</b> Mr Brennand reminded all DSL's that they needed to circulate the document to all staff members and receive confirmation that this had been received and understood by all. This then needed to be communicated to Mr Brennand, in order to update central records.</p>	DSL's
<p><b>8. Road Safety Update</b></p> <p><b>Armfield Academy</b> The Chair had received confirmation that the work would begin to install a zebra crossing on Arnold Avenue at February half term.</p> <p><b>Unity Academy</b> There had been no further progress on road safety around the academy and this was not likely to advance until next financial year.</p> <p><b>BSFC/Aspire Academy</b> Issues had been reported and highlighted that the street lighting on Blackpool Old Road around the new crossing, was insufficient, with a number of "near misses" being reported. It was expected that a solution would be reached in the coming weeks.</p> <p><b>Blackpool Gateway Academy</b> It was highlighted that there were concerns with road safety around the academy and that John Topping (FCAT Estates Lead) was assisting in finding a solution. The Chair agreed to make contact with Mr Topping, to establish if any assistance was required.</p>	Chair
<p><b>9. Social Media Strategy</b></p> <p>It was agreed that this item would be deferred to the next meeting to allow for more detailed conversations.</p>	Agenda
<p><b>10. Keyboard Warrior Update (Unity Academy)</b></p> <p>Ms Anderson shared an update on the implementation of the Keyboard Warrior initiative. Feedback from students highlighted that a positive impact had been felt and that there were less negative comments taking place on social media by students at the academy.</p>	
<p><b>11. Online Safety Live</b></p> <p>Mr Taylor provided feedback on the recent session. This was a successful event which all DSL's were encouraged to attend in the future.</p> <p>Resources and support were available from: <a href="http://www.projectevolve.co.uk">www.projectevolve.co.uk</a> in relation to internet safety and "Education for a connected world" and all were asked to take a look at this.</p>	
<p><b>12. Peer Reviews</b></p> <p>Peer Reviews from Hambleton Primary Academy and Mereside Primary School were received and reviewed.</p> <p>Confirmation that Peer Reviews were due to take place this half term at:</p>	



Unity Academy – Gail Yeadon to lead, David Taylor to assist  
Hodgson Academy – Simon Brennand to lead, Helen Piggott to assist

Action

**13. Recent Safeguarding Case Study**

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

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

The Chair highlighted Safeguarding developments taking place:

- CQC Monitoring the Mental Health Act had been published. Whilst this was mainly from an adult perspective, it did discuss children and young people being placed on adult wards (<https://www.cqc.org.uk/publications/major-report/monitoring-mental-health-act-201819> )
- The Department for Education (DfE) was reviewing their working together to Safeguard children and this would involve changes to how new partnerships would be working.
- The DfE were also offering for Recently Qualified Teachers (RQTs) in 2018-19, to have part of their loans repaid. There were some restrictions, but it was encouraged to share the information with those who could be eligible.
- A report into the Multi-Agency Response to Child Abuse in the Family Environment had been published (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-multi-agency-response-to-child-sexual-abuse-in-the-family-environment> )
- There had been a number of conversations locally regarding the issue of off-rolling and it was agreed that was not an issue within FCAT. The biggest concern was the number of Elective Home Education (EHE) requests that were received. Concerns were related to the fact that these were usually the most vulnerable students, where academies needed to have sight to ensure they were OK. It was agreed that this would be discussed further at the next meeting.
- Coronavirus was discussed and the need to ensure scenario planning and contingency plans for distance learning were in place, should any academies be required to close.

DSL's

Agenda

**15. New Risks**

Elective Home Education and Coronavirus were highlighted as new risks at this meeting.

**16. Suggested dates and venues for 2020/21**

The following dates and venues for meetings in 2020/21 were agreed:

Thursday 08<sup>th</sup> October 2020 - Montgomery Academy  
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020 – Unity Academy  
Tuesday 09<sup>th</sup> February 2021 – Westminster Academy  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021 – Armfield Academy  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021 – Aspire Academy

**17. Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020, Hodgson Academy, 4.00pm  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020, Garstang Community Academy, 4.00pm

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



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