

**SCRUTINY REMIT: CHILDREN'S SERVICES
HERTFORDSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDRENS BOARD TOPIC GROUP**

DATE DUE AT OSC: 29 SEPTEMBER 2017

COMMITTEE APPROVED: OSC:

WORK PROGRAMME: Q3 2017 OCT 2017

OBJECTIVES: To test the effectiveness of the board in relation to the sexual abuse of children; and ensure that a consistent approach is adopted within the Board partnership

BACKGROUND: *annual HSCB scrutiny; members added to the work programme Sept.2016 and agreed in June 2017 that the focus would consider current issues, rather than looking retrospectively.*

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Recognition of child sexual abuse can be difficult, unless the child discloses and is believed. There may be no physical signs and indications are likely to be emotional / behavioural. Children of both genders and of all ages may be sexually abused and are frequently scared to say anything due to guilt and/or fear.

QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED:

1. What lessons have been learnt from the serious case reviews?
2. Following the SCRs what actions have been taken by partners to mitigate against future recurrence?
3. What is the challenge for gathering sufficient data to enable the Board to identify and address trends of sexual abuse?

OUTCOME/S: That members recognise the challenges in addressing sexual abuse and understand the actions that the Board is taking.

CONSTRAINTS:

- Will not include discussions or evidence on physical abuse or neglect
- Will not include discussions about Child Sexual Exploitation

RISK & MITIGATION AFFECTING THIS SCRUTINY:

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RISK/S: What happens if partners are unable to fulfil commitments that they have made to the Board

MITIGATION: *e.g. what mitigation does the department/organisation have in place if a partner pulls out?*

WITNESSES i.e. individuals	EVIDENCE i.e. organisations e.g. HCS
Nicky Pace, Independent Chair	
Jenny Coles, Director of Childrens Services	
Kate Linhart, Head of Social Work and Safeguarding, Hertfordshire Partnership Foundation Trust	
Jane Padmore, Executive Director, Quality and Safety, Hertfordshire Partnership Foundation Trust	
Mary Emson, Designated Nurse for Safeguarding and Looked After Children, East and North Herts CCG and Herts Valleys CCG	
Siobhan Appleton, Deputy Designated Nurse for Safeguarding, East and North Herts CCG and Herts Valleys CCG	
John Heckmatt, Designated Doctor, Consultant Paediatrician, West Hertfordshire	
Sheilagh Reavey, Director of Nursing and Quality, East and North Herts CCG	
Dee Perkins, Hertfordshire Constabulary	
Paul Maghie, Detective Superintendent, Hertfordshire Constabulary	
Frazer Smith, Team Manager LADO & CPSLO, Children's Services	
Chris Cloke, Head of Safeguarding in Communities, NSPCC	
Caroline Aitken, Safeguarding Boards Manager	
Roger Carruthers, Head of Child Protection and Statutory Review, Children's Services	

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Ross Williams, Interim Director of Family Safeguarding, Children's Services	
Lynn Knowles, Head of Joint Commissioning, Children's Services	
Mary Moroney, HSCB Business Manager	
	Public Health

METHOD: 1 day Topic Group **DATE/S:** 9 OCTOBER 2017

MEMBERSHIP:
Susan Brown; Bob Deering; Nigel Quinton; Lynn Chesterman

SUPPORT:
Scrutiny Officer: Charles Lambert
Lead Officer/s: Caroline Aitken
Democratic Services Officer : Theresa Baker

HCC Priorities for Action: how this item helps deliver the Priorities *delete as appropriate*

1. Opportunity To Thrive ✓
2. Opportunity To Prosper ✓
3. Opportunity To Be Healthy And Safe ✓
4. Opportunity To Take Part ✓

CfPS ACCOUNTABILITY OBJECTIVES: *delete as appropriate*

1. Transparent – opening up data, information and governance ✓
2. Inclusive – listening, understanding and changing ✓
3. Accountable – demonstrating credibility ✓

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