



DORSET SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING
08.05.25 2.00-3.30pm
Microsoft Teams
SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES AND ACTION LOG

Attended:

Paul Dempsey (PD) (Chair)	Executive Director for Children's Services, Dorset Council
Sunita Khattra-Hall (SKH)	Corporate Director for Quality Assurance & Safeguarding Families Together, Dorset Council
Alice Deacon (ADe)	Corporate Director for Commissioning & Partnerships, Dorset Council
Beth Whittaker (BW)	Interim Corporate Director for Education & Learning, Dorset Council
Cllr Clare Sutton (CS)	Lead Member for Childrens Services, Dorset Council
Paula Golding (PG)	Corporate Director - Care and Protection Dorset Council
Megan Cameron Brown (MCB)	Head of Service, Quality Assurance & Partnerships, Dorset Council
Rachel Young (RY)	Head of Violence Reduction and Prevention, Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner
Mark Callaghan (MC)	Assistant Chief Constable, Dorset Police
Katie Sorrell (KS)	Head of Service for Dorset Probation Service
Dr Mindy Bartlett (MB)	CEO at EDAS (host REACH YP Services)
Mike Bennett (MBe)	CEO Dorset Youth Association
Simon Hester (SH)	Head of Safeguarding NHS Dorset
Giulia Pridmore (GP)	Quality Assurance Service Manager, Dorset Council (Observing)
Charlene Miller (CM)	Administrative Officer, DSCP
Andy Frost (AF)	Service Manager for Community Safety, Dorset Council
Sophie Cole (SC)	Project Manager, DSCP
Kelly Waring (KW)	Head teacher, Hazelbury Primary School
Louise Gale (LG)	Business Support (Minutes)

Apologies:

Pamela O'Shea (PO)	Chief Nursing Officer, NHS Dorset
Kelly Henry (KH)	Head of Placement Commissioning, Dorset Council
Jonathan Price (JP)	Executive Director for People, Adults, Dorset Council
Julia Ingram (JI)	Corporate Director for Adult Social Care
David Webb (DW)	Head of Service, Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service
Gary Messenger (GM)	Interim Head of Housing, Dorset Council
Dawn Dawson (DD)	Chief Nursing Officer Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust

Ref	Item	Action Owner
1	Welcome & Apologies	
1.1	PD welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.	
2	Minutes of last meeting & Matters Arising	
2.1	Minutes of the last meeting were agreed with no matters arising.	
3	Partnership Board Business – Megan Cameron-Brown	
3.1	The updated Terms of Reference were reviewed in line with change to Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership Board, separating from BCP, emphasizing the need to ensure they are fit for purpose focusing on the Board's strategic and oversight functions. The Board's functions include being a strategic and oversight body with the MAQPAG overseeing the operational side. The Board also reviews exemptions from MAQPAG and may escalate exceptional issues to the DSCP Board.	
3.2	Child Death Overview Panel: This reviews any deaths of children from a health perspective and feed any findings back to this Board.	
3.3	Lead Safeguarding Partners: With regard to the transitional arrangements to the Chief Executive, PD will continue to chair this Board until the appointment of the new permanent Chief Executive, Catherine Howe, who is due to start in August.	
3.4	Meeting Frequency: There was a proposal that this Board meets quarterly, rather than 6 weekly, and this was agreed by the members of the Board. MC and AF emphasised the need for the meeting format to align with the work program and tasks to be completed. The date of the quarterly meetings would need to ensure that it wouldn't clash with BCP partner meetings to ensure attendance.	
3.5	A discussion was held about the format of the meetings, with suggestions to have either one to two face to face meetings per year, with the rest being hybrid or online. KW emphasized the importance of offering a hybrid option to ensure full attendance.	
3.6	Addendum 12/05/25 following the meeting: The next scheduled meeting of the 16th June will need to go ahead for formal sign off to take place of key Partnership items such as the annual report 24/25 before this is presented to the LSP meeting on the 7 July. To align with quarterly reporting, the next scheduled meeting thereafter on the 21 July will also go ahead. The meeting currently scheduled for the 10 September will be cancelled and the	

	meeting for the 20th October would go ahead, again to align with quarterly reporting and also being in advance of the LSP meeting scheduled for the 3rd November. The meeting on the 4 December would be cancelled with the next meeting to be scheduled for January 2026. The quarterly meeting schedule would then be set from January 2026. Action: MC-B and SK-H to look at specific agency strategic plans that fit into our safeguarding priorities to offer a template around how that information is presented.	MC-B SK-H
3.7	Quorum Requirements: A discussion was held regarding the quorum requirements, with a proposal to include education as a safeguarding partner given the reform work and education as an equal safeguarding partner. KW stated that education could be classed as an associate member so that decisions could go forward if education were not present. A final decision was made to ensure that at least three of the four safeguarding partners (Social Care, Police, Health and Education) are present for the meeting to proceed. Action: MC-B and SK-H to review and update the quorum definition to include education as a safeguarding partner and ensure the wording reflects the legal requirements.	MC-B SK-H
3.8	Independent Scrutiny: MCB explained that the current model involves employing subject matter experts for specific scrutiny activities, and this was used when the Board was part of the Pan Dorset arrangement. The proposal is change to a model where a single scrutineer is employed on a one to three-year term. The benefits of this model include a single recruitment process and over time the scrutineer gets a deeper understanding of the partnership strengths and areas of development. The proposed areas of scrutiny will be under 2-year-old activity, non-mobile babies, non-accidental injuries and the Pathway for 0–2-year-olds in Dorset. The ToR being written are likely to consider a focus on children and young people’s mental health and safeguarding and the impact of parental mental health on children and young people. All Board members were in agreement to move ahead with the proposal model. Action: SK-H and MC-B to keep the Board informed on the recruitment of the proposed Independent Scrutiny model.	SK-H MC-B
4	Updates from Partners	

4.1	<u>Interim Director for Nursing and Quality, NHS Dorset – Simon Hester (on behalf of PO'S)</u> SH stated they are on cusp on substantial changes that will fundamentally transform the functioning of the Integrated Care Board (ICB), including its roles and responsibilities. A comprehensive NHS restructuring transformation programme is being initiated. The Executive Team received the blueprint for the future structure and functions of an ICB on Friday. Currently all ICBs nationwide are diligently working to comprehend the ramifications of this blueprint. Some changes will necessitate immediate implementation, while others will be introduced in principle, pending legislative amendments. PO'S will continue to provide updates outside of these meetings as well.	
4.2	<u>Assistant Chief Constable, Dorset Police – Mark Callaghan</u> Our HMICFRS results have been released, and MC was pleased to share them with the Board. Overall, our performance was deemed adequate, with no areas rated as inadequate. This assessment spans a comprehensive range of areas, including victim contact, investigations, vulnerabilities, public response, and offender management. However, there are some Areas for Improvement (AFIs) identified. To provide reassurance, MC highlighted the AFIs related to children. The first area concerns the scrutiny of the use of force, including processes around body-worn video. We have external scrutiny through a volunteer who is also a barrister, and we conduct extensive internal scrutiny, particularly focusing on the use of powers on children aged 10-11. Any case flagged as a red flag, such as stop searches and use of force, undergoes thorough internal review to ensure adherence to our principles regarding children's voices. If any anomalies are detected, they are addressed promptly, though currently, no significant issues have been identified. The next area of focus is the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS), which naturally links to our work with children. The primary concern here is tracking the timeline of disclosures from the moment they are received. We have implemented several measures, including reality testing, to manage this process. We are exploring best practices, such as using digital platforms like Teams or GoodSAM, to reduce this timeline. Additionally, we have seen a significant increase in the use of Domestic Violence Protection Orders, aiming to use more civil orders in violent cases where the criminal threshold is not met, to safeguard children and those affected by domestic abuse.	

	These areas are linked to our HMICFRS inspection, and we are committed to addressing them to improve our services continually. MC mentioned the Good Safe Summer initiative which focuses on tackling crime in town centres over the Summer. The initiative includes addressing ASB, violent crime and shoplifting, with a focus on creating safe spaces for children. Action: AF to co-ordinate with the Community Safety Partnership to ensure a jointed-up approach for the Good Safe Summer initiative. <u>Corporate Director for Education & Inclusion Dorset Schools – Beth Whittaker</u> BW provided updates related to the Education Safeguarding Board. As the board has completed its first year, they are transitioning to quarterly meetings. This transition marks the shift from a test and learn phase to establishing business as usual. BW mentioned that key themes from the past meetings are being reviewed to create a delivery plan and track progress against work streams. The summary of the Section 175 audit, which assesses schools' confidence and competency in safeguarding annually, highlighted four key areas. BW said that there had been discussion around plans to address the areas of confidence and evolve practices to support education colleagues better. BW raised concerns from schools about the use of sexualized language by children at a younger age, influenced by technology. She is working with Councillor Sutton on developing a mobile phone strategy for Dorset. This includes collaboration with Dorset Youth Council and Lisa Rutman, who is running a "No Smartphones" campaign across the UK, encouraging parents to agree not to provide smartphones to their children. The strategy aims to support schools in managing mobile phone use. BW highlighted the initiative to become a Respecting Rights Council, proposed by Councillor Duncan Surrey House. This initiative aligns with the emphasis on child advocacy and the voice of the child in safeguarding, which has been a focus at the Education Safeguarding Board. The goal is to promote respecting rights within the council and extend this to schools.	AF
5	DSCP Highlight Report – Megan Cameron-Brown	
5.1	The highlight report included a focus on scrutiny activity for 0–2-year-olds, particularly non-mobile babies, non-accidental injuries and the Pathway for 0–2-year-olds in Dorset.	

5.2	The Task and Action Group (TAG) has been established, to replace the previous Learning and Action Group. The TAG will act as a doing space for the Partnership, progression actions commissioned by MAQPAG or the CSPR subgroup. The TAG will look at the scrutiny work and come up with the TOR and lines of enquiry for that scrutiny work and we will start to recruit to our new model of scrutiny as well. This could be multi agency auditing and around the independent scrutiny review of tool kit strategies to name a few.	
5.3	There have been 2 serious incident notifications; The first notification was made, and a Rapid Review has taken place. There was a cross-board rapid review with Dorset and Dundee and the recommendation was for it to go to local safeguarding practice review. We are waiting for the National Panel to come back, and they have 15 working days to let us know if they agree with our recommendation. The 2 nd notification was made today and has met the threshold for SIN. The Rapid Review is scheduled for 20 May.	
5.4	The CSPR subgroup is back to its full complement of panel members following staff absences and work streams of the CSPR subgroup are now back on track and action plans are being progressed. Since the last report 5 actions have been marked as complete. There are now 35 outstanding actions from the Adult Safeguarding Board following rapid reviews and will be continuing to get progressed through the TAG. We are ensuring that actions are non-repeating and bringing those together. We have reviewed and put in reasonable timeframes to move them forward.	
6	AOB and Matters for Escalation to the Local Safeguarding Partnership Executive	
6.1	RY raised awareness about SCEPTRE Week, which is scheduled for a week from Monday. During this period, there will be extensive communications aimed at raising awareness around knife crime. There will be the launch of a youth consultation during SCEPTRE Week. The data collected from this consultation will be instrumental in shaping the Serious Violence Needs Assessments for both Community Safety Partnerships. This initiative aims to gather useful data to inform future strategies. There will be a consultation sent out to school heads to understand their educational needs and challenges related to prevention work. This will help tailor support and resources to better address these challenges.	
7	Close	

Date of next meeting: Date of next meeting: 16 June 2025 @ 2pm