



Senior Leadership Group Meeting MEETING NOTES

Date: 29th April 2020
Time: 2:00pm – 3:15pm
Venue: Virtual Meeting
Chaired by: Ian Thomas

Attendees:		
Ian Thomas Chair	IT	Chief Executive, Kingston Council
Chris Robson	CR	Independent Scrutineer
DSup Owain Richards	OR	SW BCU Head of Safeguarding, Metropolitan Police
Dr Suzanne Luck	SL	Designated Doctor, Kingston CCG Paediatric Consultant, Kingston Hospital
Fergus Keegan	FK	Director of Quality, Kingston and Richmond CCGs
Elisabeth Major	EM	KRSCP Professional Adviser (mins)
Sophie McGeoch	SM	Head Teacher, Meadlands Primary School
Louise Doherty	LD	Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children, NHS SWL CCG
Ian Dodds	ID	Director of Children's Services for Richmond & Kingston Councils
Alison Twynam	AT	Director of Children's Services, AfC
Apologies:		
Sophie Cavanagh		Head Teacher, The Kingston Academy
Sian Thomas		Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children, NHS SWL CCG

Item	Notes
1.	Introductions
	IT welcomed members to the meeting, including LD, who was new to the group.
2.	Minutes of meeting 15 January 2020

	<p>No amendments were suggested. Matters arising were:</p> <p>1. EM to draw up a specific proposal for a common approach to Signs of Safety by 15th February 2020. Completed but not circulated.</p> <p>2 CM & ST to consider neglect audit sample size and boundaries and feed this back to the SLG following the February Subgroup meeting.</p>
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	<p>Completed- partially undertaken by agencies-emerging learning identified. June learning hub postponed.</p> <p>3 EM to propose a further dataset model and find exemplars from other partnerships with support from the CCG data analyst. Completed- not at this meeting. Only C19 data</p> <p>4 Strategic Leaders to consider attending a Subgroup. Not yet completed</p> <p>5 CR to highlight strategic recommendations to finalise the report by 20th March 2020. Completed</p> <p>6 Angie Mitchell, AfC to lead on refreshing the Missing Handbook with a multi-agency group by 30th March 2020. Completed about to be shared with partners for sign-off</p> <p>7 EM to contact all Richmond and Kingston schools informing them officially of the Serious Case Review recommendations and asking for their response as to their implementation by 15th February 2020. Completed- few responses yet due to C 19</p> <p>Action 1: EM to send responses from schools to the SCR to ID for follow up.</p> <p>8 FK will follow up GP contributions to Child Protection Conferences and report back at the next meeting. Improving picture.</p> <p>9 ID to feed back on the progress towards the harmonisation of the process co-ordinating early help at the April 2020 meeting. ID- This was delayed. Michael O'Connor, AD Family and Youth Support, had just begun work in AfC and would be taking this forward.</p> <p>10 ID will draft a long list of priorities and obtain input from stakeholders, for the Setting Priorities part of the 2nd March Development Session, in order to have a finalised business plan by April. Priorities set in March Development Day. Covid 19 had presented delays in terms of business planning.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Covid 19 data reports</p>
	<p>LD presented her assurance report for health providers. At Kingston Hospital there had been a reduction in presentations to the Emergency Department and child protection medicals.</p> <p>FK- evidence had been submitted to the CQC following its inspection last year for safeguarding and children looked after and no further follow-up was required.</p> <p>IT wished to thank frontline workers for their work during this crisis period.</p> <p>Domestic Abuse OR-in Kingston since the lockdown there had been a slight reduction in recorded crime and an increase in referrals to the DV Hub. In Richmond there had been a slight increase in reporting of domestic abuse offences.</p>

	<p>ID- London figures showed a 10% increase in contacts to Children’s Social Care for domestic abuse. However there had been a 20% decrease in contacts overall.</p> <p>CR asked about local Communications about contacting Children’s Social Care if there were concerns for children.</p> <p>OR- there were tweets and adverts re domestic abuse on the Council and Police social media.</p> <p>ID- numbers were growing of vulnerable children attending school. 35% had been attending after Easter. It was harder to enable for children with EHCPs (Education, Health and Care Plans).</p> <p>IT was pleased with the increase in engagement of GPs in Child Protection Conferences but noted the drop in Child Protection medicals.</p> <p>ID- section 47 enquiries were down and it was worrying that significant harm was perhaps being hidden.</p> <p>SL noted that approximately 60% of vulnerable children were not in school. She asked what health agencies could do. She was concerned about excuses from families to avoid contact.</p> <p>ID-there was not evidence for this- social workers were doing a good job with virtual visits. PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) was available and workers were meeting families in parks and gardens.</p> <p>SL had looked at data for child protection medicals during holiday periods, and this was an unprecedented drop. They still undertook child protection medicals in school holidays.</p> <p>SM- schools were being creative in reaching out to vulnerable children through food deliveries, taking books.</p> <p>CR- we may still have a significant time in lockdown- other areas had good examples of public Communications’ campaigns. As Independent Scrutineer he counselled that there was a need for a broad strategy.</p> <p>ID – that was a fair challenge.</p> <p>Action 2: EM to bring together a safeguarding Comms Strategy and campaign for the public.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Subgroup Updates</p>
	<p>EM noted the neglect audit work being undertaken and emerging learning and the recommendation for the Scrutiny Panel to begin for long term cases in both boroughs. She noted a serious incident.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Post Covid 19 Planning Group draft Terms of Reference</p>
	<p>LD presented the draft Terms of Reference. The first meeting took place on 28.04.20.</p> <p>FK- NHS England was giving an update today regarding next steps. There would be a focus on bed capacity.</p>

	<p>OR- Police were planning ahead around leave and absence of staff. There had been an increase in mental health presentations, online child sexual abuse and exploitation. They were predicting when lockdown ended an crease in child abuse referrals, missing children and County Lines, which was currently reduced.</p> <p>ID-AfC was planning for a significant increase in referrals for some time, and cases remaining open longer. There were some positive changes in practice which will be maintained, such as virtual contacts with adolescents.</p>
11.	Any other Business
	<p>SL- noted the Designate network had discussed a broader communications approach via NSPCC.</p> <p>LD- asked what easements were planned under the Covid Act legislation.</p> <p>AT said that there had been no changes and it was business as usual. Details were being considered.</p> <p>ID was happy for there to be a deeper look.</p>

Action Table

	Action	Officer
1	EM to send responses from schools to the SCR to ID for follow up.	EM ID
2	EM to bring together a safeguarding Comms Strategy and campaign for the public.	EM