

Role and Functions of the Performance Accountability Board

The Role of the Performance Accountability Board (PAB)

In January 2016 the Performance Accountability Board was created. Its key purpose was identified in its terms of reference as:

- To act as a 'strategic summit' group for the DSCB at Chief Executive Level to oversee improvement in children's safeguarding, focusing in particular on cross-cutting issues that require effective interdependent working from partner organisations
- To review progress with Improvement Plans following inspection
- To identify and resolve key areas of performance risk
- To identify barriers to progress and agree solutions

The PAB was established to meet the expectation from the Department for Education (as part of the Secretary of State's Direction to the Council) that there is a partnership body at executive level to oversee, monitor and challenge improvement. Given the leadership role of the DSCB in challenging and assuring the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements, it was agreed by partners that the PAB would operate within the governance framework of the DSCB and would be chaired by the Independent Chair of the DSCB.

The current members of the PAB are:

John Harris (Independent Chair, DSCB)

Jo Miller (DMBC – Chief Executive)

Damian Allen (DMBC – Director of Children's Services)

Colin Hilton (Chair – Doncaster Children's Services Trust)

Paul Moffat (Chief Executive – Doncaster Children's Services Trust)

Jackie Pederson (Chief Operating Officer, Doncaster Clinical Commissioning Group)

Mike Pinkerton (Chief Executive – Doncaster & Bassetlaw NHS Foundation Trust)

Kathryn Singh (Chief Executive – RDasH)

Scott Green (South Yorkshire Police – Borough Commander for Doncaster)

Councillor Nuala Fennelly (Lead Member for Children, DMBC)

The group meets on a quarterly basis and has now met four times. At its first meeting partners identified the key cross-cutting themes for all partners in Doncaster:

Key Safeguarding Risks:

- Early Help (DMBC lead, see item 4 below)
- Working with families with challenges including the toxic trio and deprivation
- Keeping focused on child sexual exploitation and missing children (DSCB strategy and action plan through CSE Sub-Group)
- Emotional health and wellbeing (DSCB Improvement Plan and joint commissioning strategy agreed through Health and Wellbeing Board)
- Domestic Violence (Safer Doncaster Partnership)

Systems and Processes:

- Information sharing (DSCB protocol)
- Dynamic intelligence (SYP lead)

The group has been 'action-focussed' dealing with the key themes identified above by agreeing key actions and feeding back at the following meetings. Topics are introduced by considering reports either as a scoping documents or extended discussion topics. In addition the PAB considers key inspection and other national reports which will affect the partnership and require a partnership response. The table below provides a summary of the issues covered by the PAB and the action taken.

DONCASTER PAB – SUMMARY OF BUSINESS AND ACTION TAKEN 2016	
Scoping and extended topics	Action taken
<p>Early help: Discussed barriers to progress and the need for the expectations of partner agencies to be made explicit</p>	<p>Early Help assurance framework was provided which clearly identified partnership roles and responsibilities. DCS met outside the meeting with PAB members and commitment was given to the EH Framework</p>
<p>Working with families with challenges – extended discussion topic. Cross-cutting report provided identifying partnership challenges</p>	<p>DCS to prototype an intelligence-led locality profile focussing on a specific locality. This will be linked to police dynamic intelligence</p>
<p>Information sharing</p>	<p>DSCB and DSAB to work jointly with partners to establish a multi-agency information sharing agreement.</p>
<p>Children missing from care – extended discussion topic. Cross-cutting report provided identifying areas where partners could work more effectively with children most at risk of harm</p>	<p>There has been a collaborative effort within DCST and SYP to meet new developments, particularly in the role of Return to Home Interviews. From 1/12/16 this function will transfer into the DCST and be sited within Safeguarding & standards. The former CMOG meetings, now called Protecting Vulnerable Young People Group (PVYP) is now more robust and has broadened the Terms of Reference and there are better actions around those. EPIC – Youth Crime Prevention Programme is now established and is part of the DCST. .</p>
<p>How do we develop a shared strategy for managing demand across the partnership? JH provided data illustrating the high level of demand at DCST front door and the need to work differently as a partnership. Discussion centred on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do we have the right volume of activity? • Should more be done in Early Help? • Have we got work in Early Help that could be done more quickly? • Have we got the balance right for lead agencies? 	<p>Action points for January 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish single point of access from January 2017 • Evaluate the impact of multi-agency training on the application and understanding of thresholds • Undertake audit of thresholds • Agree alternative arrangement for screening referrals from SYP • Consider commissioning project to analyse demand and cost profile in Childrens Services arrangements

Children and Young People's Mental Health

This is a strategic priority of the DSCB and an area of focus for Ofsted. Young people have also identified it as a priority area and asked for more to be done in schools to remove the stigma and increase awareness of mental health, including improved sign-posting and support. The DSCB has also undertaken work to gain a better picture of how young people who were admitted to hospital due to self-harming and attempted suicide are being supported.

PAB noted that:

- More children become stressed at early age
- Resources need to be improved for self-harm, eating disorders
- Access and availability of help and support of help need not necessarily a practitioner with qualifications but should be a trained worker

Health has commissioned work through CCG to look at wider training needs, funded through Future in Minds. Much of the identified issues are expected to be dealt with through Future in Minds funding, therefore it was requested that there is an extended presentation on progress at the next meeting (January 2017).

National Reports and Inspections	
<p>DfE 'Wave 2' Evaluation of DMBC/DCST arrangements: Main areas of focus of the evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tracking and understanding the national indicators • Understanding delivery models • Completing staff and family interviews 	<p>PAB members identified the need for the report to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A focus on quality any and an assessment of value for money • How staff can be supported during the interview/survey phase • How DMBC services have also changed since the inception of the Trust
<p>DCST post-improvement action plan and LGA peer review Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive progress has been made demonstrated in Ofsted and in Peer Review. • Partners described positive difference and improved engagement • Detailed feedback was provided on strengths and areas for improvement <p>Further Ofsted visit in October 2016 highlighted significant progress since the September SIF. It also identified 3 areas for further review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved responses/awareness to CSE in relation to providing social workers with soft intelligence to aid assessment of risk • Improved assessment timeliness; and • Clarity over visiting arrangements, joint commissioning and demand management. <p>In total 26 new actions have been added to the action plan</p>	<p>Feedback given to PAB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress noted on the development of child-friendly Personal Education Plans • Agreed main challenge facing partnership is demand management – this issue was addressed as an extended topic • Improved information sharing between police and social care will address concerns regarding assessment of risk
<p>Independent review of South Yorkshire Police's handling of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) over the period 1997 – 2016. (Drew Report)</p>	<p>Agreed the actions from the report will be taken forward and monitored through the DSCB CSE sub-group.</p>
<p>DfE Review of LSCBs and Government Response (Wood Review).</p>	<p>Agreed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain the current Doncaster Children's Safeguarding Board as a basis for developing a modified new framework • Retain the Independent Chair role and to work with agencies to reshape this • Use the governance team in place currently to rationalise the partnerships • Have a strong focus on assurance scrutiny and challenge through PAB meetings. • Identify opportunities to undertake work jointly or sub-regionally.

