

CYP VCS Representative's Feedback Report VCS CHILD PROTECTION LIAISON SUB-GROUP - 8TH JULY 2009

Introduction: The role of the VCS Child Protection Liaison Sub-Group is to bring a collective Voluntary and Community Sector input to the Child Protection Liaison group of the Local Safeguarding Children Board whose role is to:

1. Bring together practitioners to endeavour to resolve issues which may be the cause of conflict before the escalate.
2. To identify issues or professional development and the formulation of effective solutions.
3. To identify and promote areas where multi-agency practice is seen to be good or better and to arrange for the dissemination of this information to partner agencies, organisations and practitioners.
4. To draw on case experience while leaving the resolution of specific issues arising from individual cases to more appropriate groups or forums.

The VCS membership of this multi agency group is through VAST as infrastructure organisation, but deputies would come from this group.

In addition the group will be used as a forum to discuss challenges and new policies relating to child protection to ensure a co ordinate approach to workforce development and strategic planning.

Standards of the VCS Engagement Partnership

- Representatives will be ratified by the Partnership to represent collective views.
- Child and young person centred focus on services.
- Equal Voices around the Table
- Engagement of the Voluntary and Community Sector in any public sector strategy from the outset
- Commitment to Cohesion, Equality and Diversity

Meeting Assessment - Please answer \checkmark or X	\checkmark or X
1. Were papers received 5 working days prior to the meeting?	y
2. Was an executive summary provided for documents over 15 pages?	n
3. Were all the papers in plain English, free from acronyms and jargon?	y
4. Was the time and venue of the meeting convenient?	y
5. Did the meeting start and finish on time, and last for under 2 hours?	y
6. Did you feel that the meeting was inclusive and respectful?	y
7. Did you feel that you had the opportunity to have your say?	y
8. Did you feel that you were able to have influence on decisions?	y
9. Where papers were tabled did you have time to read them before decisions were made?	Copies were tabled.
Total score – out of 8 points	
Please tell us why you put X or any other comments:	

Name of Group: (eg: Parenting Implementing Change Group) VCS Child Protection Liaison Sub-Group	Name of Representative: Sue Thomas
Date of Strategic Meeting:	Ratified by Engagment Partnership? Y
Overview of Meeting: (agenda) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The agenda was to feed back from the multi-agency group and discuss the agenda for the meeting on 23rd July, which was not available and identify issues and areas of work for the future. Organisations Present: VAST Home Start Arch North Staffs – Refuge Gingerbread Brighter Futures Apologies NS Mind YMCA	
Items for feedback / discussion relevant to the VCS: <i>Notes From the last CP Liaison Sub Group meeting in May were discussed.</i> <i>Chris Pointon highlighted that she had been providing enhanced level one training to VCS practitioners for some time. This should be brought to the attention of the sub-group who were exploring the need for such training.</i> <i>All present stated that communication had improved with Regent Road.</i> <i>The leaflet about the role of the Local Safeguarding Children Board Child Protection Liaison Group was circulated and welcomed. A copy will be attached to the minutes for those organisations present. For any other agencies wishing another copy please contact Michaela@vast.org.uk</i> <i>Concerns were once again raised about staff in VCS organisations who have no access to computers. Sue confirmed that the VAST VCS Workforce Development Project will provide two computers based in the City. One to be hosted by Arch and one by VAST, at which community workers can access the LSCB Web site and ARTEMIS training.</i> <i>To draw attention to the site, it was agreement that a referral document for the Sector should be produced and circulated through the VCS Engagement Partnership. A simple document which refers to the procedures on the LSCB web site and can be used for all agencies.</i> <i>The group also discussed current Safeguarding Policies and how to escalate procedures for referral of children should the internal procedure not meet need. Chris is awaiting copies of example 'escalation clauses' and will circulate. All those organisations present are going to send Sue copies of their CP and/or Safeguarding Policies and procedures. Chris will feed back to the Policies and Procedures sub-group.</i> <i>The SARC (Sexual Assault Referral Centre) completion is delayed to 2012.</i> <i>There has been concern expressed that some referrals may be delayed due to lack of training to staff on dealing with parents with mental health issues. Sue will take this to the Moving Forward from Harringay working group, although she did feedback that this has been discussed and training is being developed and encouraged. Sue confirmed that VCS organisations had been linked into this group.</i> <i>Sue was also asked to take to the CP Liaison group the issue of feedback. The suggestion would be to look at a standard form or letter to send to organisations who refer, outlining the broad decisions taken. For example whether a child has been allocated a specialist services worker, or where there is to be no further action.</i>	

Concern was expressed that CAF's may be used instead of instigating CP Procedures, further training may be required as it has been some time since the initial role out. That information will be passed back to the sub-group.

ACTION REQUIRED PRIOR TO NEXT MEETING

1. Members (and any other organisation who wishes to contribute) to forward to Sue suggestions for joint sector procedure, including copies of their own organisations Safeguarding and Child Protection policies and procedures.
2. Chris to circulate draft 'escalation clauses' for consideration when agencies review their own procedures.
3. Sue and Chris to refer as above to relevant sub-groups.
4. Michaela to circulate a copy of the CP Liaison Sub-Group leaflet with the minutes.
5. Members of this group will be automatically linked to the mail shots for the Engagement Partnership ensuring a flow of information to all levels of services.
6. All members to identify other potential attendees to ensure a wide coverage.
7. Next meeting will be held on 22nd September at 2.30. Stuart Bray, Jackie Carnell and Carole Preston to be invited.
8. Development of a Sector information document will be an agenda item led by Chris.

Please return this within 7 working days following the meeting. If you have minutes available please attach even if they were from the previous meeting. Please let us know of any input you require for the next meeting.

To be completed by VAST support worker

Date Received:
8th July 2009

Date circulated to Engagement Partnership Members:

9th July 2009.

Details of other mechanism of communications – to be agreed with the Representative:

Feedback received:

Feedback from Jackie Carnell, the Chair of the LSCB was received following the previous report.

'It is good to know that a pro-active approach is being taken with the VCS regards Safeguarding and the work of the Board.'

Date feedback provided to Representative: