

**VOCAL CYPF MEETING**  
**St Sebastian's**  
**10.00 am – 12 noon**  
**8<sup>th</sup> March 2016**  
**MINUTES**

1.	<p><b>Present:</b>  Lee Turnbull (CANW); Louise Murray (SCVS); Hayley Berry (Penderels Trust); Joanne Shepherd (Salford Reds Foundation); Phil East (Salford Foundation); Alison Jones (SCVS); Debbie Fallon (SCC); Shelly Lewis (The Fed); Cathy Unsworth (DISC); Cathrine Lee (SCVS); Sean Atkinson (Salford SSCB); Dean Flanagan (DISC); Kathryn Kennedy (Caritas); Kate Hornsby ( Barnardos); Natalie Thomas (Young Carers); Carlie Valleley (Big Life Centre); Louise Lawlor (Big Life Centre); D Brannigan (YMCA)</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b>  Mark Byrne (Salford Underground); Wendy Priscott (The Princes Trust) and Jo Hannan (The Princes Trust).</p>	<b>Actions</b>
2.	<p><b>Welcome</b>  Phil East welcomed everyone to the meeting. People introduced themselves to the wider group. The theme of today's meeting is child neglect.</p> <p>Neglect is the most common reason for a child to be the subject of a Child Protection Plan in the UK. 43% of all children subject to a Child Protection (CP) Plan in England in 2013 were under the category of neglect. In Salford (November 2014) the figure is a little lower and yet still a considerable 37% of children are subject to a Child Protection Plan for neglect. Salford's Safeguarding Children Board is about to launch a new Neglect Strategy and action plan. The meeting will explore what this aims to achieve and how VCSE's contribute to prevention and early help.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Sean Atkinson, SSCB lead on the Neglect Strategy: What are the priorities for tackling neglect in Salford and what does the SSCB Neglect Strategy and action plan aim to achieve?</b></p> <p>Sean gave his presentation:</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>VOCAL Neglect presentation March</p> </div> <p>Sean gave an overview on the neglect of children and young people and Salford's response. Child neglect is a key area both nationally and locally. Salford Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) latest figures found that the highest level of abuse is neglect with the second highest emotional abuse which is also linked to neglect.</p>	

Sean discussed the key themes to come out of the serious case reviews and case management: quality of assessment, multi-agency working and early intervention.

A serious case review (Case 17) was discussed providing powerful opportunities for learning and offering a reminder that for some children, severe emotional deprivation and unsafe living conditions can result in serious harm and even death.

3 key lessons were learnt from this case:

- 1) To improve the awareness and understanding of neglect, both within and between agencies working in Salford and including adult services. This includes a common understanding of neglect and the thresholds for access to services.
- 2) To improve the recognition and assessment of children and young people living in neglectful situations before statutory intervention is required, including the use of appropriate assessment tools.
- 3) Developing and sustaining an agreed, early multi-agency response to neglect.
  - Early help and support should improve and sustain children's well-being and safety into the future.
  - It should also build strength and resilience within families rather than promoting dependency;
  - Early assessment and intervention will be promoted and supported in the first instance;
  - Work with children and young people will be measured by its impact, i.e. improved outcomes.

SSCB carried out a neglect audit which considered interventions that had occurred in the last 12 months. The prime focus was practice improvement, acknowledging good practice and challenging practice that is ineffective.

Since 2011, around a third (32% in 2013) of professionals have felt powerless to intervene when they have concerns about child neglect 35% of professionals say Government spending cuts have made it more difficult to intervene in cases of child neglect.

In particular, 65% of social workers said cuts impeded their ability to intervene in cases

94% of the public agree people should do something when they are worried about a child, but 45% want more information on where to get help (Action for children 2013)

	<p>Findings from this audit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiagency involvement</li> <li>• Encourage to use graded care profile - measurement tool to measure what is going wrong and identify areas for improvement.</li> <li>• All about early intervention</li> </ul> <p>Three key Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To improve the awareness and understanding of neglect, both within and between agencies working in Salford and including adult services. This includes a common understanding of neglect and the thresholds for access to services.</li> <li>• To improve the recognition and assessment of children and young people living in neglectful situations before statutory intervention is required, including the use of appropriate assessment tools.</li> <li>• Developing and sustaining an agreed, early multi-agency response to neglect.</li> </ul>	
<p>4.</p>	<p><b>Dean Flanagan and Cathy Unsworth, Salford Family Support, DISC</b>  <a href="http://www.disc-vol.org.uk/projects/salford-family-support/">http://www.disc-vol.org.uk/projects/salford-family-support/</a>  <b>A voluntary sector perspective on neglect and prevention.</b></p> <p>DISC is an intensive family support service which supports complex family needs across the city.</p> <p>Cathy discussed a case study about a severe neglect case identifying how crucial the multiagency links are and to balance the need to challenge with bringing the family together for success.</p> <p>A key part to the DISC approach is to do a comprehensive assessment of the family- adult and child perspectives. Look at how things are for the child, create understanding of the child's perspective by building relationships. Even though family has been referred for one reason a lot of other wider issues involved and need to be addressed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are there any attachment issues with the parents?</li> <li>• Consequences for growth and development</li> <li>• Social difficulties</li> <li>• Education suffering</li> <li>• Behaviour issues</li> <li>• Low self esteem</li> </ul> <p>DISC use a lot of different tools and assessments, including the <a href="#">Graded Care Profile</a>. This assesses where parents not meeting the needs of children using a scaling process which is important in communicating to the</p>	

	<p>parents in a non-discriminatory way. This has the advantage of family involvement and empowers the parent to be part of the process, identify where they are and where should be and what needs to change.</p> <p>DISC also utilise the <a href="#">Family Star</a> assessment which opens up a discussion with families and allows them to access where they think they are and can look at where they need to improve.</p> <p>It is best to have an ongoing relationship with the family - if DISC have not previously worked with the family and not formed a relationship they may ask another agency who has a pre-existing relationship with the family to carry out the assessment. DISC will also carry out a home condition evaluation and a risk assessment of all the family members.</p> <p>Again multi-agency support plan and a whole team of professionals surrounding the family and providing support was identified as an important aspect.</p>	
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Discussion and Questions</b></p> <p>The meeting split into small groups to discuss issues raised during the presentations on neglect.</p> <p>How can voluntary and community organisations help to tackle neglect in Salford?</p> <p>What case studies or examples do you have?</p> <p>How do you recognise neglect and make referrals/ escalate?</p> <p>What experience do you have of the Graded Care Profile or other tools?</p> <p><b>Points raised during discussions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should use Graded Care Profile as tool, concern about paperwork/ monitoring forms themselves.</li> <li>• How implement and monitor Graded Care Profile so works more effectively?</li> <li>• Some community organisations not as linked in to what to look out for or how to escalate.</li> <li>• Practicality of doing Graded Care Profile - who is responsible? Should not be the first organisation or person to make contact with family, or have a referral raised to them.</li> <li>• The person or organisation who carries out the Graded Care Profile needs to have the time and resources to support the family.</li> <li>• Organisations are at different levels in regards to safeguarding need to link everyone in. CVS currently offer targeted training to small organisations to help them to understand and set up the <a href="#">Salford Safeguarding Standards</a>.</li> <li>• Target food banks and networks as there is a wide need of why people require these facilities.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Target school holiday activity groups as less referrals made in school holidays.</li> <li>• Judgement on parents can be a barrier with neglect cases and delays the process.</li> <li>• Schools are frustrated as raise referrals and have them passed back - need to work with schools or have someone in schools to provide more understanding of the signs and characteristics of neglect and what the process is for a referral.</li> <li>• Sustainability is important- early prevention and dealing with the aspects effectively is key.</li> </ul>	
	<p><b><u>Minutes of the last meeting</u></b></p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</p>	
	<p><b><u>VOCAL CYPF Reps update</u></b></p> <p>A paper copy was available at the meeting and will be circulated by email</p>  <p>VOCAL Update March 2016.pdf</p>	
	<p><b><u>Future VOCAL CYPF Meetings and Agendas</u></b></p> <p>Substance abuse was raised as a potential theme for future meetings.</p> <p>Louise asked about future meeting venues, if anyone knew of any free venues with larger rooms to let Salford CVS know.</p>	
	<p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p> <p>Salford CVS <a href="#">Brave New World Revisited</a> conference 22.03.16</p>	

**Chair of Meeting:** Phil East  
**Minutes taken by:** Cathrine Lee  
**Meeting Closed at:** Noon