

Children's Services

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Professionals Meeting in respect of Operation Vessel

Venue: Le Bas Centre
Date: 21 June 2013
Time: 10.30

Attendees

Louise Hollick	CS – Team Manager - Chair
Alison Fossey	Police - DCI
Mark Capern	ESC - Principal Youth Officer
Nola Hopkins	ESC – Senior Education Welfare Officer
Sarah Clarke	FNHC - Paediatric Liaison Health Visitor
Kellie Goldsworthy	CS - Senior Practitioner
Karen Sykes	Police - DC
Michelle Cumming	FNHC -
Jeremy Percival	Police - ADS

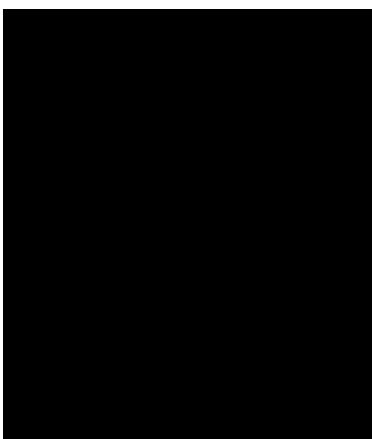
Apologies

Elaine Torrance	Health - Deputy Director of Operations
Phil Dennett	CS – Service Director
Natalie Spooner	CS – Senior Practitioner

Notes from discussion:

Louise Hollick made introductions and explained that the purpose of the meeting is to share information and update all agencies regarding the young people involved in Operation Vessel.

Louise updated all with the list of main girls concerned



[REDACTED]

All agencies were then invited to give an update on the current situation.

Police update

Alison Fossey stated that the girls who are definitely connected are; [REDACTED]

She stated that although [REDACTED] is vulnerable she is not linked to Operation Vessel.

It was noted that it is still very early days and the team are analysing text and facebook messages this may take up to two weeks.

Karen Sykes informed the group that last Wednesday five suspects were arrested on suspicion of grooming and USI. They were [REDACTED]

It was noted that the main suspects are [REDACTED] who both gave 'no comment' interviews.

All suspects have had their phones and computers seized, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had their cars seized. [REDACTED] car was kept as there was semen found on the back seats and condoms in the car. Karen noted that the police are pretty convinced there has been sexual activity in the car but that this has not been admitted during interviews. There are texts surrounding sexual activity taking place in the car, but no disclosures have been made.

[REDACTED] stepfather has contacted the Police to express his annoyance as the situation as he sees it that the girls are harassing [REDACTED] with texts/facebook messages and presenting at his work [REDACTED]

It was discussed that the suspects met in September whilst all studying [REDACTED] it was noted that [REDACTED] is now working full time and [REDACTED] is not returning to [REDACTED] however the other three could potentially be returning in September, This will then leave the [REDACTED] at risk. Nola Hopkins queried if [REDACTED] are aware of this potential risk to which it transpires that they are not aware. Nola has links to the [REDACTED] so will speak to them to enquire whether they are still attending and if they are on any placements over the summer period.

Karen explained that there had been three video interviews conducted with some of the girls involved these were [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] - questioned about the texts on her mobile phone which had been downloaded. She played down the situation stating that she knows [REDACTED] and he drives her around sometimes but nothing more. There were texts surrounding possible threesomes but [REDACTED] said nothing happened and that it was just banter.

██████████ - had an Initial Assessment carried out and is subject to a Child in Need plan. There are significant concerns for her truanting, absconding and vulnerability.

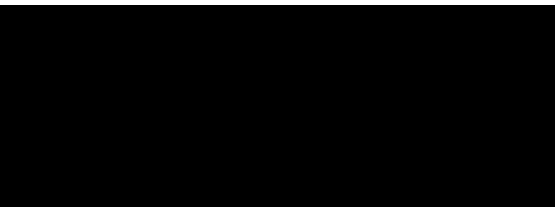
██████████ - going to have an Initial Assessment done by Amanda Wilson, ██████████ will become subject to a Child in Need plan. There are language difficulties with her Grand Father who speaks ██████████ and concerns about his understanding of the situation.

There is a lot of Social Work input with the majority of the girls and ██████████ and ██████████ are all looked after children who reside at ██████████

Education update

Nola Hopkins has spoken with the schools and they have come back to say that they would like more feedback in relation to the looked after children as to what has happened over the weekend as this is having an impact on a Monday morning.

Kellie Goldsworthy updated every one in relation to which school each girls attends;



Nola said that ██████████ was not in school yesterday and when ██████████ was phoned they would not confirm anything in relation to her whereabouts, it is hoped that ██████████ will link in more with the school. It was noted that there is an Attendance Officer at each school that can link in with for the looked after children.

There was a discussion surrounding what to do if a vulnerable child is not in school and you are unable to contact their parents. Alison agreed that if you are unable to get hold of the parent then the child needs to be reported to the police as a missing person, she stressed that this is just for children who you have concerns about and believe to be at risk.

FNHC update

Michelle Cumming noted that Health are not represented today at this meeting but there are concerns around Accident and Emergency attendance. Sarah Clarke said that she has spoken about the system for flagging up at risk children with Ann Trotter the Sister for Accident and Emergency. It was noted that there is already a process in place for LAC & children on CP register, there have been two children admitted to Accident and Emergency in the last week and the correct process was followed. Sarah stated that Ann Trotter was concerned as at present there is no knowledge about children in need and these are not flagged in the system she was also concerned about the process of removing the alert when the child is no longer in need.

There was a discussion around the number of referrals received from hospital in relation to children who present with possible signs of abuse or self harm but no other indicators. It was noted that there is an automatic referral to CAMHS by the hospital but that there is confusion on when to refer to the Children's Service. Louise said that if they are unsure about when to make a referral they can always ring CIRT and discuss. It was agreed that Kellie would speak to Janet Blair from CAMHS in relation

to them referring onto the Children's Service and Louise would arrange a meeting with Ann Trotter and Elaine Torrance to discuss the hospital side and she will forward on a list of all the children in need.

Youth Service update

Mark Capern said all staff aware of the need to ensure all information they have is passed into him as yet there has been none.

Mark asked if it would be possible for the police to pass him on the details of the cars and photos of the suspects so that his staff out on the streets can make a note if they see them. Karen agreed with this and said she will arrange to link up with Mark at a later date to discuss Millennium Park.

Action Points:

- **Karen Sykes to ensure that the police keep notifying the agencies of any new names in the investigations**
- **Louise Hollick to speak to Sarah in relation to the interviews next week**
- **Louise Hollick to share the children in need list with Ann Trotter and arrange a meeting to discuss referrals to the Children's Service**
- **Kellie Goldsworthy to share information with CAMHS (Janet Blair) in particular self harming and give them a brief update on the girls on the children in need list.**
- **Karen Sykes to arrange to meet with Mark Capern next week in relation to the information needed to pass onto the street workers**
- **Nola Hopkins to speak to [REDACTED] about the five suspects to find out if they are still attending, what they are doing over the summer and if they will be on any courses in September.**
- **Louise Hollick to speak to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and make sure they are aware they need to be liaising with the school attendance officers**
- **Nola Hopkins to make sure the schools continue to phone around each morning and report any missing young vulnerable girls to the police if they are unable to contact parents**
- **Michelle Cumming to speak to the school nurses and ask them to share their concerns regarding vulnerable girls in the age groups of the girls concerned**

Date of the next meeting:

Minutes taken by Kirsten Rowe

Chair
Signature:
Name: Louise Hollick
Date: 03/07/2013