



Minutes of the meeting on 20 March 2009

Copthorne Tara Hotel in Kensington

Attendance (Board)

- Allan Bowman
- Nadra Ahmed
- Peter Beresford
- Jon Glasby
- Edwina Grant
- Brenden Keane
- Ann Macfarlane
- Jo Munyard
- Terry Philpot
- Ian Sutherland

Staff

- Julie Jones (Chief Executive)
- Amanda Edwards (Deputy Chief Executive)
- Stephen Goulder (Director of Corporate Services & Workforce Development)
- Hayley Tucker (minutes)

Apologies for absence

- Ziggi Alexander
- Shokat Babul
- Mike Lauerman
- Andy Nash
- Jenny Owen
- Don Brand
- Walt Brown

Welcome and announcements

1. The Chair listed apologies and asked Trustees to sign the conflict of interest form.
2. **Action:** The Director of Corporate Services & Workforce Development informed the Board that the staff representative for the Board, Walt Brown, had resigned from SCIE and so there would be process of election for the new staff representative to the Board and their deputy.

Minutes

3. The minutes of the Board meeting held on 20 November 2008 were approved for signature.

Matters arising

4. Members noted the matters arising from the meeting on 20 November 2008.
5. The Chief Executive reported that the Partners' Council came runner up for a 2008 NHS Centre for Involvement Award. The Board congratulated the team on their well deserved efforts.

Chair's report

6. The Chair reported on meetings that he had attended since the last Board meeting in November.

Children's safeguarding

7. The Chair informed members that Tim Loughton MP, Shadow Minister for Children, had reconvened a meeting with those involved in the production in October 2007 of the report: *No More Blame Game: the Future for Children's Social Workers*, of which the Chair was a member.
8. The Chair reported that the group agreed to update the report and present it to Lord Laming for his inquiry on the *Protection of Children in England: a progress report*.
9. Following the submission of the report, Tim Loughton MP secured an Opposition Day debate at the House of Commons.
10. The Chair reported that he and the Chief Executive aimed to have further dialogue with the Conservative party on adults' and children's social care issues.

11. The Chair explained that SCIE had carried out some excellent work on a systems model approach for organisational learning across agencies involved in safeguarding children: *SCIE Guide 24: Learning together to safeguard children: developing a multi-agency systems approach for case reviews*. This would be presented at workshops at the ESN conference in Prague and the Campbell Colloquium in Oslo.

Aged Care Channel

12. The Chair informed Trustees that he had been in regular contact with the Aged Care Channel. The launch of the UK Channel would now take place on Wednesday 1 July 2009.

Chief Executive's report

13. The Chief Executive introduced her report which highlighted the work of key staff who had made considerable contributions to SCIE's delivery since the last formal board meeting in November 2008.

14. The Chief Executive informed Trustees that David Walden would take up his appointment at SCIE on 6 April as the Director of Adults and Regions.

Social Work Taskforce

15. The Chief Executive reported that SCIE had contributed to the review being undertaken by Lord Laming, and had been invited to join the Social Work Taskforce Key Partners' Group. The first meeting of the Key Partners Group had taken place on 5 March 2009 and the Chief Executive and Don Brand, SCIE consultant, had attended. The Secretary of State, Ed Balls, had attended to outline what was expected of the group.

Children's Safeguarding

16. The Chief Executive informed Trustees that SCIE had submitted a specific proposal to the DCSF on serious case reviews which had been turned down. This was very disappointing but she added that the sector was very interested in this work and SCIE would seek funding from the sector if not possible via the DCSF. Safeguarding work as part of the C4EO offer had been agreed with SCIE as the lead partner.

Payments to service users

17. The Chief Executive reported the good news that SCIE and partners had been working with the DWP around easing some of the barriers to paying service users for involvement work. DWP had confirmed that from 26th October 2009

they would introduce two changes in order to ease benefit barriers to involvement. Expenses for involvement would be treated as expenses not earnings - it seems for all benefit groups; and they would remove 'notional earning' risks.

SCIE Business Plan 2009-10

18. The Director of Corporate Services & Workforce Development reported that SCIE's strategy for 2008-11, agreed by the Board in March 2008, provided a new direction for SCIE's work with a set of clear objectives, for which SCIE was accountable to its stakeholders and sponsors. This business plan would cover the second year of the strategy.
19. He informed members that the draft business plan presented to the Board at its meeting on the 20 November had been further developed through the SCIE Accountability Review meeting with the DH, the Board away day, the all staff away day and the SCIE Audit Committee.
20. The Director of Corporate Services & Workforce Development explained that the business plan had been revised to focus more on outcomes and impact.
21. Trustees referred to page five and stated that the bullet point around becoming the social care partner of the new Care Quality Commission was extremely important for SCIE. The Chief Executive reiterated this point and explained that she was meeting with the CQC Chief Executive on a regular basis and she and the Chair had also met with the CQC Chair as well as Gary Needle, Head of Assessment and Methods.
22. Trustees agreed the final draft business plan process for 2009-10

Report from the Audit Committee

23. The Director of Corporate Services & Workforce Development informed Trustees that because only the Chair and one Trustee were present for the Audit Committee, the meeting was not quorate. Therefore whilst each agenda item was discussed all decisions required agreement of the Board.
24. The Director of Corporate Services & Workforce Development highlighted three main issues from the Audit Committee meeting:
 - That the review of banking arrangements be suspended pending the resolution of the current banking crisis and that SCIE take a risk averse approach to investing its reserve.
 - The Audit Committee confirmed that the pension scheme should remain under review and that SCIE should plan to increase its reserves.
 - That the board agree a provisional budget.

25. The Director of Corporate Services & Workforce Development informed Trustees that Parliament would consider the Budget on 27 April 2009 and it was therefore unlikely that the DH would be able to confirm SCIE's core grant until late Spring. The DH had confirmed, at the Accountability Review meeting on 5 March that SCIE should plan on the basis of receiving the same core grant in 2009-10 as in 2008-09.
26. It was agreed that, subject to confirmation by the Board, a provisional budget would be set based on that presented to the Audit Committee. The finance team would now prepare detailed budgets for 2009/10.

Performance reports

27. The Director of Corporate Services & Workforce Development presented the performance reports and revised risk register.
28. Trustees considered the report and asked for an update on the Social Care Journal.
29. The Deputy Chief Executive reported that the journal was now being considered in the wider context of strengthening dissemination through Social Care Online, Social Care TV and the good practice framework.
30. **Action:** A presentation on this was made to the DH at the SCIE Accountability Review on 5 March 2009 and it would be presented to the Board at its meeting in May 2009.

Board annual agenda plan

31. The Board reviewed the annual agenda plan.

Any other business

32. There was no other business.

Approved

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Name:

Position:

Date: