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**Boomer, Linda**


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**From:** Alison Livingstone [a.livingstone@dnet.co.uk]  
**Sent:** 20 February 2007 18:21  
**To:** Boomer, Linda  
**Subject:** FW: Consultation on the Establishment of a Regional safeguarding Board for NI

Linda,

See attached from Dr Sandi Hutton-Consultant Paediatrician (Foyle Trust)

Alison

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**From:** Hutton Sandi [mailto:Sandi.Hutton@foyletrust.n-i.nhs.uk]  
**Sent:** 20 February 2007 10:09  
**To:** Alison Livingstone  
**Subject:** RE: Consultation on the Establishment of a Regional safeguarding Board for NI

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Hi Alison -

Just a quick note to thank you for your comments re Safeguarding Board, which were exactly my own  
thoughts. Can you reply on behalf of the CP group, or let Linda know that your concerns are shared by paed  
working in child protection?

I will write separately if you think that would be better.

See you soon I hope - things are quite mad here at the moment as I have got roped into doing loads of  
appraisals on top of everything!

Best wishes,

Sandi

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Alison Livingstone [mailto:a.livingstone@dnet.co.uk]  
**Sent:** 17 February 2007 17:44  
**To:** Linda Boomer  
**Cc:** Liz Reaney; Andrew Thompson; Cathy MacPherson; Charles Shepherd; Clare Bailey; Daphne  
Primrose; Dave Watkins; Deirdre Walsh; Knowles Erin; Gerry Mackin; Grainne McBreen; Hutton Sandi;  
James Hughes; Jarlath O'Donohoe; Joanne Nelson; Kim Troughton; Kusum Sharma; Mairead Murtagh;  
Paula McAlinden; Zeinab Abdelrahim  
**Subject:** Consultation on the Establishment of a Regional safeguarding Board for NI

Linda,

I am a Consultant Paediatrician and am replying to the consultation on behalf of myself (not my  
employer Homefirst Trust).

I apologise for not replying sooner but I only received notification of your letter on 13/02/07 and by  
meeting members of RIT last week. I would make several comments

21/02/2007

1. I note you suggest a Medical Director should be the medical representative on this Board. I appreciate this is to enable them to have the responsibility level to implement statutory recommendations. However, I think this is completely inappropriate. The Medical Directors of the New Trusts are not paediatricians (as far as I know) and thus have no concept of all the issues involved. As they have no concept I would doubt the level of interest they would have in child protection (this is only one area in many competing demands for them). Also what influence would one medical director have over staff in another Trust or over GP's and FMO's?
2. Could I suggest it may be more appropriate for a medical officer from the DHSSPS/new HSSA who has a remit for children be the medical representative at this level e.g. Dr Liz Reaney (Senior Medical Officer for Maternal and Child Health at DHSSPS) was a Community Paediatrician and has links with paediatricians who are at the coalface –someone like her would seem far more appropriate –is active with respect to the issues and has a Regional remit. I presume she would also have some responsibility for GP's and Forensic Medical Officers (who would be outwith the control of Trust Medical Directors)
3. I think at the level of the Safeguarding Panels in the Trusts it is vital the membership includes at least one paediatrician who is active in child protection and has a named or designated role within the Trust. I would also recommend that an FMO from the Trust area who regularly examines children is a member as they too have a vital role to play.
4. With regard to serious case management reviews I wonder if it may be important to consider the ability to seek medical representation from outwith N Ireland as there is a very closeknit network of paediatricians and it may be important to have completely independent advice.

Hope this is of use

Alison Livingstone