

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel

11 November 2020

Time 6.00 pm **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Scrutiny

Venue Microsoft Teams Meeting

Membership

Chair Cllr Rita Potter (Lab)
Vice-chair Cllr Sohail Khan (Con)

Labour

Cllr Rupinderjit Kaur
Cllr Beverley Momenabadi
Cllr Clare Simm
Cllr Rashpal Kaur
Cllr John Rowley
Cllr Paul Sweet
Cllr Jasbinder Dehar

Conservative

Cllr Udey Singh

Quorum for this meeting is four Voting Members.

Information for the Public

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the Democratic Services team:

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Agenda

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

- | <i>Item No.</i> | <i>Title</i> |
|-----------------|---|
| 1 | Welcome and Introductions
[The Chair to welcome everyone to the meeting. The Scrutiny Officer will then read out a list of those invited to the meeting to confirm who is in attendance.] |
| 2 | Meeting procedures to be followed
[The Chair will explain how the meeting will proceed, how questions are to be asked and any matters of meeting etiquette.] |

MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS

- | | |
|---|--|
| 3 | Apologies |
| 4 | Declarations of interest |
| 5 | Minutes of the previous meeting (9.9.2020) (Pages 5 - 10)
[To approve the minutes of the previous meeting as a correct record] |
| 6 | Matters arising
[To consider any matters arising from the minutes] |

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- | | |
|----|---|
| 7 | Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (report to follow)
[James Barlow, Finance Business Partner, to present report] |
| 8 | Outcome from Wolverhampton Youth Council Survey (report to follow)
[Wolverhampton Youth Council to present survey findings] |
| 9 | SEND Self-Evaluation (Pages 11 - 66)
[Rob Hart, Head of Service Inclusion and Empowerment, and Katrina McCormick, CCG SEND Lead, to present report] |
| 10 | Spotlight Review - Education and Inclusion (report to follow)
[Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services, to present report] |
| 11 | Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together Partnership - Annual Report 2019/20
(Pages 67 - 120)
[Andrew Wolverson, Head of Children's Strategy and Partnerships, and Vicky Murphy, Independent Scrutineer, to present report] |
| 12 | Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel 2019 20 - Draft Work Programme (Pages 121 - 130)
[Julia Cleary, Scrutiny and Systems Manager, to present report] |

Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel

Agenda Item No: 5
Minutes - 9 September 2020

Attendance

Members of the Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel

Cllr Rupinderjit Kaur
Cllr Beverley Momenabadi
Cllr Rita Potter (Chair)
Cllr Clare Simm
Cllr Udey Singh
Cllr Rashpal Kaur
Cllr Sohail Khan (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Paul Sweet
Cllr Jasbinder Dehar
Tabner

Co-opted Members

Wolverhampton Youth Council

In Attendance

Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
Cllr John Reynolds, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Employees

Earl Piggott-Smith	Scrutiny Officer
Julia Cleary	Systems and Scrutiny Manager
Alice Vickers	Corporate Parenting Officer
Martin Stevens	Scrutiny Officer
Emma Bennett	Director of Children's Services
Heather Clark	Service Development Manager
Alison Hinds	Head of Children and Young People in Care

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

- 1 Welcome and Introductions**
Cllr Rita Potter, Chair, welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting and advised it was being live streamed to the press and public. Cllr Potter advised that she was not expecting any exempt or restricted items on the agenda. A recording of the meeting would be available for viewing on the Council's website at a future date.
- 2 Meeting procedures to be followed**

Cllr Potter explained the protocol to be followed during the meeting for asking questions and reminded everyone that microphones should be muted and cameras off, unless they have been invited to speak.

Earl Piggott-Smith, Scrutiny Officer, invited all attendees to introduce themselves to confirm they were present at the meeting.

3 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from the following members of the panel:

Cllr John Rowley
Cyril Randles

4 **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

5 **Minutes of the previous meeting (22 January 2020)**

The correct date for the agenda title should be 9.3.2020 and not 22.1.2020 as stated. The panel approved the change and approved the minutes of the meeting.

6 **Minutes of the previous meeting (3 February 2020)**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

7 **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising from either set of minutes.

8 **Update on the Council's response to the Covid-19 crisis and future plans relating to children and young people (report to follow)**

Cllr Potter invited Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and Cllr John Reynolds, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, to make a few introductory remarks before the main report was presented.

Both Cllrs wanted to formally place on record their thanks to employees working across the services for the excellent work done during the lockdown to support children and young people, and the professionalism shown during a very challenging time for the City.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills also wanted to record his thanks to Emma Bennett and her team for their hard work in ensuring that children services were able to get things back to normal as possible. The excellent response from Headteachers during the lockdown period was also recognised.

Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services, introduced her presentation and commented on the positive benefits of the work done to build on the existing strong working partnerships between children's services and schools. The Director of Children's Services wanted to also express her thanks to schools in recognition of the considerable work by teachers and others working in the sector to help schools re-open safely.

The panel endorsed the comments of the Cabinet Members about the work done by the service in partnership with schools during and after the lockdown.

The panel queried the arrangements for grouping pupils in 'bubbles' within schools to meet social distancing rules and what would happen in response to a reported case of Covid 19. The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills advised that depending on the 'bubble' arrangements, either year group or class, within the school would determine how many children were sent home.

The panel queried the support offered to children and families who are feeling anxious about returning schools and in particular those children with previous history of mental health issues.

The Director of Children's Services advised the panel of the preparation work done to help schools open last week. A series of training sessions were arranged with schools to help prepare them to welcome children back and to offer reassurance.

The Director of Children's Services commented on the attendance rates at schools. It was reported that the attendance rate for Wolverhampton primary schools was 84 per cent, this compares to the national rate of 87 per cent. The attendance rate for secondary schools was 91 per cent compared to the national rate of 82 percent.

The situation will become clearer in the future as the quality of attendance data improves from schools. The Director of Children's Services commented there has been an increase in positive Covid cases across the City, reflecting the national picture. There have been a few individual cases in schools across Wolverhampton.

The panel were reassured that there was no evidence of an outbreak in schools and also each case is investigated. The evidence suggests that the disease has been transmitted through the community rather than within the school and the situation is being managed with the support of colleagues in Public Health.

The panel queried the support and encouragement to children who are shielding because of existing health issues and the reluctance among some parents to allow them to attend school, given the increasing number of Covid cases.

The Director of Children's Services explained the work undertaken to reassure parents.

The Director of Children's Services commented on the range of support provided to foster carers and explained that the Council has not changed the supportive offer to children and families during the lockdown period. A range of new approaches was introduced during this period including virtual contact which was well received by families and has allowed a much more informal and regular means of communication. Care leavers were able to get face-to-face support as well as virtual support including contact by text.

The Director of Children's Services advised the panel that there had been no placement breakdowns during the lockdown as a result of the pandemic and there was a positive response from young people to the home education arrangements. In addition, Base 25 has been commissioned to offer support to young people in response to reports of groups congregating in hotspot areas in the City and encouraging them to disperse and engage with the different services on offer.

The panel queried if there was evidence of an increase in referrals to children services during the lockdown period.

The Director of Children's Services advised that at this stage the service is waiting to see if there will be a major increase in the number of referrals. The service normally will normally see an increase in referrals during September, similar to that seen in January after the school holidays. The situation is being monitored however.

The panel discussed the issue of supporting children and young people owing to concern about the impact of lockdown on their mental wellbeing. The Director of Children's Services commented on the range of activities and support introduced such as WV Holiday Squad and other activities as part of the youth engagement strategy to support children and young people.

The service has tried to be creative in their efforts to reach children and young people, for example, the extension of online support available and counselling support which offers a range of information and activities. Any child or young person who has emotional well-being concern is identified and supported, and where appropriate signposted to the right service.

The Director of Children's Services advised the panel that two surveys took place to capture the experiences of young people about being in lockdown. In total 300 responses from children and 600 responses from parents was received. The responses will influence the development of services and the future priorities during the recovery stages of managing the impact of Covid.

The Director of Children's Services advised the panel that a range of online resources have been developed to ensure children have the correct information about coronavirus. The Council has provided a mix of both online and face-to-face activities during lockdown following government guidelines, for example groups were limited to 15 young people. The Council had 10,000 people access the online service. The Way youth centre reopened during the summer period and offers a range of services and activities for example, family dining sessions.

The panel discussed the emotional well-being of children and young people and queried the specific support offered to help them settle them back into school after lockdown. The panel were concerned about the varied quality of support offered to pupils by schools during the lockdown and the plans for helping children to catch up on lost education. The panel were also concerned about the impact on the mental wellbeing of pupils returning to schools and having to comply with new safety instructions; particularly the introduction of grouping children together in small 'bubbles', which limit the amount of contact they can have with their school friends.

The Director of Children's Services agreed to follow up this issue and report back to a future meeting of the panel. The Director of Children's Services advised the panel that the issue will also be raised at a future meeting with secondary school representatives to consider what more can be done to support young people. The emotional wellbeing being of pupils returning to school is a priority for the service.

The Director of Children's Services gave examples of support on offer to pupils, for example, mental health workers based in schools.

The topic of education and supporting and working with schools has been suggested as spotlight issue for the panel to consider.

The issue will also be discussed with members of Wolverhampton Youth Council who are planning to do a survey of young people about their experiences during lockdown, the findings of which will shape future service plans. The Director of Children's Services suggested these issues could be included in the draft panel work programme.

The panel discussed the provision of laptops and the problems pupils have had in getting equipment needed.

The Chair thanked Emma Bennett for the presentation and the Cabinet Members for their contributions.

Resolved:

The panel welcomed the presentation and thanked the presenters for their contributions.

9

Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel 2019 20 - Draft Work Programme (report to follow)

Julia Cleary, Scrutiny and Systems Manager, presented the draft work programme and explained the new approach agreed at Scrutiny Board meeting for all panels to consider the cross-cutting theme of 'Connected City' and digital considerations when developing ideas for the work programme.

The panel were invited to comment on the draft work programme and to suggest ideas, following the guidance, of topics that could be added.

Resolved

The panel agreed to note the report.

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Briefing Note

Title: Wolverhampton SEND Self-Evaluation **Date:** 11 November 2020

Prepared by: Rob Hart

Job Title: Head of Inclusion & Empowerment

Intended Audience: Internal Partner organisation Public Confidential

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To inform Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel about Wolverhampton's self-evaluation of services for special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Since 2016 the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (OFSTED) and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) have been responsible for undertaking inspections of all effectiveness of local areas in England in identifying and meeting the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- 2.2 It is important to note that these inspections will evaluate how effectively the local area meets its responsibilities, and not just the local authority. The local area includes the local authority, clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), public health, NHS England for specialist services, early year's settings, schools and further education providers.
- 2.3 Wolverhampton is one of only two areas within the West Midlands region that has not yet had a SEND inspection. Due to the COVID-19 situation, OFSTED has suspended much of its formal inspection activity, but has said that it expects to resume this in 2021. It is very likely that Wolverhampton will have its SEND inspection in 2021.

3.0 SEND Self Evaluation

- 3.1 As part of Wolverhampton's process of continuous improvement and preparation for inspection, we undertake a self-evaluation to identify our areas of strength and areas for development. This is updated and reviewed on a regular basis.
- 3.2 The current self-evaluation was signed off by SEND Partnership board in August 2020, following an extensive review, to shorten the format and provide a clearer, more accessible account of the area's strengths and areas for development. It has been informed by work that has been undertaken to develop Wolverhampton's new SEND Strategy, including the 2019 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, feedback from Voice 4 Parents, the Spotlight on SEND event, as well as published and service performance data.

3.3 The self-evaluation focuses on the three key areas that are the focus of the OFSTED/CQC inspection, namely:

- the effectiveness of the local area in identifying children and young people who have SEND;
- the effectiveness of the local area in assessing and meeting the needs of children and young people who have SEND; and,
- the effectiveness of the local area in improving outcomes for children and young people who have SEND.

3.4 The SEND Partnership Board has agreed that going forwards the SEND Self-Evaluation will be updated and signed-off every six months, in January and July of each year.

4.0 Next steps

4.1 Following completion of the self-evaluation and publication of the 2020-23 SEND Strategy, an action plan is being developed which will ensure that actions are in place to respond to all identified areas for development. The SEND Partnership Board is responsible for signing-off this action plan and monitoring progress in delivering it.

4.2 In order to ensure that we are rigorous in both our self-evaluation and inspection preparation for SEND, the Council has commissioned, through the Local Government Association (LGA), a peer challenge to focus on SEND which will take place between 23 November and 2 December 2020.

4.3 The peer challenge is not an inspection. Rather, it is a supportive but challenging “critical friend” approach to assist councils and their partners in celebrating their strengths and identifying their own areas for improvement. The key purpose of the peer challenge is to stimulate local discussion about how the council and its partners can become more effective in delivering improved outcomes for children.

4.4 The peer challenge will be undertaken by a team which consists senior colleagues who have significant experience of leading and managing SEND services in other local authority areas and will typically include:

- Team Leader (assistant director of children’s services with significant SEND experience)
- An operational manager/ senior social work practitioner with experience with children with disabilities
- A health manager/ practitioner with experience of SEND at a strategic and operational level
- An education specialist (e.g. head teacher) with experience of SEND in a range of education settings
- An LGA peer challenge manager

4.5 The challenge is an interactive exercise. During the challenge the peer team will examine evidence from a number of sources. These will include:

- documents that outline the local area approach to special educational needs and disabilities;
- a self-assessment prepared by the Council, CCG and their partners;
- performance data;
- a variety of other documentation provided by the Council and health partners;
- review of Education, Health and Care Plans; and,
- interviews and focus groups conducted with staff from the local authority, CCG, partners, schools, commissioned services, parents/carers and children and young people to explore standard themes and the self-assessment and other key lines of enquiry.

4.6 The outcome of the peer review will be a written report, outlining strengths and areas for development, which can inform the review and update of the self-evaluation in January 2021.

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Wolverhampton SEND Self-Evaluation

5 August 2020



We are determined that children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Wolverhampton live in an inclusive city where we work together to support them and their families to lead a good quality 'ordinary life' and achieve their full potential.

We believe that by working together with families and communities we will achieve this.

Our Journey 2015 - 2020

In 2015, we developed a five year SEND Strategy in response to the SEND reforms. Since then, Wolverhampton has made significant progress in realising the ambitions set out in our previous strategy and the aims of the Act. In particular:

- We have developed a strong and effective SEND partnership, with clear governance arrangements and transformational leadership.
- We have worked hard to embed co-production with children, young people and their families as central to the way that we do things, leading to the launch of our coproduction charter.
- We worked together well to ensure the transfer of Statements to Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans was achieved on time through following a genuine transfer review process, ensuring EHC plans are focused on achieving meaningful outcomes.
- There are examples, particularly in the early years, of very effective, integrated, "Team around the Child" working that is highly valued by families. Our collective workforce is strong and is responsive to demand.
- We have developed and continued to review and improve our Local Offer so that information is available in one place.
- The proportion of young people with SEND in education and training has been improving. There is a higher proportion of adults with a learning disability in paid employment than in the West Midlands, or England as a whole



Planning for our Future

The total number of pupils with SEND within Wolverhampton's schools are forecast **to increase by 11.22%** between 2018/19 and 2026/27

- The total number of nursery age pupils with SEND within Wolverhampton's schools are forecast to remain relatively static
- The total number of primary phase pupils with SEND within Wolverhampton's schools are forecast **to peak in 2021/22** and then cohorts are expected to decrease
- The total number of secondary phase pupils with SEND within Wolverhampton's schools are forecast **to increase by 23.78%** between 2018/19 and 2026/27
- The total number of post 16 phase students with SEND within Wolverhampton's schools are forecast **to increase by 39.12%** between 2018/19 and 2026/27.

Our Partnership

The **SEND Partnership Board** brings together key stakeholders including: Voice 4 Parents, head teachers, leaders and service managers in education, health, social care, public health, commissioning, and the voluntary sector. The Board is responsible for providing strategic direction and supporting joint commissioning to improve the lives of children and young people with SEND. We work in partnership to provide strategic oversight to:

- Identify all children and young people with SEND
- Assess and meet their needs
- Improve their outcomes.

We believe that children, young people and their families are best placed to shape the services and support they receive. We are committed to working with all stakeholders to co-design and co-produce solutions to create an inclusive future that changes lives: where disability does not define identity, expectations and aspirations are high, and ultimately where – with the right support – a good, ordinary life becomes a reality for all.

Our Approach

Everything we do is underpinned by:

- **Co-production** – we believe that young people and their families are best placed to shape the services and support that they receive
- **A highly skilled multi-agency workforce working together**
- **Aiming for a good quality ordinary life for all**
- **High expectations and aspirations** – creating and nurturing a culture which raises everyone’s expectations for children and young people with SEND to ensure ‘ordinary life’ outcomes
- **Tell it once** – embedding a culture of ‘tell it once’ so that children, young people and families don’t have to continually tell their story over and over again to different people and services
- **Joint commissioning** – working together to know ourselves, plan and deliver services that achieve real outcomes.



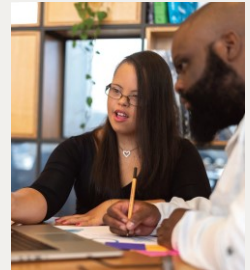
Our SEND Strategy

Wolverhampton's Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020 (the SEND Strategy) sets out the vision and key priorities that partners in the city, including parents and carers, children and young people, education, health, social care and voluntary sector agencies want to focus on to improve the lives of children and young people with SEND over the next five years.

Our strategy supports our ten year Children, Young People and Families Plan which aims to improve the resilience, health and emotional wellbeing of children, young people and families in Wolverhampton.

The strategy has been developed in co-production with children and young people, their families and a range of professionals. It also draws upon data from:

- What families and young people said at the Spotlight on SEND event 2019
- What families said in the Voice 4 Parents Annual parent Survey 2019
- What families, young people and professionals said in the Citizen Lab events in 2019
- What children and young people said at the Real Talk event 2018.



Our Priorities



Our Self Evaluation August 2020

- Early identification
- Quality of assessment and meeting needs
- Improving outcomes



Early identification - Our successes

- Child development service/ multi-agency integrated working in relation to early years
- Improvements in take up rate of 2 year check.
- Health services are effective at using information from early health checks and screening to enable children to access the right services
- Identification of SEND among more vulnerable groups – e.g. dedicated resources to support YOT, CYP in care.
- Met deadline of completing needs assessment to convert statements to EHCPs by 31 March 2018
- Co-production of EHCPs with parents, schools/settings and SENSTART and keeping EHCP under review
- Working relationships between LA, CCG and providers are good governance arrangements are in place that can support joint commissioning.
- JSNA is up to date, good quality
- Moderation of educational assessments in school is robust and helps to ensure that accurate assessments are in place.

Early identification - Areas of consolidation or development

- Mental health support teams for schools
- Increased use of EHA, including with a focus on the impact of disabilities, and use of team around child/ family process to support children with SEND at school age
- Improved consistency of involvement of CYP in co-producing EHCPs.
- Improved contributions from other agencies in reviewing EHCPs
- Build a shared understanding of data and KPIs – development
- Need to formalise and embed joint commissioning framework and arrangements

Early identification - Areas of greater priority for us

- Inconsistencies in identification of need in schools means this does not accurately reflect actual needs
- Multi-agency pathway for autism (5-18)
- Timeliness for completing EHC needs assessments within 20 weeks
- Timeliness of updating EHCPs following annual review
- The EHC Hub is not yet embedded and running smoothly
- Transitions between different phases and services
- Exclusions of pupils

Quality of assessment and meeting needs - Our successes

- Strong commitment to strategic co-production, and range of forums for this. Strong partnership board
- CYP with continuing care needs all have personal health budgets
- Information and advice service – well regarded, advisory board in place, meets service standards
- Updated JSNA and joint leadership/ governance arrangements help enable local area to identify needs and coordinate assessments
- Joint working between EH&C in relation to assessment and planning – SAM Panel, EPP, TCP, CDC, transitions group
- DMO coordinates provision of medical advice
- Positive feedback from parents, CYP etc. about EHCNA, involvement with a range of services. Low rates of complaints/ tribunals
- Quality of EHCPs – moderation, audits, transition from statements
- Local Offer is co-produced and statutorily compliant
- High quality school placements

Quality of assessment and meeting needs - Areas of consolidation or development

- Improvements in co-production have been made, but we need to build on this and embed as a culture
- Improve health outcomes so that CYP and parents are more involved in setting targets, and they support the involvement of parents/carers and CYP in their own care/treatment
- Effective implementation of SEND hub
- Regular review of EET opportunities for young people with SEND for Education, Skills and Employment Board, including review of NEET trends

Quality of assessment and meeting needs - Areas of greater priority for us

- Personal budgets
- Timeliness of completing EHC needs assessments
- Improve quality of advice for EHCPs from all agencies
- Young person audit identified need for more accessible correspondence/ information
- Coordination of EHCP reviews is inconsistent; lack of agreed processes for coordinating reviews at key stages of transition to adulthood
- Need to increase use of Local Offer and keep up to date

Improving outcomes - Our successes

- SEND Community Health Review shows good outcomes are delivered.
- Health Passports are effective and valued by families and professionals
- Good systems of support from School Improvement Service to moderate assessment.
- Schools in local area use national and comparative data effectively to set targets and improve outcomes.
- There has been a continuing rise in the proportion of children receiving SEN support / EHCP who passed phonics screening, and a narrowing of attainment gaps between 2017 and 2019.
- Upward trajectory of proportion of children with SEND attaining expected standards in reading, writing and maths, and narrowing of attainment gap at KS1
- Progress for pupils with SEN Support at KS4 has been above national average for last three years. SEN support services and therapy services provide detailed, meaningful targets for CYP with SEND and work with schools, settings and providers to monitor progress.
- Use of personal health budgets for CYP with continuing care needs (all have/will have PHB at next review)

Improving outcomes - Our successes

- Schools are well equipped to provide support across four areas of need from services both free to school and commissioned: outreach, sensory inclusion, EPs, inclusion, specialist learning support.
- Comprehensive training offer available to staff to support children with SEMH needs through the Getting it Right approach as part of HeadStart programme
- Autism Leaders Award and Autism Friendly Schools programmes are building capacity within schools to provide better support for children with autism
- City has a broad offer of specialist education provision to support CYP with high levels of need. Relationships between providers, LA and health services are good. Plans are in place to anticipate future demand and respond to this.
- A well-established process is in place for tripartite funded places for children with most complex needs through External Placements Panel.
- EHCPs from age 14 focus on PFA outcomes.
- PFA – House project, Aspire to Uni
- All age learning disability strategy supports effective joined up transition planning for YP with LD.
- Wide range of successful and well-regarded health services available in the city.
- Strong established partnerships, including SEND PB. Extensive partnership involvement in self-evaluation, JSNA and strategy development, and high level commitment to SEND, co-production and improving

Improving outcomes - Areas of consolidation or development

- Culture of Belonging – too many CYP with SEND are excluded or become disengaged from education.
- Improve transition arrangements at 16+ and 19+ into FE
- Increase use of personal health budgets among wider SEND cohort
- Continue to build capacity within mainstream schools to support CYP with a wider range of need
- Inconsistencies in the involvement of parents/ carers in assessment, target-setting and planning - tell us once approach needs strengthening
- Short breaks review highlights lack of support at universal level or for those who do not meet statutory thresholds

Improving outcomes - Areas of greater priority for us

- Improve the short break offer through implementing short break review
- Implement new system for allocating high needs funding so that funding more closely matches need and supports inclusion
- Progress across KS2 for pupils with EHCPs is generally below national comparators
- Attainment of pupils with SEND at KS2
- Attainment of pupils with EHCP at KS4
- Outcomes for CYP with EHCPs – use of strategic moderation is well supported and helps to set more challenging outcomes. CYP in special schools are less likely to be entered for assessments, leading to poorer outcomes.
- NEET rate for young people with SEND is higher than national average – priority for post-16 plan
- Improve access to inclusive employment pathways for YP with SEND. Build on existing good practice from supported internships, support from Enable and Workbox
- CYP emotional wellbeing partnership board is growing in effectiveness and improving joint commissioning

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Wolverhampton Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

**Children and Young People with
Special Educational Needs and
Disabilities**

2019

Executive Summary



Executive Summary

i) Background

The Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Wolverhampton Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) 2019 focuses on children and young people aged 0-25 years who are residents of or who are educated within the city.

The JSNA aims to provide Wolverhampton SEND Partnership and Commissioning Board with an up to date understanding of the needs of local children and young people with SEND to:

- Inform the strategic, system wide priorities to improve independence and outcomes for children and young people with SEND, and their families, in Wolverhampton
- Inform commissioning at both strategic and operational levels, so that services and support are tailored to need and based upon the best available evidence
- Inform the wider system so that all relevant future plans in the city are considered through the lens of independence and inclusion, reducing the social and environmental barriers to living an ordinary life.

The JSNA 2019 is set firmly in the context of an Ordinary Life – defined by the Wolverhampton Challenge Board as:

‘Being valued as people first, as loving family members, as rebellious teenagers, as paid employees, as community leaders, as home owners and tenants, as neighbours, as friends and partners.

Where young people with the label of special educational needs and disabilities are seen in society and have active lives in society - not living in service land and hidden away from communities in segregated services with other disabled people.’

This JSNA recognises the importance of looking ahead, not just considering the needs of children and young people with SEND now but also seeking to understand more about their needs as they become adults.

This is underpinned by the principal of ‘preparing for adulthood’ – outlined by the SEND Code of Practice 2015 and centred around four key areas; higher education and / or employment, independent living, participating in society, and being as healthy as possible in adult life. The Code sets out the expectation that children and young people with SEND will be supported to be aspirational and plan and prepare for adulthood from an early stage.

The JSNA represents a collective commitment to improving the outcomes for children and young people with SEND in our city, and has been developed in conjunction with:

- Wolverhampton SEND Partnership and Commissioning Board
- Children and young people with SEND who are residents of or educated in the city
- Parents and carers of children and young people with SEND
- Professionals who work with children and young people with SEND.

ii) **Summary of key findings**

The following section presents a summary of the key findings from this JSNA.

Stakeholder views of an ordinary life

- Children and young people generally gave positive responses about their aspirations for the future and provided descriptions of an ordinary life that were rich and varied; full of a range of both fun and everyday activities, relationships and opportunities to make choices and take part in what they wanted to.
- Professionals focused on inclusion and equality, with inclusion commonly associated with access. This is primarily in relation to services and support but also communities, relationships and leisure – ultimately recognising the valuable contribution children and young people with SEND can make to society.
- The perception of whether children and young people already live ordinary lives differs quite significantly between children and young people themselves and the professionals who work with them. Professionals considered there still work to be done in order for this to be achieved.
- Being able to make and maintain connections with friends and the wider community, have a job and a family were key for both young people and the professionals supporting them. As part of this, it was felt that support should be tailored for each child or young person, and that this should be done as early as possible to help prepare them.
- Professionals in particular felt that a more coordinated network across SEND services and a clearer pathway for each individual to develop appropriate life skills, along with a better leisure, activity and housing offer were key to supporting young people into adulthood identified as key needs.
- Parents and carers felt that they would benefit from more support from services in Wolverhampton and that services themselves could work better together to support families. This would help families to not have to repeat their story many times.

- The need to review the leisure offer was reflected across all stakeholder groups to varying extents. Parents and carers felt particularly strongly that the leisure offer in the city was unsatisfactory.
- Parents and carers felt that it was difficult to get information about the services available to their family. This seemed to be reinforced by a lack of awareness about the Local Offer.

Population of children and young people with SEND

- The population of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities in the city is dynamic and growing. There are currently 7,834 children with SEND in Wolverhampton, equating to 17.0% of the school population or one in every six children.
- There are 112.4 children with SEND per 1,000 children under 20 years of age in the city. East Park (161.1), Bushbury South and Low Hill (143.8) and Bilston North (139.9) had the highest rate of children with SEND in living locally.
- The most prevalent primary needs for children accessing SEN Support were Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD), Social, Emotional, Mental Health (SEMH), Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD), and Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN).
- The most prevalent primary needs for children with an EHCP were Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD), MLD and SEMH needs.
- There are a number of categories of need that are notably different from the national presentation and this requires further exploration with key stakeholders. Locally, the prevalence of MLD is far greater, whilst SLCN, ASD and SEMH are much lower than seen nationally.
- Boys are significantly overrepresented in the cohort of children with SEND. Almost two thirds of children accessing SEN Support and almost three quarters of children with an EHCP/ Statement were boys despite making up less than half of the school population.
- Children with SEND are more likely to be excluded from school. There are 3.5 times as many children with SEND in the excluded population compared to the number on roll.
- Young people with SEND are more likely to come into contact with the Criminal Justice System at an earlier age and are considerably less likely to receive an informal community resolution outcome.

Identification and assessment of need

- Children being ready to learn at two and ready for school at five are vital foundations for good health and development. Significant efforts have been made by the Healthy Child Programme 0-19 Service to increase the number of children receiving a 2 – 2.5 year review. In 2018/9, 61.5% of children received this important health and development check, and coverage continues to improve.
- When looking at the starting points for children with SEND entering the Early Years Terrific for Twos programme, the area where development was most affected was speaking. Here all children with SEND were below expected levels of development (100%). This was followed by managing feelings and behaviours, and health and self-care (both 86% respectively).
- The increase in birth rate along with an increase in life expectancy for children born with complex disabilities and congenital conditions, an increase in the age range to 0-25 years for children with SEND, along with improved tools for identification of need have all contributed to the doubling in the number of requests for initial requests for an Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA) over the past four years.
- Wolverhampton currently has a zero rate of refusal for initial requests for EHCNAs. This is the lowest rate in the West Midlands and is one of only four authorities in the country that passes all initial requests through for assessment.
- There is currently no regular thematic analysis of outcomes identified in EHCPs which could limit the level of timely planning that can be undertaken at a cohort level.

Services for children and young people with SEND

- There is a wide variety of commissioned services and support available for children and young people with SEND, and their families in the city.
- The co-ordination of services and support offered through the Child Development Centre is seen as good practice. For families with older children, navigating some areas of the system is likely to present some challenges for parents and carers, and other professionals as each service has its own eligibility criteria and access point.
- CWC Education, Public Health and CCG Commissioners are working together to align the commissioning cycles and decision-making processes for Education, Children's Community Health and Healthy Child Programme services.
- There are opportunities to strengthen the health service offer for children in special schools through the co-ordination of provision between Children's Community Nursing and School Nursing services.

- There is variation in the age range for which some services are available. This is seen particularly at the upper age limit with some services offering support up to 18 years and others up to 25 years.
- Children who attend school in Wolverhampton from out of area and have an EHCP remain the responsibility of their home authority and CCG. This presents a challenge for local SEND Community Health Services to proactively plan and deliver appropriate support.

Supporting independence

- Findings from the Health-Related Behaviours Survey highlight variation in self-reported experiences for children and young people across the city. These variations ranged from being more likely to have good emotional health and wellbeing to being more likely to report experiences of substance misuse and controlling relationships.
- Children and young people with SEND are significantly less likely to take up the local Free Swim offer. Self-reporting, staff recording, the bright, noisy environment, and limited awareness of the offer may have all contributed to this picture. When children with SEND do take up the offer, they appear to be more engaged, with a higher average number of swims per person than their peers of the same age.
- Limitations in Primary Care clinical reporting systems nationally and locally inhibit the ability of General Practices to understand their registered population of children and young people with SEND. This presents challenges when planning, providing and making reasonable adjustments within universal health services.
- Whilst uptake of Learning Disability health checks nationally and locally remains below the required levels set following the Learning Disability Mortality Review, there have been some positive improvements seen in Wolverhampton's most recent figures.
- In Wolverhampton, 85.8% of young people aged 16 and 17 with SEND were in education and training at the end of 2018. This is an improving picture compared to the previous year however remains lower than the proportion of young people with SEND in education or training at regional (91.0%) and national (88.6%) levels.
- Wolverhampton has a higher rate of adults aged 18-64 years with a learning disability in paid employment (6.7%) compared to the West Midlands (4.3%) and England (6.0%)
- The accommodation offer for adults aged 18-64 who have learning disabilities and receive long term support from the Local Authority requires improvement. The proportion of people in settled accommodation is significantly lower and unknown

accommodation status is far higher than that seen in national and regional comparisons.

Special education provision for children and young people with SEND

- City of Wolverhampton has eight special schools, 11 resource bases, four pupil referral units and 98 mainstream schools.
- Wolverhampton Special Schools are net importers of students which has implications for local education and SEND community health service provision; almost one in ten students educated in Wolverhampton special schools are from another local authority area.
- Sometimes it necessary to place local children with SEND in out of City or Independent provision to meet their needs. Understanding the characteristics of this cohort provides valuable information regarding gaps in local provision and supports the development of future commissioning priorities
- Wolverhampton's SEND cohort is dynamic; the local education estate must respond to changes in need in a timely fashion to ensure the sufficiency, efficiency and quality of provision available to children and young people with SEND.
- Adopting a pro-active and strategic approach to the planning of educational provision will enable students' needs to be met effectively and their potential to be fulfilled.

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Wolverhampton Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020



Wolverhampton
SEND Partnership Board

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Foreword from the Joint Chairs of SEND Partnership Board

Welcome to Wolverhampton's strategy for children and young people (0-25) with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

We are determined that children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Wolverhampton live in an inclusive city where we work together to support them and their families to lead a good quality 'ordinary life' and achieve their full potential. We believe that by working together with families and communities we will achieve this.

This strategy sets out the vision and priorities of the SEND Partnership Board's offer to children, young people and their families for the next 3 years. It also recognises and builds on our strengths and what works well for families.

The SEND Partnership Board is where senior representatives of key city partner organisations meet to provide strategic direction to improve the lives of children and young people with Special Educational Needs / Disabilities and champion their wish to live an 'ordinary life'.

We commit to ensuring that this strategy is owned at the highest level of every city partner organisation and stakeholder group within the Wolverhampton area, providing a strong basis for us to make the positive changes and improvements that we are all seeking.

The policy has been co-produced with all stakeholders, and sets out the duties of SEND Partnership Board. It will be delivered through an action plan that will be overseen by the Children and Families Together Board. We will review the strategy and action plan on an annual basis to ensure that we remain focused on the right things and improve outcomes for children and young people in Wolverhampton.

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the development of this strategy.



Emma Bennett
Director of Children's Services
City of Wolverhampton Council



Sally Roberts
Chief Nurse
Black Country and
West Birmingham CCGs

Introduction

All children and young people with a special educational need or a disability should have a good life. The Children and Families Act 2014 brought in fundamental changes in relation to SEND. In particular it aimed to:

- Get education, health and social care services working together
- Ensure accurate and useful information is available to children or young people with SEND and their families
- Give children and young people and their parents more of a say about the help they get; and
- Give children or young people one plan for meeting their education, health and care needs that focuses on and gives time for getting ready for adulthood.

Progress 2015-20

In 2015, we developed a five year SEND Strategy in response to the SEND reforms. Since then, Wolverhampton has made significant progress in realising the ambitions set out in our previous strategy and the aims of the Act. In particular:

- We have developed a strong and effective SEND partnership, with clear governance arrangements.
- We have worked hard to embed co-production as central to the way that we do things, leading to the launch of our Co-Production Charter.

- We worked together well to ensure the transfer of Statements to Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans was achieved on time through following a genuine transfer review process, ensuring EHC plans are focused on achieving meaningful outcomes.
- There are examples, particularly in the early years, of very effective, integrated, "Team around the Child" working that is highly valued by families.
- We have developed and continued to review and improve our Local Offer so that information is available in one place.
- The proportion of young people with SEND in education and training has been improving. There is a higher proportion of adults with a learning disability in paid employment than in the West Midlands, or England as a whole.

About this strategy

Wolverhampton's Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020 (the SEND Strategy) sets out the vision and key priorities that partners in the city, including parents and carers, children and young people, education, health, social care and voluntary sector agencies want to focus on to improve the lives of children and young people with SEND over the next three years. It has been developed by the SEND Partnership Board and demonstrates our commitment to making sure children and young people with SEND and their families have

an equal opportunity to achieve a good quality ordinary life. It supports our ten year Children, Young People and Families Plan which aims to improve the resilience, health and emotional wellbeing of children, young people and families in Wolverhampton.

The strategy has been developed in co-production with children and young people, their families and a range of professionals. It also draws upon data from:

- What families and young people said at the Spotlight on SEND event 2019
- What families said in the Voice 4 Parents Annual parent Survey 2019
- What families, young people and professionals said in the Citizen Lab events in 2019
- What children and young people said at the Real Talk event 2018.

In order to understand what we need to do and what our priorities for the strategy should be, we have drawn on a number of sources of information. These include:

- Wolverhampton's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for Children and Young People with SEND 2019
- The Children, Young People and Families Plan for Wolverhampton 2015-2025

- City of Wolverhampton Council Plan 2019-24
- Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group Community SEND Health Strategy 2019
- Wolverhampton Challenge Board's Ordinary Lives White paper 2017
- Recommendations from the Voice 4 Parents Annual Survey
- Recommendations from the Changing Our Lives Quality of Life Review 2020
- Recommendations from the Children's to Adults Services Case File Audit 2019
- Recommendations from JSNA 2019
- Recommendations from Short Breaks Review 2019
- Recommendations from Alternative Provision Review 2019
- Wolverhampton SEND Partnership Board Self-evaluation.

Our Challenges

We have seen a lot of progress over recent years, and there is much to celebrate in relation to SEND in Wolverhampton. Nevertheless, by listening to children, young people and their families, and by looking at information about how services are working in Wolverhampton, we know that there are important challenges that we need to address.

Families have told us that:

- Sometimes they have to wait too long to receive support and sometimes services don't work together well enough, so they have to tell their story again and again.
- The Local Offer is not widely enough known about or promoted by all services.
- There is still work to do in embedding person-centred planning and co-production so that children and families feel in control. Some young people do not feel they "own" their EHC plan.
- The support for children, especially those receiving SEN support in school is not always planned or coordinated in a consistent way.
- They worry about children and young people moving onto the next phase of their journey, and sometimes there is not good enough information-sharing, joint working or planning to prepare for this.
- They feel more support should be available to support mental health, including support that is appropriate for children and young people with a disability.
- They do not feel well enough supported in their roles as parents and carers.
- There is not enough awareness of hidden disabilities in some services, organisations and communities.

- Sometimes they have felt pressured to move their child into specialist education provision because it is "easier" or because staff have not had the right training.

Our data tell us that:

- We do not identify some types of need as early or as well as other areas.
- There is increasing demand for services, such as diagnostic assessments and EHC needs assessments, and sometimes these are not delivered quickly enough.
- Too many children, including those with SEND, are excluded from school or do not access their full educational entitlement.
- The proportion of young people with SEND aged 16-17 in education or training remains below national and regional levels.
- The proportion of adults with a learning disability who live in settled accommodation is significantly lower than in comparable areas.



We recognise that all children with SEND are individuals with aspirations to lead their own lives. While life for a child or young person with SEND and their family is anything but ordinary, the ordinary life principles are what extraordinary achievements are built on.

Wolverhampton's Challenge Board defines an 'ordinary life' as being valued as people first, as loving family members, as rebellious teenagers, as paid employees, as community leaders, as home owners and tenants, as neighbours, as friends and partners. An ordinary life means that young people with the label of 'SEND' are seen in society, are valued, and have active lives. They do not live in service land, hidden away from communities with other disabled people. They are not kept away from any risk, nor over-protected. An ordinary life has challenges and responsibilities. It's about taking risks, making mistakes, changing our minds and sometimes getting into trouble. An ordinary life is one where people are in control of their own lives and make their own choices about where to live, who to live with, who to have relationships with, where to work, how to spend their own money and what to do to both learn and have fun. Being in control of these things improves the quality of life for anyone.

Information about use of terms

What does SEN mean?

The term special educational needs is described in law in the Children and Families Act 2014 as:

- A child or young person has special educational needs if he or she has a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.
- A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she:
 - (a) has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or
 - (b) has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions.
- A child under compulsory school age has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she is likely to be within subsection (2) when of compulsory school age (or would be likely, if no special educational provision were made).
- A child or young person does not have a learning difficulty or disability solely because the language (or form of language) in which he or she is or will be taught is different from a language (or form of language) which is/or has been spoken at home.

What does disability mean?

Many children and young people who have SEN may also have a disability. A disability is described in law (the Equality Act 2010) as:

‘a physical or mental impairment which has a long-term (a year or more) and substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.’

This includes, for example, sensory impairments such as those that affect sight and hearing, and long-term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes or epilepsy. Many disabilities are hidden.



SEND in Wolverhampton

The Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) 2019 and complementary SEND Sufficiency Analysis were published in 2019. Together they provide a robust and timely summary of information regarding Wolverhampton's Children and Young People with SEND which have informed this strategy. The key findings are presented below:

Needs Analysis:

- In January 2019, there were 46,039 children and young people (across nursery to year 14) attending state schools in Wolverhampton. Of these, 7,834 were identified as having SEND; this equates to 17.02% of the school population or just over one in every six pupils.
- The number of pupils with SEND in the city has increased over the last three years (from 6,935 in January 2016 to 7,834 in January 2019).
- 1,365 pupils (2.96%) on roll in January 2019 were identified as having an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan and 6,469 pupils (14.05%) were identified as accessing SEN Support.
- The number of pupils with SEND varies in each phase and year group; 48.50% of pupils with an EHC Plan attending state schools in the city were in primary phase, 41.76% in secondary (Years 7-11), 8.13% in post 16 and just 1.61% in nursery.

- The total number of pupils with EHC Plans/Statements in Wolverhampton schools has fallen from its peak in 2014. However, since 2016 there has been a year on year increase in the total number of pupils with EHC Plan/Statement of SEN.
- In recent years, the number of children and young people with EHC Plan/Statement of SEN on roll in the nursery and post 16 phases have remained relatively static whilst those in the primary phase have increased markedly and those in the secondary phase have reduced significantly, but recently begun to recover.
- The total number of pupils accessing SEN Support fell between 2013 and 2016 but has recently increased to a peak in 2019.
- The number of pupils receiving SEN Support in the nursery phase peaked in 2018 but saw a sharp decline in 2019. The number of pupils receiving SEN Support in the primary phase reduced significantly between 2014 and 2015 but has since stabilised. The proportion of students receiving SEN support in the secondary phase has fluctuated, however since 2016 there has been a marked increase in cohort size. The number of pupils receiving SEN Support in the post 16 phase has recently increased to a peak in 2019.

- In January 2019, the most common identified primary needs of pupils with EHC plans were (in order of prevalence): autism spectrum disorder (ASD), severe learning difficulties (SLD), moderate learning difficulties (MLD), and social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) difficulties.
- In January 2019, the most prevalent identified primary needs of pupils accessing SEN Support were: MLD, SEMH, specific learning difficulties (SpLD), and speech, language and communication needs (SLCN).
- The identified prevalence of the primary needs of ASD, SEMH, SLCN and “other SEN” has increased in recent years.
- The identified prevalence of the primary needs of MLD, SLD, SpLD and profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD) has decreased in recent years.
- In January 2019, 87.58% of pupils (6,861 pupils) with SEND in Wolverhampton schools were educated within mainstream provision, whilst 12.42% (973 pupils) were being educated within either Special Schools or Pupil Referral Units.
- In January 2019, 35.53% of pupils (485 pupils) with EHCPs in Wolverhampton schools were educated within mainstream provision, whilst 64.47% (880 pupils) were being educated within either Special Schools or Pupil Referral Units.
- In January 2019, the vast majority (98.56%) of pupils (6,376 pupils) accessing SEN Support in Wolverhampton schools were educated within mainstream provision, whilst 1.44% (93 pupils) were being educated within either Special Schools or Pupil Referral Units.
- In April 2019, 15% of children and young people with Wolverhampton EHCPs attended out of city or independent schools.

Local Education Provision

- Wolverhampton has eight special schools, 11 resource bases, four pupil referral units and 98 mainstream schools all of whom provide support to pupils with SEND.



Future Needs

- The total number of pupils with SEND within Wolverhampton's schools are forecast to increase by 11.22% between 2018/19 and 2026/27
- The total number of nursery age pupils with SEND within Wolverhampton's schools are forecast to remain relatively static
- The total number of primary phase pupils with SEND within Wolverhampton's schools are forecast to peak in 2021/22 and then cohorts are expected to decrease
- The total number of secondary phase pupils with SEND within Wolverhampton's schools are forecast to increase by 23.78% between 2018/19 and 2026/27
- The total number of post 16 phase students with SEND within Wolverhampton's schools are forecast to increase by 39.12% between 2018/19 and 2026/27.

A video with key messages from the SEND Joint Strategic Needs Assessment can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/OHIQ4udwwcY>

For more information about SEND in Wolverhampton visit the SEND Local Offer:



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www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/localoffer

Our Partnership

The **SEND Partnership Board** brings together key stakeholders including: Voice 4 Parents, head teachers, leaders and service managers in education, health, social care, public health, commissioning, and the voluntary sector. The Board is responsible for providing strategic direction and supporting joint commissioning to improve the lives of children and young people with SEND. It works in partnership with the City of Wolverhampton Council, Wolverhampton CCG and wider co-production partners, to provide strategic oversight to:

- Identify all children and young people with SEND
- Assess and meet their needs
- Improve their outcomes.

The Board believes that children, young people and their families are best placed to shape the services and support they receive. It is committed to working with all stakeholders to co-design and co-produce solutions to create an inclusive future that changes lives: where disability does not define identity, expectations and aspirations are high, and ultimately where – with the right support – a good, ordinary life becomes a reality for all.

Wolverhampton Challenge Board is a strategic body for young people in the city to influence decision making at a strategic level. It has been developed and facilitated by Changing Our Lives. It aims to make sure that young people with the label of special educational needs and disabilities have good lives. The Board works with SEND Partnership Board members and a network of young people (including schools and colleges) around the city. The Board is not about consultation; it is about achieving outcomes.

In 2017 the Challenge Board published its first White Paper which was developed around the idea of an ‘ordinary life’. This emerged out of a desire from the Board to make a good, ordinary life a reality for all young people in the city.



Voice4Parents is Wolverhampton's parent carer forum, whose steering group representatives have children aged between 0 and 25 years with a wide range of special education needs and/or disabilities. It is the aim of the forum to ensure the voice of parents and carers in Wolverhampton remains at the heart of service planning and delivery and meets the needs of the community.

The forum exists to not only represent the voices of parents and carers living in Wolverhampton, but to work in partnership with service leads and commissioners to help shape the services and support accessed by the children and young people with SEND and their families who we represent.

Wider group membership of Voice4Parents is open to any parent or carer of a child/young person aged 0 to 25 years with SEND living in Wolverhampton. This enables Voice4Parents to gather and provide feedback on parent and carer experiences of a wide range of services in the city. Feedback is gathered through listening to parents and carers, attending events, social media, website, surveys, etc.

Our Vision and Priorities

Wolverhampton is an inclusive City where we work with children, young people, and their families with SEND so that they have a good quality ‘ordinary life’ and achieve their full potential.

This strategy signifies a commitment by all SEND Partnership Board partners to work together to achieve our vision and ensure that:

- Children, young people and their families are empowered and well supported
- Wolverhampton is an inclusive city
- Young people are well prepared for adulthood.

We believe that everything we do should be underpinned by:

- **Co-production** – we believe that young people and their families are best placed to shape the services and support that they receive
- **A highly skilled multi-agency workforce working together**
- **Aiming for a good quality ordinary life for all**
- **High expectations and aspirations** – creating and nurturing a culture which raises everyone’s expectations for children and young people with SEND to ensure ‘ordinary life’ outcomes
- **Tell it once** – embedding a culture of ‘tell it once’ so that children, young people and families don’t have to continually tell their story over and over again to different people and services
- **Joint commissioning** – working together to know ourselves, plan and deliver services that achieve real outcomes.

The strategy upholds the values behind Part 3 of the Children and Families Act, the SEND Code of Practice and the United Nations Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which state a commitment to inclusive education of disabled children and young people, and the progressive removal of barriers to learning and participation in mainstream education.



Co-production Charter for Children, Young People and Families

We will place children and families at the heart of everything we do and all work to deliver these priorities will be carried out in line with the principles and promises set out within the co-production charter for children, young people and families:

Co-Production Charter for Children, Young People and Families

This charter is a set of principles and promises of working together with young people and families to ensure they remain at the heart of decision making.

We believe that young people and their families are best placed to shape the services and support they receive.



City of Wolverhampton
Children & Families Together Board



We commit to delivering this promise using the following principles:



Trust

There will be no conversations about you without you
 We decide priorities together
 Together we will find the best solution



Shared understanding

We all agree about what we want to achieve
 We agree on what 'good' looks like
 We will be mindful of everyone's commitments



Equal partnership

Everyone can take part. Whatever their needs or abilities
 We can learn a lot from each other
 We are all in this together!



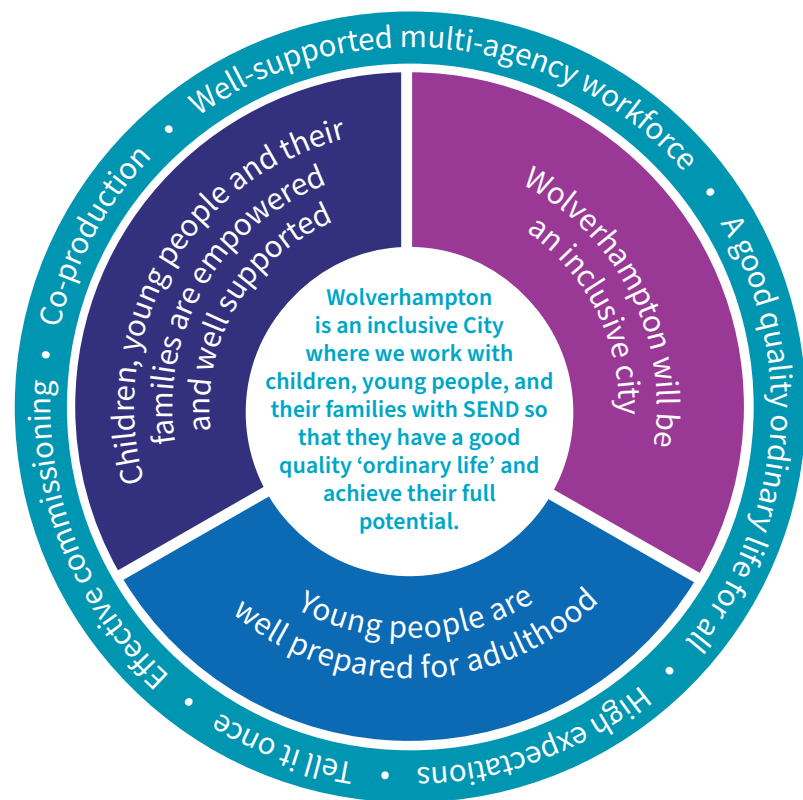
Creative thinking

We will plan creatively and do things differently
 We will work in a way that's best for you
 Finding the right solution may take longer but that's ok



Communication

Everyone will be kept informed and updated
 We will be clear about what we can and can't do
 Information will be accessible for everyone



Wolverhampton will be an inclusive city

This means that:

- Partners and businesses across the city promote understanding, celebrate diversity and remove barriers for children, young people with SEND and their families.
- Schools and educational settings are inclusive and provide a culture of belonging for all children and young people.
- Public services and spaces are accessible for all children and young people with SEND.
- Children and young people with SEND have a choice of accessible leisure activities locally.
- Families have a choice of local education and training provision, including mainstream provision, that is able to meet all of the child or young person's needs.
- Partners and businesses across the city provide meaningful employment opportunities that are available to young people with SEND.

Children, young people and their families are empowered and well supported

This means that:

- When children and young people have additional needs, we identify these quickly and put the right support in place.
- Children and young people with SEND have a clear plan of support to achieve agreed outcomes, developed through genuine co-production.
- When life changes for children and young people, we will plan, support and share information together throughout those transitions.
- When a child or young person has a need for support to lead a more independent life, families will have information about personal budgets.
- When a child or young person with a disability and their family need a short break from each other there will be high quality, local options available.
- When a child or young person needs it, mental health support will be available that is timely, effective, and accessible.
- When parents, carers or siblings of a child or young person with SEND need information, support or advice this will be available.

Young people are well prepared for adulthood

This means that:

- Children and young people with SEND and their families have opportunities and support to talk about and make plans for independent adult life, from a young age.
- When young people with SEND leave school/ college they can access meaningful employment or training.
- Young people with SEND and their families have access to information and advice about what support is required as they move into adult life.
- Children and young people have opportunities to spend time with friend outside of school and college, and to be involved in their community.
- Young people with SEND have support and housing options available to enable them to live independently when ready.
- Children and young people with SEND have information and support to maintain a healthy life and can access health support when needed.



How are we going to achieve this?

The SEND Partnership Board will oversee development and delivery of a comprehensive action plan that will focus on our three priorities and set out how we will achieve the outcomes that we have committed to. This Strategy sets the direction for SEND in Wolverhampton over the next five years, and over this time we will continually develop and refine our plans to achieve agreed outcomes.

Some of the key activities that will support the delivery of the SEND strategy include:

- Implementing a new system of allocating high needs funding to education settings that is based on children and young people's individual needs and helps to support inclusion.
- Planning to ensure the city's education estate meets the needs of all our children and young people.
- Improving processes for assessing and planning support for children with SEND that embed person-centred and joint working for SEND support and for those with an EHC plan.
- Setting up mental health support teams in schools and implementing the CAMHS Transformation Plan and the Emotional Wellbeing Review to improve access to mental health support services.
- Improving take up of two-year health checks.
- Supporting more children and young people with SEND to be able to travel independently.
- Improving the provision of short breaks.
- Developing the offer from Strengthening Families hubs to provide better early help to families of children and young people with SEND.
- Through the Transforming Care Programme improve support for children and young people with autism or a learning disability.
- Implement the Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group Community SEND Health Strategy 2019
- Roll out the use of health passports.
- Implement the Culture of Belonging programme to improve capacity in mainstream schools to become more inclusive and ensure the right support is available to pupils at risk of becoming disengaged from education.
- Review and improve the city's leisure offer for children and young people with SEND.
- Work with education providers and the Employment and Skills Board to improve availability of and access to inclusive employment pathways and opportunities.

How will we know if we are making a difference?

The SEND Partnership Board will monitor delivery of the SEND strategy to ensure that the actions taken make the expected difference, and report to the Children and Families Together Board regularly to be held accountable for progress.

We will publish action plans and performance indicators against which we can measure our success. These will be updated every half-term and published on the Wolverhampton Local Offer. This will enable us to hold each other to account for our joint work and share progress made in delivering made in delivering our SEND Strategy. This would include how the strategy relates to other relevant strategies such as:

- Our Council Plan
- School Accessibility Strategy
- Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group Community SEND Health Strategy 2019
- CAMHS Transformation Plan
- #YES (Youth Engagement Strategy).

We will create a range of regular opportunities to listen to children and young people with SEND and their families so that they can tell us what is working and what still needs to be improved. This will also be opportunities for new people to get involved in co-producing any improvements identified.

To become involved in making a difference, visit:

www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/localoffer-co-production

You can get this information in large print, braille,
audio or in another language by calling 01902 551155

wolverhampton.gov.uk 01902 551155

  WolverhamptonToday  Wolverhampton_Today  @WolvesCouncil

City of Wolverhampton Council, Civic Centre, St. Peter's Square, Wolverhampton WV1 1SH



Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel

11 November 2020

Report title	WST Safeguarding Annual Report 2019 / 2020	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor John Reynolds	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services	
Originating service	Children's Services	
Accountable employees	Andrew Wolverson	Head of Children's Strategy and Partnerships
	Tel	01902 555534
	Email	Andrew.wolverson@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Report has been considered by

Recommendations for action:

The Scrutiny Panel is recommended to:

1. Note the progress in implementing the new partnership arrangement
2. Provide comment on the attached draft report

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Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together

WST Safeguarding Annual Report 2019 / 2020 – v1.18

Vicky Murphy, v1.18



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[AWAITING SUITABLE WOLVERHAMPTON PLACE IMAGERY ONCE DRAFT
AGREED]

Draft



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Relevant Partner slide –

[The slide below states all the Relevant Partners for WST, including the statutory partners (CWC, WMP, WCCG).



WEST
MIDLANDS
POLICE



All the organisations stated below require their graphic logo images to be added

All Partner Organisation
Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together
Wolverhampton CCG
West Midlands Fire Service
West Midlands Police
The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust
National Probation Service
Health Watch Wolverhampton
Black Country Healthcare NHS FT (MH / LD)
City of Wolverhampton Council, Adult Social Care
City of Wolverhampton Council, Children Services
VSC
Wolverhampton Homes
West Midlands Ambulance Service University NHS FT
City of Wolverhampton Council, Children Services



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CONTACT US – WE’RE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU

Safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk is everyone’s responsibility.

If you are worried about someone or yourself, please talk to us. You can get help in any of these ways.

Children and young people:

If you or the person you are concerned about is under 18 (a child or young person): • Ring the Children Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Team below on:

• **Children Safeguarding concerns** - Tel: **01902 555392** (Mon-Thurs 8:30am - 5pm {4:30pm on Fridays}) or **01902 552999** (out of hours)

If you don’t want to talk to someone you don’t know, you can ask an adult that you trust, like a teacher or youth worker or even a friend, to make the phone call for you.

Adults:

If you or the person you are concerned about is over 18 (an adult at risk) you can call anonymously on the Adult Safeguarding line below: In an emergency, always call 999.

Adult Safeguarding Concerns - Tel: **01902 551199** (Mon-Thurs 8:30am - 5pm {4:30pm on Fridays}) or **01902 552999** (out of hours)

There is also helpful information on the Wolverhampton Safety Together (WST) website. Go to:

<https://www.wolverhamptonsafeguarding.org.uk/>



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FORWARD FROM THE CHAIR OF THE WOLVERHAMPTON SAFEGUARDING TOGETHER EXECUTIVE GROUP

[Picture of Sally Roberts]

“It gives me the greatest pleasure to write to you as the Chair of the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together (WST) Executive Group, helping to keep all our citizens in Wolverhampton safe.

This is the first year that our two Boards – Children’s Safeguarding Board and Adults Safeguarding Board – has reported as one entity as *Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together* in order to meet our statutory requirements under the *Working Together 2018* statutory guidance for Children’s Safeguarding and the Care Act 2014 for Adult safeguarding.

I wanted to give everyone a warm welcome and in particular our safeguarding partners to thank them for all their hard work evidenced throughout our annual report during the year under review.

Our report provides clear evidence of sustained strong partnership working across the agencies that work in Wolverhampton and I also wanted to go on record and state that we believe that a great many benefits have accrued from our new arrangement, including improved information exchange between all our safeguarding partners within children and adults, which I believe will ultimately improve outcomes for everyone. This has been an ongoing theme for the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Boards and we continue to strengthen these arrangements; we have active engagement within the wider community and ‘experts by experience’ through the Community and Engagement group to ensure the voice of children, families and vulnerable adults are heard.

The work of *One Panel* has developed very well and we should recognise the challenges and movement from the original three groups, including Serious Adult Reviews (SAR) and Serious Childrens Review (SCR) sub groups to one panel, which has been significant and not without challenge. This is now reflected in the review of cases across the whole life cycle and system; there is a greater flow of children and adult safeguarding intelligence shared between all partners.

It is also important to recognise that our business critical functions have still been maintained during Covid; as well as a robust and rapid response from partners across the system to respond to the challenges that Covid has provided, we have still maintained a clear line of sight on Safeguarding practice which has allowed us to identify any immediate risks rapidly.

During the period under review, we have launched the Wolverhampton Neglect Strategy for Children and Young People (CYP) 2019 – 2022. In addition, our communication to partners has been strengthened; we have published a number of newsletters, launched our new WST website as well as other social media communication messages, within which the *WeCAN* tool is embedded to be used as the Neglect assessment tool across the City.

We have incorporated Black Lives Matter (BLM) values and ethics within our practice; there is no better time for us all to reflect internally on our beliefs and behaviours towards inherent inequalities and systemic racism that we may perceive or experience within our personal and / or professional



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lives here in Wolverhampton. We champion and continue to shape a diverse health and social care workforce within our City as well as ensuring support offered to those in receipt of our services making them bespoke and tailored to individual need. We will do everything possible to continue to expose and eradicate systemic racism.

Finally, in order to further solidify our new Safeguarding partnership arrangements, we have recently commissioned an experienced independent safeguarding scrutineer to review our Scrutiny and Assurance Board and highlight any governance improvement opportunities.

Sally Roberts
Chair,
Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together Executive Group

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[Insert picture of Vicky Murphy)

Statement from the Independent Scrutineer

I have been commissioned as WST's independent scrutineer, which includes writing the Annual Joint Safeguarding Report 2019 / 2020. I am an experienced qualified social worker, with over 25 years' experience in both Health and Social Care, with a strong focus on Safeguarding and scrutiny and assurance. Working independently for the last 15 years in a series of senior management roles, both regionally and at a national level.

Independent scrutiny is a statutory requirement under the *Working Together 2018 Act* for Children's services, designed to provide assurance internally to partners and relevant agencies, their governing and scrutiny bodies; and externally, to the DfE, Ofsted, the CQC, HMICFRS, HMIP, and other inspectors auditors or regulators.

Working Together 2018 is clear that mutual holding to account, support and challenge is how the statutory partners and relevant agencies must operate, ensuring the partnership and its impacts are clear, co-owned, and contribute to progressively improving children and young people's lives. Wolverhampton Safeguarding Partnership have chosen to use a range of independent scrutiny methods to provide assurance.

As the Independent Scrutineer, I have been commissioned to complete the following key areas:

- a) **Author the annual joint safeguarding annual report 2019 / 2020**
- b) **Plan and facilitate WST's Annual Events:** effective planning and coordination of the twice-yearly annual events. Which have two themes: 1) Reflection on implementing the new partnership arrangements and priorities 2) holding agencies to account on achieving priorities.
- c) **Complete a 360-partnership appraisal** – The appraisal will need to be relevant to the point in time the partnership is at. It should include all areas of governance and our commitment to 'Experts by Experience'.
- d) **Develop a maturity model:** a framework that will allow WST to benchmark our partnership and its collaborative working in achieving priorities against a level of maturity

Currently, I am at the very earliest stages of my commissioned work but a large part of my focus will be on the work of the Executive Group and Scrutiny & Assurance Co-ordination Group to ensure sufficient data and feedback is available to allow the partnership to demonstrate whether priorities have been achieved.

Vicky Murphy, Independent Scrutineer, Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together



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Wolverhampton at a Glance [Suitable Wolverhampton imagery required]

The Council recognises the diversity of the people and the communities of the district and is committed to working with our partners and the district's many communities to understand and meet the needs of individuals and communities and improve their opportunities, wellbeing and ability to live together productively. This is done by building closer links with everyone and using our influence within the local community by giving a lead to other employers, partners and other local agencies to promote equalities.

***Population of Wolverhampton**

262,008

Children and Young People (0 – 17 years)

61,244 (23.37%)

**** Education**

2 Infant Schools

2 Junior Schools

68 Primary Schools

20 Secondary Schools

3 Independent Schools

***There are more children in the care of the Council (110.6 per 10k, 62 per 10k in England)

Adults Aged 18 – 64

157,318 (60.04%)

Adults Aged 65+

43,446 (16.58%)

***In 2018-19, 817 per 100,000 of over 65s had permanent placements in residential or nursing care

*Source <https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/ageing-population-estimates/editions/time-series/versions/3> (June 2020)

**Source <https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/education-and-schools/schools-list> (October 2020)

***Source <https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2019-11/Public%20Health%20Annual%20Report%202019.pdf>; page 9; 21.



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Introduction

Ensuring that children, young people and adults are safeguarded from abuse and neglect is everyone's responsibility. In Wolverhampton this is achieved through a co-ordinated approach to safeguarding. As a result of agencies working collaboratively across both the children's and adult's workforce, professionals will recognise and fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities. This document sets out the Wolverhampton children's and adults multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. The arrangements accentuate the need for agencies to work collectively to ensure that children and adults are safeguarded and remain at the heart of the multi-agency safeguarding processes.

Legislative Context

Our report covers the period 1 April 2019 until 31 March 2020

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 confirms that the three statutory safeguarding partners in relation to a local authority area are defined in the *Children and Social Work Act 2017* as the:

- Local Authority
- Clinical Commissioning Group
- Chief officer of Police

The three statutory partners have a shared and equal duty to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area. The *Children and Social Work Act 2017* has provided partners in Wolverhampton with a unique opportunity to develop new partnership safeguarding arrangements.

The move to abolish Local Safeguarding Children Boards arising from this Act, changing structures and working arrangements in partner agencies and the ongoing demands on resources, have made it essential to look at the Local Safeguarding Board Governance arrangements across Wolverhampton.

The Care Act 2014 also established the need to have Safeguarding Adult Boards in each local authority Area. The Act confirmed that the three statutory safeguarding partners should be:

- Local Authority
- Clinical Commissioning Group
- Chief Officer of Police.



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Leadership and Governance – Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together

The revised governance arrangements build on the knowledge and learning arising from both the Local Safeguarding Children Board and the Safeguarding Adults Board.

The arrangements will continue to scrutinise and monitor safeguarding practice but also seek to produce accessible learning for both practitioners and senior managers from the themes and trends arising from increased quality assurance activity. The new arrangements seek to bring together the three statutory safeguarding partners (Health (CCG), Police and Local Authority) to form an Executive Group – Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together (WST)

Membership of the Executive Group will consist of senior officers from the three statutory partners plus Education and will look at both adults and children's safeguarding. The Executive Safeguarding Partnership Group is the overarching Wolverhampton governance board for both the children's safeguarding agenda and adults safeguarding agenda and is a high level, strategic board that will primarily focus on safeguarding systems performance and resourcing. This Board will have the statutory accountability for safeguarding in the Wolverhampton area.

Bringing together adults and children's safeguarding will ensure that safeguarding issues can be looked at holistically in a "think family approach" and will also provide a forum for transitional arrangements to be discussed and agreed.

The Scrutiny and Assurance Co-ordination Group sit below the Executive Group and are responsible for progressing the Executive Group's business priorities through the strategic plan. Under the Care Act 2014, this is WST's statutory Adult Safeguarding Board. Here, they authorise the policy, process, strategy and guidance required to support the Executive Group priorities and effective safeguarding.

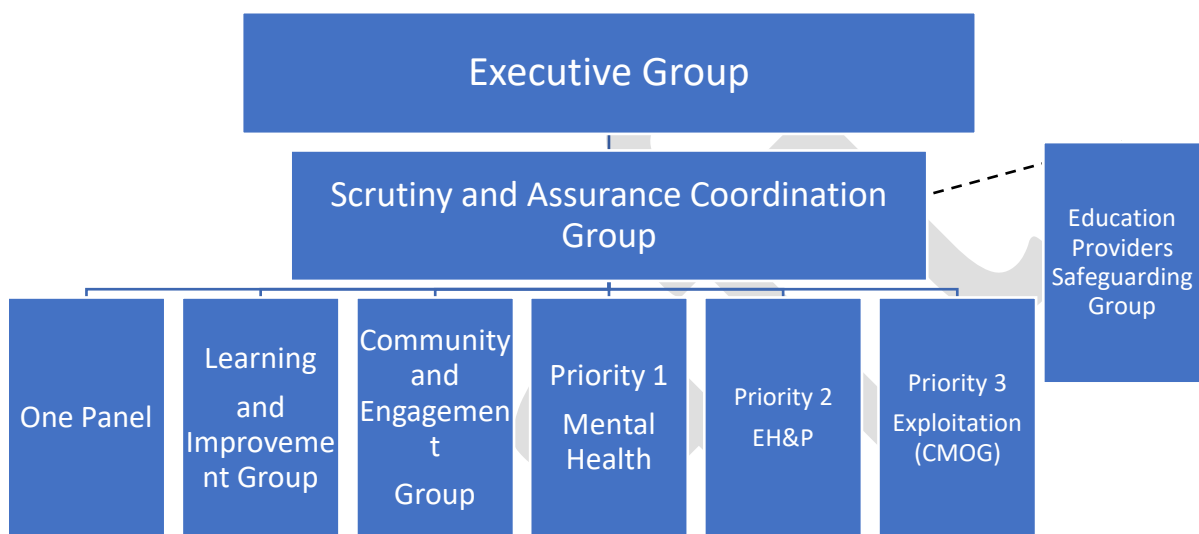
The Scrutiny and Assurance Co-ordination group have wider partner membership to include probation, health providers, education, voluntary sector (including faith communities) and housing. Below the Executive Group and the Scrutiny and Assurance Co-ordination Group are a range of sub groups and task and finish group(s). These groups are responsible for a range of areas, including policies, training, consultation and quality assurance.

To be at its most effective, the process also requires input from children/young people, those adults in need of help and protection and frontline practitioners. These views could be gathered via a range of activities including surveys, consultation with focus groups and invitation(s) to sub groups.



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[FLOW CHART OF THE WST GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE – GRAPHICS TEAM TO UPDATE]





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KEY ACHIEVEMENTS FOR WST Safeguarding Partnership – 2019 / 2020

- 1) Reduced the size of the Executive Group to just the statutory partners with education also represented.
- 2) Replaced the Board with a Scrutiny and Assurance Coordination Group (SACG) who strategically guide the work of WST and ensure the partnership remains focused on sharing, learning and protecting the most vulnerable. This group also report directly to the Executive Group with open communication channels for both communication and escalation readily available.
- 3) Consolidation of groups / standing groups from ten to six groups with one further provider group. Each group has a work plan aiming to deliver our priorities set out in the WST Strategic plan including Early Help and Prevention; Mental Health; Exploitation; Community and Engagement; Learning and Improvement and *One Panel* (statutory learning reviews). The provider group focuses on safeguarding in education represented across a number of settings. Additionally, SACG has the ability to put together a task and finish group which allows WST to focus temporarily on areas of concern(s) and which can be closed off once this group has completed its work.
- 4) We have replaced our Independent Chair with the Chief Nursing Officer for the Black Country and West Birmingham's Clinical Commissioning Groups (BCWB CCG), one of our core statutory partners.
- 5) Commissioned an Independent Scrutineer to carry out a full appraisal of the new arrangements, including amongst other things, an in-depth review of the Scrutiny and Assurance Co-ordination Group and plan and deliver the partnership's maiden Annual Event scheduled for early next year (Quarter 1, 2021). This event will hold all our partner colleagues to report on their safeguarding responsibilities, providing evidence on how constructive changes in safeguarding practice following learning reviews have been implemented.
- 6) Created and approved a mandate that recognises what is required by a Task and Finish effort to develop WST's 'experts by experience' approach, building on the City of Wolverhampton Co-production and Engagement Charter.
- 7) Created a SACG standing item agenda for *experts by experience* feedback whereby the partnership can hear and learn from the views of those with lived experience of safeguarding services.



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- 8) We have launched the Wolverhampton Neglect Strategy for Children and Young People (CYP) 2019 – 2022

- 9) Strengthened our communication to partners including the launch of a new website - <https://www.wolverhamptonsafeguarding.org.uk/>; and published a number of newsletters.

- 10) Fulfilled its statutory duty of receiving and appropriately progressing safeguarding referrals through its *One Panel* function.

- 11) Arranged and held an annual social work conference event for the children's and adult's workforce based on the theme of Human Rights and Exploitation. The key note speaker was Jaswinder Sanghera CBE (Founder of *Karma Nirvana*, an award winning charity) who talked about Forced marriage and Honour Based violence. 232 people attended the conference and the feedback from attendees was very positive.

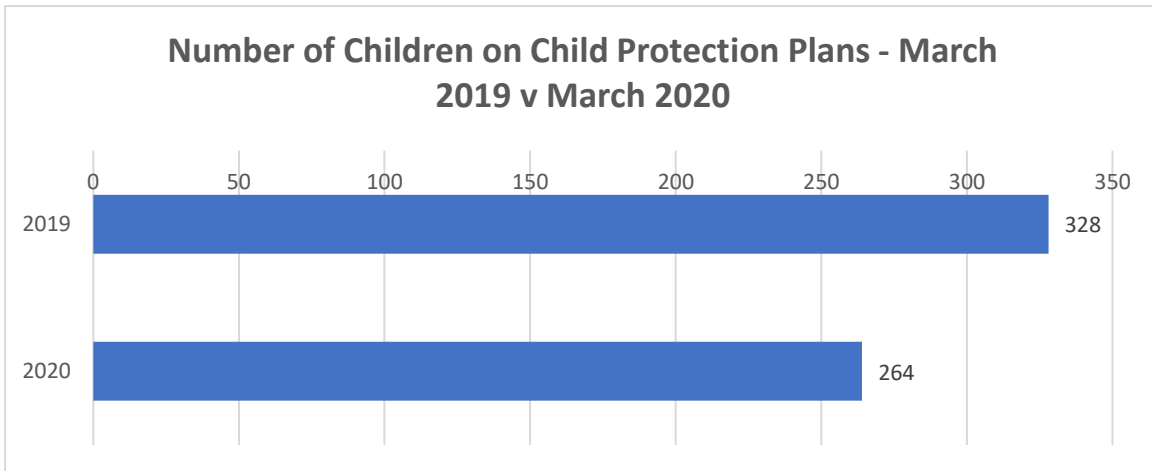


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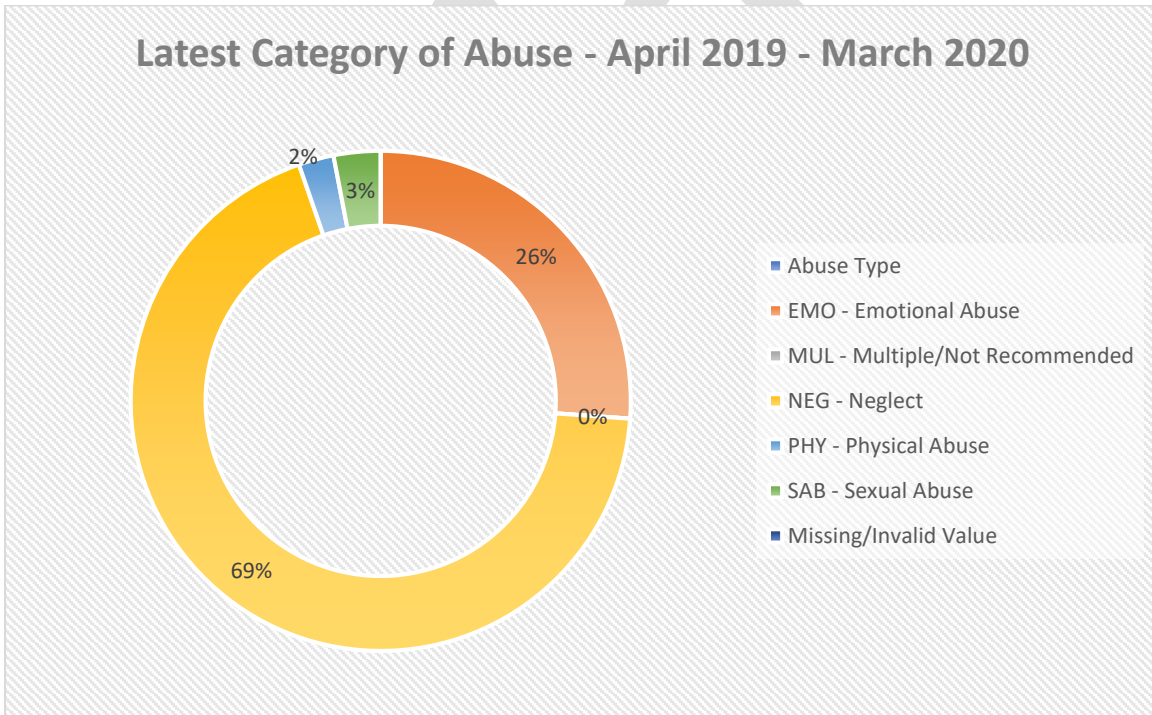
Protect - Children and Young Adults (1) – Safeguarding in numbers

No of children on Child Protection Plans – Comparison March 2019 v’s March 2020

There has been an approximate 20% reduction in number of children on Child Protection Plans in 2020 versus 2019 or 64 cases.



Child Protection plans by category of abuse

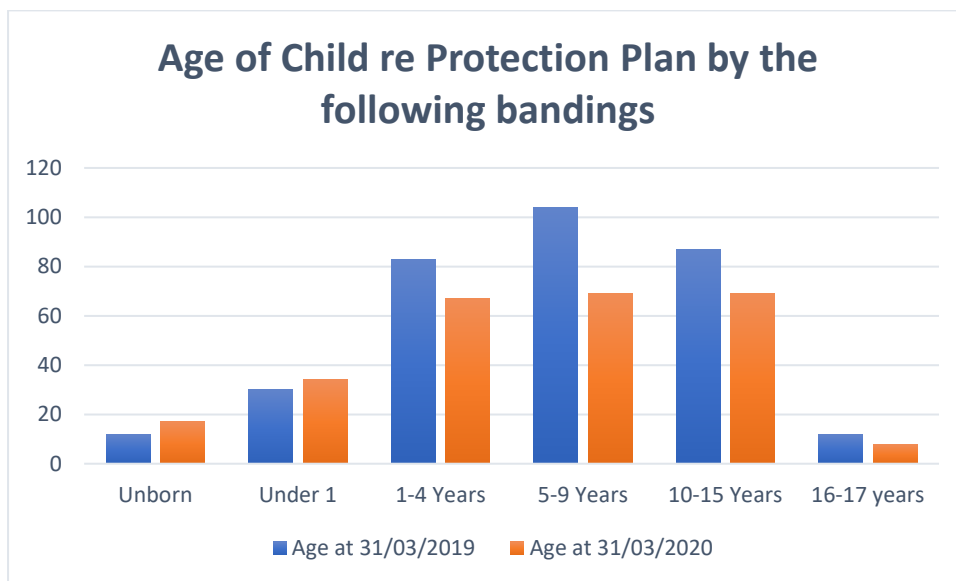




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Protect Children and Young Adults (2) – Safeguarding in numbers

Age of Child re Protection Plan by the following bandings



Child Protection

Following work completed around the timeliness of ICPC's (Initial Child Protection Conference), the performance in this area has improved and remained consistently high, achieving 100% of timeliness rates for a number of months, increasing the overall performance across the year.

Further improvements were made to the Child Protection Conference process, where there is now a dedicated section to capture the child's views. This approach has been well received by families and partner agencies and has increased the quality of information shared at Conference and the impact focus of Child Protection Plans.

Children's participation in Conferences has steadily increased, even when children have chosen not to attend, there is evidence to show that more are being asked if they wish to attend, or how best to share their views. There is more evidence of creative work being undertaken by Social Workers to share written and drawn views of children.

The Safeguarding Service continue to obtain written feedback following every Child Protection Conference from parents, the Social Worker and partner-agencies. The feedback obtained remains consistently very good. The feedback process has now moved onto an electronic system which allows for better data analysis.

- The IRO (Independent Reviewing Officer) /CP (Child Protection) Chair Team are fully staffed and increasingly experienced.



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- The IRO Team continue to use the Quality Assurance and Dispute Resolution system to monitor the performance of the Local Authority, and the application of these systems has been used more robustly and consistently. The IROs also issued 44 Good/Excellent Practice Notifications to celebrate where Social Worker's have 'gone the extra mile' and made a difference to Children in Care and Children subject to Child Protection Plans.
- The IRO/CP Service received no formal complaints and 13 compliments during 2019-2020.

Children in Care

- IRO Children in Care caseloads have reduced, meaning there has been opportunities to continue with service and practice development.
- 97% of Children In Care Reviews were completed in timescale, an increase on the previous year's performance
- 92% of children participated in their Child in Care Review, remaining consistently high
- 69% of parents participated in their children's Reviews; this is satisfactory given some parents are excluded due to their whereabouts being unknown or otherwise excluded from participating for a valid reason.
- A pilot was carried out during May/June 2019 to trial a new approach to conducting Children in Care Reviews, with a view to increasing child participation. The Pilot was successful and the approach has been approved for full roll-out, scheduled to be completed during Autumn/Winter 2020
- New consultation forms were designed with the Children in Care Council and are now being used for Children's Reviews. Further work is underway to develop resources and tools for Children's Reviews in line with the Project roll-out
- The IROs are now writing their Review Records to the child, using language that is relatable and child friendly.



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Learning from Reviews and Data

Practice reviews

Children:

The responsibility for how the system learns lessons from serious child safeguarding incidents lies at a national level with the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and at a local level with the safeguarding partners. Serious child safeguarding cases are those in which:

- a) Abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected.
- b) The child has died or been seriously injured.

Adults:

The Care Act 2014 statutory guidance describes when a safeguarding adult review should be undertaken:

- a) When an adult in its area dies as a result of abuse or neglect, whether known or suspected, and there is concern that partner agencies could have worked more effectively to protect the adult.
- b) if an adult in its area has not died, but the Scrutiny and Assurance Co-ordination Group knows or suspects that the adult has experienced serious abuse or neglect.

Overview

During the reporting period under review, there were two (2) Serious Case Reviews (SCR's) – Child N and Child K - and two (2) Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR's) – Adult C and 'Edith'.

Further details of the cases are available by following the link below:

Children

<https://www.wolverhamptonsafeguarding.org.uk/safeguarding-children-and-young-people/wolverhampton-safeguarding-children-together/serious-case-reviews>

Adults

<https://www.wolverhamptonsafeguarding.org.uk/safeguarding-adults/wolverhampton-safeguarding-adults-together/serious-cases-dhrs-sars>



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Themes and Learning

Lesson Learnt	WST Response
<p>Adults - Edith; Escalation of Concerns; There were no agreed multi-agency procedures in place for professionals to meet to share information, and formulate multi-agency support, unless these met the criteria for being considered under the formal adult safeguarding procedures.</p>	<p>Monthly multi-disciplinary meetings are now taking place in each district with a core membership of social care staff, district nurses and the community matron. WST now seeks assurance from the relevant statutory partners that they are satisfied that agencies are applying robust systems and processes to maintain up to date information about a service user's GP, and contact numbers / email addresses for family members or informal carers to be contacted when circumstances require this</p>
<p>Adults - Edith; Professionals to be able to recognise and respond to the possibility of coercive control, particularly when it is hidden, and its potential impairment on a person's mental capacity when making decisions about their care and treatment which includes controlling and coercive behaviour.</p>	<p>WST and the Safer Wolverhampton Partnership should seek assurance from its statutory partners that across the partnerships that: a. Professionals are equipped, through guidance and training, to recognise the indicators of possible coercive control and where this may be affecting a person's ability to make significant decisions such as those about their care and treatment b. There are quality assurance processes in place to support effective and consistent practice in the use of trigger questions and the multi-agency risk assessment tool for cases involving domestic abuse</p>
<p>Adults – Adult C; Adult C had been known to NHS Mental Health Services for many years. In the material that was gathered for the review, that the diagnosis of Adult C's mental health issues was not well understood and communicated to all those that were offering care and support. It is recorded by all agencies that Adult C had a diagnosis of epilepsy. It was also noted that Adult C had schizophrenia which in fact, was incorrect.</p>	<p>When Safeguarding boards are scoping cases that are referred for a SAR, it is crucial that factual accuracy is assessed. Agencies who hold information that may appear to contradict facts within a referral should update the board in order that decision making can be effective and terms of reference robust.</p>
<p>Child K - Family members had concerns about Great Uncle's mental health and they sought help on four occasions. Contact was again made with professionals on the evening of Child K's death due to concerns about Great</p>	<p>Agencies should seek to understand the impact of a relative's (or a regular visitor's) mental health on the circumstances within a household where a child or vulnerable adult is present,</p>



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<p>Uncle. He hadn't slept for 72 hours and was clearly unwell.</p>	<p>particularly if their mental health doesn't improve or gets worse.</p>
<p>Child N; The use of working agreements by the social worker was a feature of this case. Both parents and the child signed an agreement detailing expectations. The use of working agreements is widespread in social work practice, but the effectiveness of them is questionable; too often, as with Child N, children, young people and their families are not actively engaged in the development of them</p>	<p>The use of instructions and restrictions in working agreements for a child, young person and their family are not helpful in enabling them to make changes unless they are actively involved in developing them.</p>

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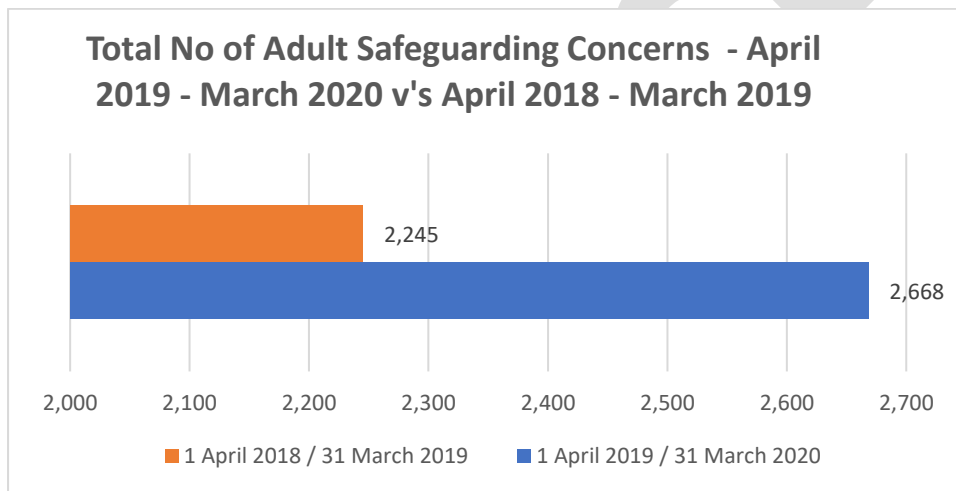
Protect - Adult Social Care - Assurance Data (1)

For context, it is important to state that that we always follos the six (6) guiding principles of safeguarding as defined by the Care Act 2014

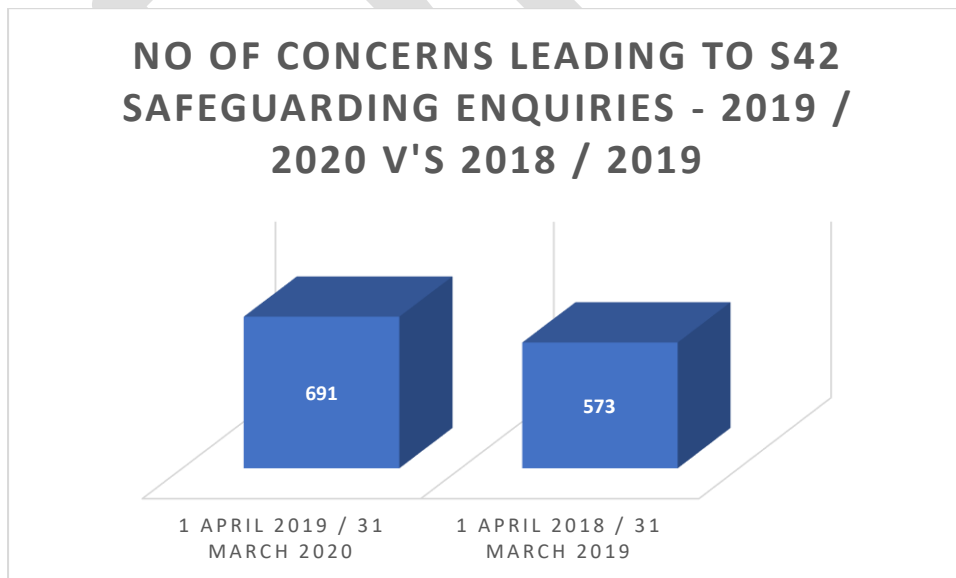
www.anncrafttrust.org/resources/six-principles-adult-safeguarding/

During the year under review, there was an 18.84% (or 423) increase in concerns registered with the City of Wolverhampton Adult Social Care v's 2018 / 2019. This could be partly explained due to increased attendance at numerous safeguarding training events across the City.

Total number of Safeguarding Concerns – 2020 v's 2019



Of these, 691 led to s42 enquiries which equate to a 20.59% increase against the previous period.

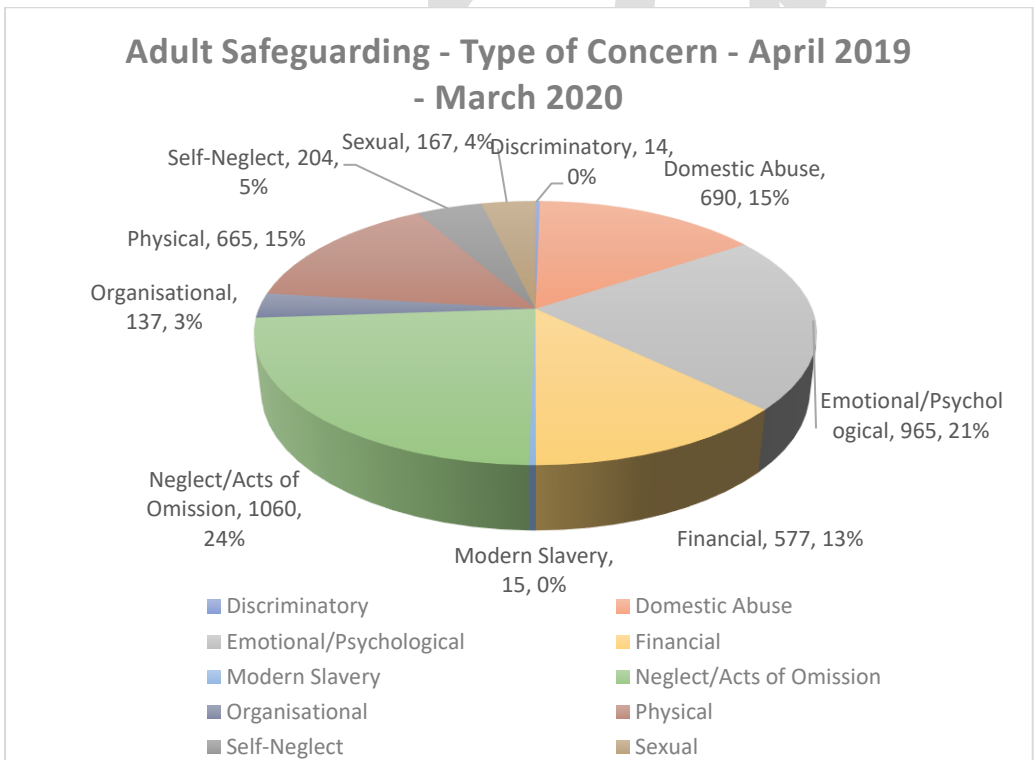
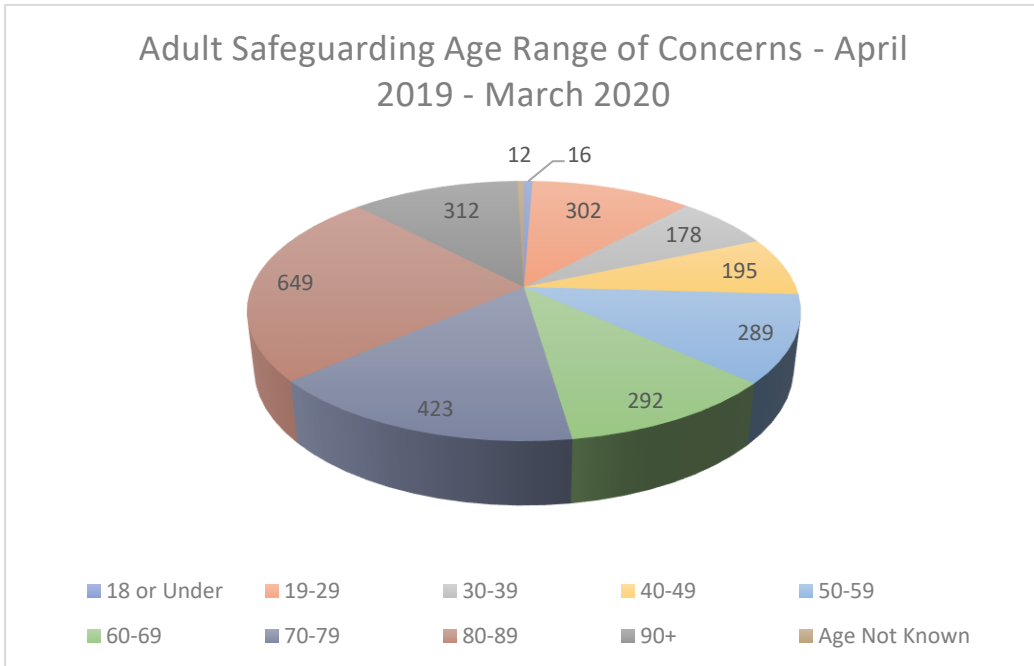




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Protect - Adult Social Care - Assurance Data (2)

The age range bandings re concerns

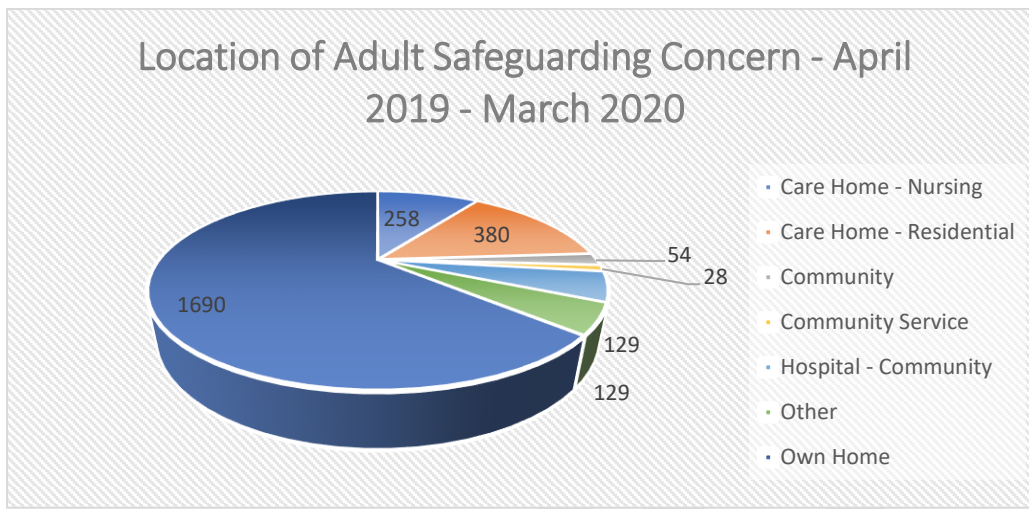




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Protect - Adult Social Care - Assurance Data (3)

Location of concern





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Protect People at Risk – Making Safeguarding Personal - MASH

The MASH (Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub) incorporates Adult and Children’s Services in a central hub. The driver for this is to:

- Promote a more consistent approach to risk management and positive risk-taking alongside achieving desired outcomes
- Implement a whole family safeguarding approach

This year there has been a focus on multi-agency working and working with the Social Work teams in line with the *3 Conversations model*:



Story of difference – 3 Conversations and Making Safeguarding Personal (Case Study)

Following a safeguarding concern from West Midlands police with regard to N and her adult son, the MASH made contact with N. N’s elderly father also lived in the family home. N had reported to police that she has been physically, financially and verbally abused by her son, A, for the past 10 years. A was described as having mental health needs and when the MASH social worker asked N about her desired outcomes, she reported that all she wanted was for A to have support with his mental health. The MASH liaised with all of the relevant partner agencies (i.e. Police, Penn Hospital, etc.) and connected to MARAC where it was again made clear that N’s desired outcome was to get help for A. It is also known that A witnessed domestic abuse between his parents when he was a child, although his father has not lived in the family home for many years.

A was arrested but N refused to make a statement. Therefore, he was released without charge. With A’s permission, the MASH social worker asked the Mental Health social worker to make contact with A. This contact was made the following day whereas prior to *3 Conversations*, A might have been placed on a waiting list and not spoken to anyone for some time.

A was very keen to be supported to move into his own accommodation and displayed insight into his behaviour toward his mother. He expressed appreciation to the Mental Health Social Worker for not being patronising, as he felt other people/agencies had not been as attentive to his feelings and what he felt would help him to stop harming his mother.

Supporting the wishes and needs of both N and A, A was supported to move out of the family home and into supported living with the goal of helping him to change his behaviour and take control of his life. N was connected to the Carer Support Team who completed a Carer’s Conversation and given advice and support.

The multi-Agency response from the Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA), Police, Mental Health, Adult Social Care, GP, Carer Support Team, and MARAC helped to secure positive outcomes for all concerned. A is now getting the help and support he needs and feels listened to for



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the first time. N has since reported that she is able to keep herself safe and said “I feel like me for the first time in a while.” She also said that she now knows how to get support and where to go in order to keep safe. N will have an annual Carer’s Conversation to make sure that she and her father have all of the support they require.

Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) has been consistently well evidenced in the adult social care file audits in 2019-2020 and demonstrates MSP is well embedded into frontline safeguarding practice:

Quarter	Number of files where MSP was evidenced	Number of files audited for MSP
1	5	5
2	8	9
3	6	6
4*	2	2

* There were fewer audits in Q4 due to Covid-19

Modern Slavery

CWC received a total of 15 safeguarding concerns regarding Modern Slavery between 1st April 2019 and 31 March 2020. Of these concerns, 7 were assessed as having no risk identified (i.e. no evidence of modern slavery); 1 concern did not occur in Wolverhampton; 2 Risk identified and risk remains; 2 Risk identified and risk removed; 2 Risk inconclusive; 1 not enough information for risk to be identified.



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Safeguarding Training

Safeguarding is only as effective as the training that we provide to our safeguarding professionals and partners across our system. WST is extremely proactive with regards to our safeguarding training offerings and we have provided a great many courses. During the year under review, we have held 67 types of safeguarding training.

Whilst outside the period under review, we felt it important to state that all safeguarding courses which were due to take place in April and May 2020 during lockdown were cancelled but that we rebuilt training capability for the following period; all core safeguarding lead training was rescheduled to take place online via *Teams*. This included *A Shared Responsibility, Working Together, Thresholds to Support, Managing Allegations* and *Safer Recruitment*. Course content was adapted to work for online delivery.

Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum have also supported the WST partnership by providing free of charge online delivery of Rape and Sexual Violence, Domestic Violence, coercive control and Stalking, Modern slavery and 'Honour'-Based Violence, Forced Marriage & FGM safeguarding training.

We have reduced the number of places on the online facility training initially to 10-15 but now increased to 20, to enable the trainers and delegates to adjust to the new delivery method - face to face training is usually for up to 32 delegates.

Every effort has been made to make the training as interactive as possible during online delivery. Despite fears that it would dilute the opportunity for sharing of views and a true multi-agency discussion, evaluation shows that the training has been well received with positive feedback from participants.

WST's current plan is to continue offering safeguarding training online until at least February 2021 and this will be reviewed in line with government recommendations.

- Wolverhampton IRO/CP Chair Team continued to host and attend regional IRO Practice Share meetings to work together on shared regional practice aims in line with National IRO priorities
- The Safeguarding Service delivered training to IROs and Social Workers (in the Children in Care, Transitions, Children and Young People with Disabilities and Fostering Teams) to support the roll-out of the Children in Care Review project.
- The Safeguarding Service have continued to deliver Best Practice for Child Protection Conferences and Child in Care Reviews to the Social Work Teams on a quarterly basis.
- The CP Conference Chairs now deliver training for best practice in Child Protection Conferences to multi-agency partners on a Quarterly basis. As this training programme continues, it is hoped that consistency will be achieved across partner agencies in their



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understanding of the approach to our Conferences in Wolverhampton and preparation for the meeting.

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WST Priorities for 2020 – 2021

Ambitions and Priorities moving forward into 2020/2021:

Key Themes and Priorities for 2020/2021:

- Continue to embed and strengthen the new WST arrangements; we will look to implement any recommendations made following the commissioning of the independent scrutineer.
- Improved-multi-agency working across partnership priorities and learning themes
- Implement and embed the *expert by experience* / participation of children and adults knowledge in terms of our Safeguarding eco system to improve our responses and thus make vulnerable people safer.
- Implement a Quality Assurance framework by seeking assurance of WST's safeguarding practice through multi agency audits / cross agency visits, capturing what difference(s) we have made and how we can improve our response(s)
- Widen learning and development opportunities following the feedback on the current face to face training offer undertaken by our workforce
- Following review of Contextual safeguarding across Wolverhampton, recommendations will need to be implemented.



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Future Considerations

- The Board will continue to develop and strengthen its governance arrangements. Additionally, in the context of the COVID crisis, particularly the changes in relation to social distancing, client interactions, remote working and online meetings, it is important to maintain the focus on systems and processes.
- Ensuring the delivery of safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk of neglect or abuse in both a post-COVID or continuing-COVID environment.
- To progress and develop in the wider context of safeguarding children, young people and Adults by making links with key areas of safeguarding developments including the continuing focus on '*think family*' as well as other important areas including contextual safeguarding and transitions.

Executive Summary

This report demonstrates the continued development and increased awareness of safeguarding children and safeguarding adults' issues within the partnership and Wolverhampton more generally.

The year has provided an opportunity to develop the innovative new arrangements currently established which has supported Wolverhampton's Safeguarding's '*Think Family*' approach.

In future, Wolverhampton's Safeguarding will continue to build on the work it has started in 2019-2020 and ensure new safeguarding practices are fully embedded and support the achievement of positive outcomes for children, young people and adults.



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Appendix A

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PARTNER STATEMENT – Children and Young Adults - City of Wolverhampton Director of Children Services

- New partnership safeguarding arrangements, Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together, were implemented in September 2019. The partnership continues to have a joint focus on children and adults and has strengthened further the ‘think family’ approach.
- Children’s Services has continued its improvement journey and preparation for its impending inspection. The self-evaluation gives an overview of improvement since our last inspection where services were judged to be overall good. Some of the key achievements highlighted within the SEF include social work caseloads continue to be at a manageable level, an increase in the number of Wolverhampton foster carers meaning less use of external agencies and the development of the Culture of Belonging project to improve inclusion within schools. Areas identified for improvement are the ongoing recruitment and retention of social workers to ensure a stable workforce, implementing a single electronic record across children’s services to support a holistic view of the child and family no matter who is supporting them and further improving the quality of assessment, support and planning for children in need of support to achieve the required outcomes and impact.
- Practice weeks have continued which see senior leaders across the directorate undertake audit activity with front line practitioners. The practice weeks have led to an increase in the number of good or outstanding cases as practitioners now sit alongside the auditor and bring the case alive. Other good practice that has been identified includes practitioners know their children, good use of strengths-based approaches and there is good collaborative working across partners. Areas that require further development are the timeliness and quality of assessments, continuing to strengthen our direct work with children and developing the use of restorative practice within schools and other partners supported by the Safeguarding Partnership.
- Designated Safeguarding Leads in schools’ networks have been re-established and are now jointly planned between education and safeguarding to reflect the closer working between the two areas that has been strengthened since the merging of the Children’s Services and Education directorates into one. The sessions have been well received and have been an opportunity to have open dialogue between schools’ and the local authority about how best the system can support children and families to achieve the best outcomes.
- The local authority commissioned a review into Contextual Safeguarding and what they needed to do to respond to this emergent area of safeguarding. The review, carried out by an independent consultant, led to an action plan which included areas such as; revising the thresholds document to align with contextual safeguarding indicators, establishing a



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contextual safeguarding hub, ensuring systems and processes (such as referrals to Children's Services) support contextual safeguarding and reviewing existing meetings with a view to extending them to cover all aspects of exploitation rather than narrowly focussing on a single issue.

- The Power2 team is a multi-disciplinary team developed to help prevent at-risk young people in Wolverhampton from having to come into care. The team has initially focused on working with 11 to 17-year-olds where there are concerns around exploitation, instability in the home environment or where young people demonstrate high risk-taking behaviours. The team is multi-disciplinary and practices and approach which supports young people to recover from developmental and relational trauma.

Wolverhampton were successful in securing monies through the Controlling Migration Fund to support unaccompanied asylum seekers with a co-ordinated package of support in relation to their mental health. The project has been a success and delivered with partners including Black Country Healthcare Trust, Refugee and Migrant Centre and The Royal School. The impact includes achievement of educational outcomes above national averages for some children and the prevention of escalation of mental health and well-being issues.



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PARTNER STATEMENT – City of Wolverhampton Council – Director of Adult Social Care

In order to support information sharing, Wolverhampton Adult Social Care has continued to host a bi-monthly CQC information sharing meeting. This has proven to be a very effective forum and partners include CQC, social care, CCG, commissioning and *Health Watch*.

These meetings have led to information sharing on care homes which has led to action being taken by various agencies including CQC and MASH. This multi-disciplinary approach has resulted in improved outcomes this year for the adults in the homes due to the assurance of safer practices being in place.

This year the Safeguarding Adults manager developed multi-agency pathway guidance for convening Concerns meetings as it had been identified through SARs and DHRs that better co-ordination and communication between services supporting adults (with or without care and support needs) was required.

Any professional or service with concerns can use this process to bring agencies together if the concerns are not appropriate for the usual safeguarding process. This is available on the WST website: https://www.wolverhamptonsafeguarding.org.uk/images/Adult_multi-agency_pathway_-_guidance_for_convening_Concerns_meetings_V2_2020.pdf

CWC considers that adult safeguarding practices and systems are person-centred and robust due to the above and on the basis that this year there has been:

- Continuation of sound *Making Safeguarding Personal* practice evidenced in bi-monthly file audits
- Revision of the safeguarding enquiry and closure forms to reduce bureaucracy, duplication and ensure proportionality; a new shorter simplified adult referral form was introduced after consultation and briefings with all partners. The safeguarding closure form was deemed unnecessary and this is no longer in use across Adult Social Care / MASH.
- Regular audits of safeguarding timeliness alongside continued performance monitoring of achieved timescales



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PARTNER STATEMENT - NHS Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group

Progress in 2019/20

- WCCG Designated and Named Safeguarding Leads have facilitated four Adult and Children training sessions for Primary Care. Two training sessions have also been delivered to the WCCG Governing Body, using local case studies and learning from CSPR's, DHR's and SAR's
- Safeguarding supervision has been provided for Named, Designated and Safeguarding Specialist professionals both in and out of area. This offer has been extended and now includes additional CCG staff which includes members of the Individual Care Team; the Send Lead and the Children's Commissioner
- In March 2020 Partner briefings were provided to inform Strategic Partners of the Business Critical Functions of the Safeguarding Team during the Response phase of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Weekly newsletters were also formulated and circulated to keep Providers informed of the changing legislation, guidance and information related to Covid-19 and associated safeguarding arrangements
- External and internal audits/assurances were completed, and feedback demonstrated a high level of confidence in the WCCG Safeguarding arrangements (completion of the NHSE S-CAT, external audit and WST/WDFV assurance submissions)

WST

- The Designated Nurses (DN) for Safeguarding (Adults and Children) were part of the Task and Finish Group that led on the development of the new Statutory Partnership Arrangements. The Chief Nursing Officer of the Black Country and West Birmingham CCGs is currently the Chair of the Executive Group for WST
- The DN's for Safeguarding (Adults and Children) led the development of the WST One Panel which brought together three previous groups – Learning Review Committee; Safeguarding Adult Review Committee; and the Domestic Homicide Review Panel into one
- The Deputy DN Safeguarding Children led on the development and launch of the Wolverhampton Neglect Strategy for Children and Young People 2019-2022 within which the WeCAN tool is embedded to be used as the Neglect assessment tool within the City
- The Designated Safeguarding Leads have fully participated in Statutory Reviews for both Children and Adults, participation in or chairing review panels, both in and out of area

STP

- Wolverhampton CCG DN has led a STP Safeguarding Working Group; the purpose of the group is to reduce unwarranted variation in issues relating to safeguarding, adults, children and young people in care to ensure a consistent approach where appropriate across the Black Country and West Birmingham STP. A number of work streams were agreed to progress this work including the development of a Safeguarding Strategy for the STP
- The Designated Adult Safeguarding Lead led an STP wide work stream to review the Provider Safeguarding Performance Framework and the Safeguarding Assurance Framework. These are now being used by Providers
- Two NHSE funded safeguarding learning events took place for all staff across the STP; the adult learning event was led by the Adult Lead from Walsall CCG supported by the Designated Adult Safeguarding Lead from Wolverhampton CCG; and the children's event 'Our voice Our



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Shoes' was led by Wolverhampton CCG Deputy DN and was co-produced with children from across the STP

Adults

Progress in 2019/20:

- Submission of an entry into the Health Service Journal Patient Safety Awards in the category of NHS Safeguarding, for a collaborative project (Empowerment of hard to reach communities in the prevention of violence against women and girls) with the Wolverhampton Refugee and Migrant Centre and Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum. It has been shortlisted as a finalist and the awards ceremony is in November 2020
- Successful evaluation of the GP Domestic Violence Training and Support Project
- Funding secured from the West Midlands Violence Reduction Unit to:
- provide domestic abuse support and resources to Primary Care during the Covid 19 Pandemic
- raise awareness of the illegalities and long term harms associated with violence against women and girls. There was a focus on recruiting community champions, and disseminating signposting leaflets and help-seeking resources into communities in order to cascade key messages
- Significant progress with the Learning Disabilities Mortality Review Programme (LeDeR). All NHSE Targets were met and there was successful recruitment of a LeDeR Coordinator and a LeDeR Administrator
- Full participation in all aspects of Covid 19 Response including the WST Covid Response Group and the Homelessness Task Force Group

Children

Progress in 2019/20

- The DN Safeguarding Children facilitated a group including representatives from the Local Authority, Acute Provider organisation, NHSE Digital and the CCG to ensure CP-IS was introduced and implemented across the city
- The Deputy DN continues to chair MASH 'health ' meetings to ensure continuous improvements to process and practice, provide ongoing support for practitioners and escalation of ongoing issues or concerns
- The DN for Children and Young People in Care (CYPiC) has developed:
 - a robust notification process for CYPiC who are placed in / out of W-ton. There are sound communication system with other CCG's and Providers teams to ensure health issues are addressed when a child is placed in another area
 - close working with CCG Children's commissioner and CAMHS Clinical Specialist (External Placement Panel) to ensure CYPiC placed in specialist placements are receiving care that meets their individual needs and is value for money
 - a dashboard to enable a sound oversight of those CYPiC placed 50 mile plus for whom the WCCG remain responsible



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PARTNER STATEMENT – West Midlands Police

The West Midlands Police (WMP, Wolverhampton) presents its progress with regards to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults during 2019-20 as one of the statutory partners within WST

Contribution to Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together Partnership

West Midlands Police operates on both a geographical and thematic model. Wolverhampton has a dedicated Neighbourhood Policing Unit (NPU) with the NPU Commander being the strategic lead for the WST partnership. In addition, there is representation in the WST and the sub-groups from a senior leader in the Public Protection Unit (PPU), Force Criminal Investigation Department (FCID), and other NPU leaders. The PPU lead chairs the priority sub-group for Exploitation (children).

Building an effective workforce

Our Force Criminal Investigation Department (FCID) appointed 3 new criminal exploitation co-ordinators to cover the Black Country area – with one being dedicated to Wolverhampton. Their roles is to attend partnership safety planning meetings to share information and help safeguard the young person. They also act as a bridge between the safeguarding of the child and any criminal investigation that may be ongoing. This mirrors the existing support to CSE safeguarding which has been in place form the public protection unit previously, and which continues now.

Local policing now ensure attendance at strategy discussions for young people at risk of CCE and where that young person may also be at risk of gang exploitation, consideration is given for a gangs offender manager to attend and contribute.

The Public Protection Unit (PPU) commenced a recruitment campaign in early 2020 aiming to fill all vacancies in the department by September 2021. This campaign saw a number of new officers join the department on child abuse, domestic abuse, and sexual offence investigation teams.

An additional police officer was also invested into the MASH to assist with managing demand and to provide early police support to information sharing as a result of referrals. This was also complemented by moving 3 other police officers into the MASH to support multi agency joint visits to children. These officers now form the MAET (multi agency enquiry team). This co-location of staff ensures a more consistent working relationship, and earlier visits to children who need to be seen by both police and a social worker.

Celebrating Successes & Contributions to safeguarding

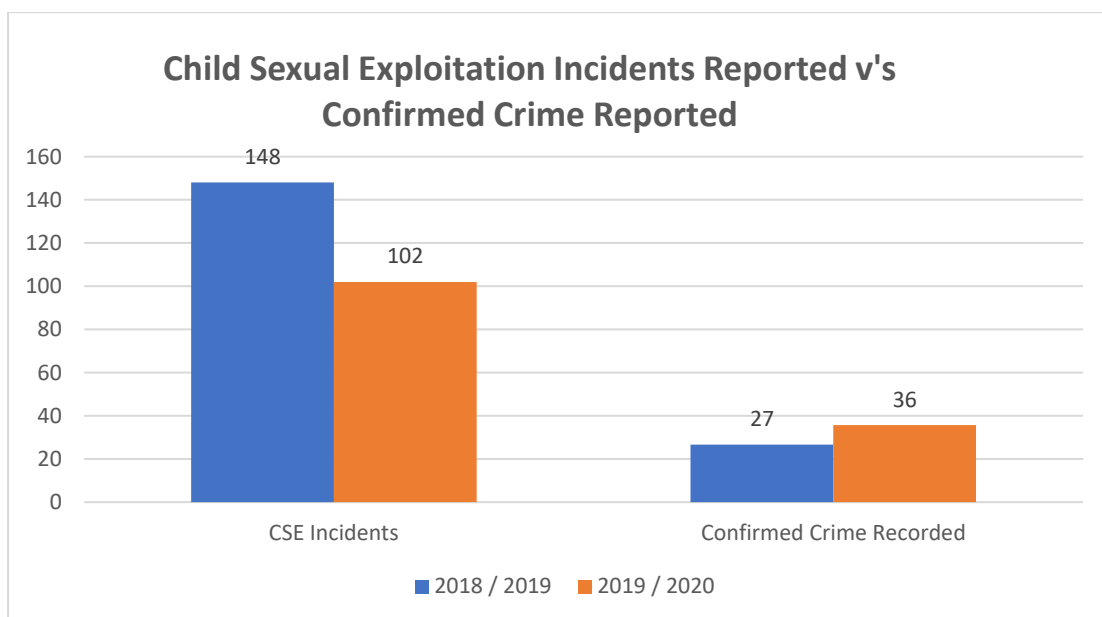
In 2019/20, recorded Child Abuse incident fell by the first time in a number of years from 2,654 child abuse related incidents in 2018/19 to 2,600 this year. The development of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub in Wolverhampton initially lead to a steady increase in recorded incidents as both the public and agencies working with children were able to more easily make safeguarding referrals, including crime, without needing to know exactly which agency to go to. These referrals allow for a more rapid assessment of risk, better information sharing, and ensures that the relevant agencies



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agree to the next steps at the earliest opportunity. The additional officer invested into the Wolverhampton MASH by West Midlands Police has assisted in ensuring this increased demand is appropriately dealt with. To see recorded child abuse incidents decrease is in part a result of the MASH working consistently for a number of years and now leading to a reduction in incidents recorded by WMP.

Within these child abuse figures are incidents recorded by WMP with a CSE (child sexual exploitation) marker.



These incidents have reduced at a greater rate than the overall child abuse incidents. In 2018/19 there were 148 CSE incidents recorded in Wolverhampton, with only 18% of these leading to a confirmed crime being recorded. In 2019/20 there were 102 CSE incidents but with 35% of these leading to a crime being recorded. As a crime is usually only recorded when either a victims confirms this or when there is other evidence available to do so, this would suggest that despite CSE incidents falling it is now far more likely that police and other agencies are able to find supportive evidence, or to support a victim in making a disclosure of a crime.

Cadet Programme

In 2019, Wolverhampton police launched the Police Cadet Programme locally. Police Cadets had been trialled in other areas in WMP and based on the success and uptake has now been expanded. There is one cadet unit in Wolverhampton based in a secondary school. This involves volunteer cadet leaders – both police officers/staff and volunteers from outside of policing – running a youth support programme for 13-17 year olds with a focus on policing and public service. Any child can be referred into the programme, including young people with additional safeguarding needs or subject



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to Early Help. There are plans to expand into a second cadets unit in the next financial year. The Wolverhampton WMP child protection lead provides the safeguarding training for the cadet leaders.

Operation Encompass

This is where WMP notify Wolverhampton schools when one of their pupils is exposed to a domestic abuse incident – continued in 2019/20 after a trial in 2018. This process ensures that schools are informed of an incident which may have adversely affected a child in the previous 24 hours so that staff can understand the factors that may be affecting that child in school and provide appropriate support if required. This is in addition to any information sharing as a result of a referral that meets the threshold for MASH.

In 2019 West Midlands Police changed practice in relation to the risk assessment and recording of missing persons, including children. Where previously there had been use of an “absent” category, which did not result in recording on the COMPACT system (for recording missing persons) and no automatic reporting to the local authority this has now changed. “Absent” reporting has been replaced with “no apparent risk” as a category and regardless of risk assessment the missing person will be placed on COMPACT and an automatic referral made to the relevant local authority. This has resulted in a much higher number of children being referred to the local authority and subsequently receiving a return home interview.

Vulnerable Adults

During 2020, Wolverhampton Police have received a much higher number of internal referrals for Vulnerable Adults. The majority of these referrals have been Mental Health Related. Partnership working between MASH, Penn Hospital and GP’s throughout Wolverhampton has resulted in these individuals receiving the support they need at the right time. We carry out a process for any victims of Distraction Burglaries – including older and vulnerable residents - whereby the local neighbourhood team visit, referrals are made to WV Trading Standards, Safer Wolverhampton Partnerships and MASH (based on individual need).

Hate Crime

A dedicated Hate Crime champion was appointed in 2020. During Hate Crime Awareness Week joint visits were conducted with the Taxi Licensing department to several taxi ranks in order to raise awareness around identifying Hate Crime and how to report concerns to police and other agencies.

Several secondary school inputs have taken place within the Wolverhampton area raising awareness of Hate Crime. We are currently planning the delivery of 3rd party reporting in conjunction with the Safer Partnerships Team.



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PARTNER STATEMENT – City of Wolverhampton Council - Education

Ofsted inspection in November 2019 identified the following strengths:

- Managers have strong relationships with many city-wide agencies. They use these very well to develop appropriate policies and procedures to safeguard learners. Managers provide highly effective support for learners experiencing difficulties. They refer learners promptly for extra support when they need it.
- Leaders adopt safe recruitment practices. They make appropriate checks to ensure that permanent and agency staff who work with learners are safe to do so.
- City of Wolverhampton Council audit undertaken of safer recruitment practices and recommendations implemented.
- Implemented improved web filtering system providing a secure and safe digital environment, with reporting functionality.

Safeguarding training offered and completed:

- Workshop in Raising Awareness in Prevent (WRAP) sessions for all new staff, volunteers and sub-contractors
- Refresher WRAP sessions delivered for over 75 members of staff
- Modern Day Slavery awareness sessions delivered to ESOL practitioners city wide
- Modern Day Slavery awareness sessions delivered to staff
- VAWG Community Champion Training

Initiatives worked on during the period under review:

- Improved web filtering
- Promotion of British Values
- *Prevent* staff training



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PARTNER STATEMENT - West Midlands Fire and Rescue

West Midlands Fire and Rescue progress with regards to safeguarding children and young people during 2019-20:

Independent Safeguarding Review

At the end of 2019, the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) published the Fire and Rescue Service Guidance and Self-Assessment toolkit. This has been used to inform the implementation of the independent safeguarding scrutiny review recommendations.

WMFS have secured some sector specific (Fire & Rescue Service) level 3 and level 4 Safeguarding training and Safer Recruitment training. The training will be accessed during the current financial year.

[NFCC Guidance publications/Prevention/Safeguarding_Guidance.pdf](#)

Since the independent scrutiny review of safeguarding was completed at the end of 2018/2019, work on the action plan has been ongoing to ensure WMFS has appropriate safeguarding systems. The review of the policy was the first stage of this. The new Safeguarding Policy improves the oversight of recording of concerns raised and actions taken as a result. This allows for quality assurance and analysis of data from concerns.

Prevention

As a direct result of a recent local safeguarding adults review, and regional and national learning, WMFS launched its Fire Safety Guidance E-Learn package in the autumn of 2019. The launch was centred around CPD events relating to learning from serious and fatal fires and were held across all local authority areas within the West Midlands. This e-learn package has been developed to provide support and guidance to those professionals who work with the most vulnerable to fire

Complex Needs Officers

WMFS has a team of 26 Complex Needs Officers (CNO's). This group of staff are operational personnel who have additional training including an apprentice based in Health & Social Care. They have access to a broad range of training on health and lifestyle themes. This training provides them with enhanced knowledge to support those in our communities with complex needs and chaotic lifestyles. The CNO's work routinely with partner agencies and organisations to support these individuals and reduce the impact of their needs on themselves, their community and agencies. Working to improve outcomes for these individuals reduces vulnerability to, and the likelihood of abuse/neglect and the need for safeguarding. Professional supervision and support provide oversight and assurance that cases are handled appropriately, and that risk is identified and escalated where appropriate.



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PARTNER STATEMENT – West Midlands Ambulance Service University NHS Foundation Trust

Priorities in 2019-20

- Assure Trust processes by driving consistency and improvement in safeguarding practice
- Continue to build on effective relationships internally and externally, including WST
- Monitor the Trust's Safeguarding processes and compliance
- Support the Trust with Safeguarding practice and requirements.

What we did

- Excellent Governance and Assurance of Trusts safeguarding processes and compliance.
- Secured funding for all Paramedics to have 2 days face to face training in Safeguarding level 3 in both Adults and Children. This will include staff in both of our Emergency Operations Centre and our Integrated Urgent Care Centre. Currently on hold due to COVID but will recommence in Spring 2021.
- 36% increase in Adult safeguarding and Care and welfare concerns from the previous year (2018 / 2019) and a 6% increase in safeguarding children's referrals
- Continued involvement with multiple workstreams across the region including DHR's, SAR's, LCSPR's, CDOP and JAR meetings, Child Alerts and Court cases.
- Managed increased demand both in Safeguarding and across the Trust during COVID
- Successful Pilot and introduction of CP-IS in both the Emergency Operations Centre and for frontline staff.
- Relocation of the Single Point of Contact into the Emergency Operations Centre providing resilience and consistency.



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PARTNER STATEMENT – The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust (RWT)

RWT has a Safeguarding Team covering the children, adult, maternity and learning disability agenda and works throughout the whole of the organisation delivering training, supervision and advice. The Named Nurses are also part of the partnership team working within Wolverhampton MASH.

Training

RWT Safeguarding Training (Children and Adult Levels 1-4) has been monitored on a monthly basis. Overall training compliance has remained over 90% (on average for all areas). All training was adapted to be delivered electronically in view of COVID restrictions. RWT also delivered training on PREVENT and Mental Capacity and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS). Domestic violence training was incorporated into all subject packages.

Supervision

All Named Safeguarding Professionals were able to access personal supervision on a quarterly basis throughout 2019/20.

Midwifery supervision compliance was also monitored and over 95% of identified staff received supervision within the timescales.

Safeguarding Advice

Throughout 2019/20 the RWT Safeguarding Service provided an advice call function to the Trust (Monday to Friday 9-5). The number of calls received for children was 571, remaining static from the previous period in 2018/19 and was very well received helping to address issues promptly.

Early Intervention Services

RWT have worked collaboratively with City of Wolverhampton Council and Public Health to host an early help facilitator post working across the Trust (focusing on maternity and children service) to provide support with additional early help training, to advise on the services available within the community and to ensure referrals into this service are increasing.

Safeguarding within Urgent Care Settings during 2019/20

We have improved awareness of vulnerability within Emergency Department, Urgent Care, Paediatrics and Maternity through the implementation of the child protection information sharing system (CP-IS).

CQC inspection 2019

The Trust was inspected during 2019 and rated 'good' overall. Safeguarding was a focus of the inspection and some actions were identified and subsequently addressed in relation to raising



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awareness of MCA/DoLS. Focused work throughout 2020 continues to raise awareness of the MCA/DoLS within the Trust.

NHS External Review 2020

In February 2020, NHS England were commissioned to undertake a review of the Safeguarding service, with a specific focus on structure, leadership, education, policies, DoLS and learning disability services. The findings demonstrated that investment in safeguarding was evident and commendable. Safeguarding could be seen as central to the quality of care for patients and the wider community who access the Trust. Although no specific recommendations were made, suggestions to make the service 'even better' included a focus on 'think family' and to continue with the engagement of the local Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP).

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PARTNER STATEMENT – Health Watch Wolverhampton

Healthwatch Wolverhampton was established to act as the statutory, independent consumer champion for health and social care services in Wolverhampton. Our roles and responsibilities include:

- Obtaining the views of local people regarding their need for, and experiences of, local health and care services and importantly to make these views known
- Promoting and supporting the involvement of local people in the commissioning, the provision and scrutiny of local health and care services
- Enabling local people to monitor the standard of provision of local health and care services and whether and how local care services could and ought to be improved
- Providing advice, signposting and information about access to local health and care services so choices can be made about these
- Producing reports and recommendations about how local health and care services could or ought to be improved. These should be directed to commissioners and providers of care services and people responsible for managing or scrutinising local care services and shared with Healthwatch England and CQC, Healthwatch Wolverhampton is also able to raise relevant issues at a number of strategic boards including Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together Board and highlight issues raised with us locally or through our work with local care and health organisations. This allows us to provide challenge and highlight issues raised by local people in the development and delivery of local strategies. Our contribution to safeguarding 2019-20 In terms of safeguarding, Healthwatch has:
 - supported the work of the Safeguarding Board, to ensure that the patient's/ local people's voice is central to service planning and in any case reviews
 - ensured that our Board, staff and volunteers are trained to understand and follow up any safeguarding concerns identified by us or raised with us in our work locally

We have been able to reinforce the issue of engagement and involvement of local people and communities in service development and delivery across partner organisations. We have been able to use the experience of our 'Enter and View' activity in care homes to inform our contribution to Board discussions. We welcome the commitment to improving engagement and understanding of safeguarding across all communities.



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PARTNER STATEMENT – Black Country Healthcare NHS FT

In 2019-2020 BCHFT was still a standalone Trust, as in Black Country Partnership NHST. During this time BCPFT, under their Section 11 and Working Together 2018 statutory duties supported Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together by achieving the following:

- Facilitated level 3 safeguarding training to all staff in Wolverhampton based services to assist them in safeguarding children and families and providing them with the skills required for their roles
- The Wolverhampton and Sandwell Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH) and Named Nurses have benefitted from the additional support and resilience in Wolverhampton and Sandwell that has come from two new WTE staff in post
- The Prevent Training was embedded within the Safeguarding Children Level 3 training as well as Adults.
- Safeguarding Children’s Supervision Policy was revised and roll out commenced as part of an implementation plan. It was updated to reflect best practice, the staff groups that required or would benefit from supervision and the process is now mandated for certain staff groups.
- Staff have continued to access the question and answer sessions that are facilitated by the Team and within the Wolverhampton and numbers of staff accessing these was increasing from the 2018-19 figures
- Safeguarding team actively support MARAC and MASH systems and processes and work with partners and colleagues to ensure that timely information sharing assists in keeping the most vulnerable adults and children safeguarded



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PARTNER STATEMENT – Voluntary and Community Organisations (VCO's)

Wolverhampton's Voluntary and Community Sector provides a wide range of support and activities for children, young people, families, adults (including adults at risk and adults with care and support needs), and communities. There are more than 700 local voluntary and community organisations (VCOs) including approximately 260 faith groups. The sector is supported by Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council (WVSC), the local infrastructure support organisation which also acts as a source of support in relation to safeguarding for local VCOs.

The sector provides a wide range of universal support in the community, plus an extensive breadth of more specialist support including support related to: substance misuse, mental health and emotional wellbeing, housing; older people; domestic abuse; youth violence / gangs; people who are disabled or who have learning disabilities or special educational needs; children and young people excluded from school; people leaving prison; and new arrivals / refugees.

In 2019-20 the contribution of the local voluntary and community sectors has included:

- 8 Local VCOs providing a voluntary / community sector perspective on WST's Priority and Standing groups (One Panel, Early Help, Communities and Engagement, Exploitation, Learning and Improvement) and Task and Finish groups
- VCOs contributing to the safeguarding training programme e.g. Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum provide domestic abuse and Interpersonal Violence training.
- Local VCOs successfully applying for external funds to enhance local support to adults at risk / with care and support needs, and children, young people and families which will keep them safe from harm e.g. around exploitation and gangs / youth violence
- WVSC continuing to provide strategic and operational safeguarding support to the local VCOs including:
 - Supporting the development of suitable safeguarding arrangements including reviewing developing safeguarding policy and procedures.
 - Supporting local VCOs with safeguarding decision-making, linking to MASH, Early Help and support available from WST partners.
 - Increasing access to safeguarding training for local VCOs (both single-agency and multi-agency training)
- More participants from VCOs attending WST's safeguarding training offer
- Continuing, and increasing, engagement with and support for the 260+ faith organisations to enhance their safeguarding awareness and arrangements (this work is funded by WST)
- Interfaith Wolverhampton led a successful request to WST Learning and Improvement Group to establish a 'Safeguarding in Faith' Train the Trainer programme.



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PARTNER STATEMENT – Wolverhampton Homes

Wolverhampton Homes continues to make progress in relation to both safeguarding children and young people and adults at risk, emphasising the importance of our role at all times to staff and those who work on our behalf across the communities we serve.

We have safeguarding policies and procedures in place that outline how staff should respond to safeguarding issues both in terms of households living in temporary accommodation and when they are settled in a home of their own. We also have a policies and procedures relating to staff in relation to domestic violence recognising that safeguarding is not just about those people we work for but is also about those people we work with.

We are also working towards accreditation in terms of our response to domestic violence. The Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance's (DAHA) mission is to improve the housing sector's response to domestic abuse through the introduction and adoption of an established set of standards and an accreditation process.

Accreditation standards have 8 priority areas including policy & procedure, case management, risk management, partnership working, perpetrator management, equality & diversity, staff training and publicity & awareness. We know that gaining accreditation is by no means easy, but we are committed to ensuring our response to people who live with domestic violence, both as victims, their children and perpetrators is appropriate and promotes partnership working with other agencies to manage and reduce risk wherever possible.

Our contractors are also well-versed in terms of our safeguarding procedures and know how to recognise and report any concerns they have. With large scale projects being delivered by Wolverhampton Homes and with regular access into some 20,000 homes, it is vital that our contractors are as able to respond to any concerns disclosed or identified as our own staff.

Training continues to be a key priority with staff attending courses in-house and also courses provided by Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together. Consideration is currently being given to a new programme of safeguarding / domestic violence training across all front-line staff to, once again, improve identification and response to safeguarding concerns



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PARTNER STATEMENT – Staffordshire and West Midlands CRC and the National Probation Service.

For SWM and the NPS, safeguarding is a crucial role and we are well placed to identify service users who pose a risk of harm to children and/or situations wherein a child may experience poorer outcomes due to the behaviour or circumstances of their parents/carers.

In the NPS and CRC, work during 2019-2020 has focused on completing children safeguarding and domestic abuse refresher training for all operational staff. This has focused on ensuring that staff understand the working together 2018 arrangements, embedding the Early Help offer and emphasising the importance of understanding contextual safeguarding in our assessments. We now know more about Adverse Childhood Experiences, the inter-generational impact of these and the importance of intervening earlier to prevent or reduce the negative impact and how the work carried out by our Probation Practitioners can contribute to positive life-long changes for children now and future generations.

Locally NPS and CRC have a strong Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Team in place working closely with partners to supervise and support the borough's most prolific offenders. We have a dedicated specialist Women's Team delivering supporting female services from Willenhall CHART Centre enabling vulnerable women to access a range of additional community support service in the local area.

NPS second a full time member of staff into the MASH Team. The role has recently expanded to include work for the Youth Offender Services to improve their foot print within the MASH as part of our jointed up work.

NPS and CRC continue to explore opportunities with MASH to enable us to ensure families are identified and supported effectively. As members of the Community Safety Partnership and Safeguarding Children's Board we continue to work in partnership with key agencies in the Borough to safeguard families and protect the public.



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APPENDIX B

COVID-19 STATEMENT – 2020

Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together is a multi-agency partnership made up of many organisations all with one aim in mind, to protect the welfare of vulnerable children, adults and families in Wolverhampton.

Whilst our report is defined by the period 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020 and the pandemic had not yet fully taken hold, we wanted to update the public with measures that CWC and more specifically WST put in place to mitigate this.

At the pandemic's earliest stage, whilst following government guidance, WST Executive Group made a number of important decisions including pausing workstreams which allowed members to be re-assigned to other areas of immediate concern. In addition, the WST Executive Group created a WST COVID-19 Response Group, with the aspiration of supporting partnership working throughout the pandemic. Finally, the WST Executive Group felt that it was critical in continuing with the Scrutiny and Assurance Co-ordination and Executive Group meetings as part of business as usual.

The Covid-19 Response Group was established with the remit to report into the WST Scrutiny and Assurance Group, with members being recruited from within our existing partnerships. The overriding emphasis of this group was in three parts defined as follows:

- a) Statutory responsibilities
- b) Communication
- c) Business as usual operations, wherever possible.

City of Wolverhampton have stayed at stage 2 throughout the majority of the pandemic and have not implemented any easements. We have carried out a public consultation on our local approach to Care Act easements, which sets out what we would have explored before we consider implementation of any easement and this can be viewed by following the link below

<https://consultation.wolverhampton.gov.uk/cwc/care-act-easement-procedure/>

In summary, City of Wolverhampton Council have operated under essential visits only in line with national guidance and also have guidance in place locally. We have access to PPE and other forms of protection, as well as taking into account risk of infection and human rights.



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APPENDIX C

Glossary of Terms

ACRP Adult Case Review Panel	LADO Local Authority Designated Officer
A&E Accident and Emergency	LDU Local Delivery Unit
ASB Anti-Social Behaviour	LeDeR Learning Disability Mortality Review
ASC Adult Social Care	LPA Local Policing Area
BCHFT Black Country Healthcare NHS FT	MAPPA Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements
CAMHS Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service	MARAC Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
CCRP Children's Case Review Panel	MASH Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
CDOP Child Death Overview Panel	MCA Mental Capacity Act
CWC City of Wolverhampton Council	MOJ Ministry of Justice
CWC ASC City of Wolverhampton Adult Social Care	NHS National Health Service
CWC CS City of Wolverhampton Children Services	NPS / RRP National Probation Service / Reducing Reoffending Partnership
CFP Children & Families Practice	OFSTED Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services & Skills
CFLT Children and Families Leadership Team	PVP Protecting Vulnerable People
CJB Criminal Justice Board	RWT The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust
CP-IS Child Protection Information Sharing	SAR Safeguarding Adults Review
CR-MARAC Community Risk-Multi-Agency Risk Assessment	SCR Serious Case Review
CSC Children's Social Care	STP Sustainability and Transformation Partnership
CSE Child Sexual Exploitation	VARM Vulnerable Adults Risk Management
CSP Community Safety Partnership	WVCOS Wolverhampton Voluntary and Community Sector
CQC Care Quality Commission	WMAS West Midlands Ambulance Service University NHS Trust FT
CuSP Custody Support Plan	WMFS West Midlands Fire Service
DoLS Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards	WMP West Midlands Police
ED Emergency Department	WCCG Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group
ELPIS Police 'missing' data system	WST Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together
FGM Female Genital Mutilation	



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FII Fabricated or Induced Illness	
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Scrutiny Work Programme (draft)
Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny
Panel 2020-2021

Theme – Connected City

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Scrutiny – A New Approach – Connected City

1. A new approach to scrutiny was agreed at Scrutiny Board on 14 July 2020. Scrutiny Board agreed a cross cutting theme for all panels. The agreed theme was '**Connected City**'. Connectivity and digital considerations will be considered as part of all items added to the work programme.
2. **Roles and expectations** have been defined for the Chairs of Scrutiny Panels, Strategic Executive Board (SEB) leads and Scrutiny Officers; creating a collective understanding of scrutiny's role within the Council. These can be seen in Appendix A.
3. Effective **work planning and agenda setting** will take place to produce **jointly owned work plans**.
4. The first panel meetings will receive an update on the areas that fall within the scope of the panel. There will then be an introduction to the **connected city theme**. This will enable the Panel to consider items for the workprogramme in line with the '**Connected City**' scrutiny theme.
5. Regular briefings will be arranged with the Scrutiny Panel Chair, Vice Chair, SEB lead and scrutiny officer to enable a shared understanding of priorities and reviews of progress and recommendations.
6. **Improved communication**: 'You said we did' updates and publicity (including social media)
7. Creation of a **strong organisational culture** that supports scrutiny work that **adds real value** and **evidences impact**.
8. Outcomes and recommendations from all panels will then be fed back to Scrutiny Board to unify into one comprehensive report based on the connected city theme.

Work Programme considerations:

- 1. Is the issue in the public interest?**
- 2. How does it link to the Connected City theme?**
- 3. How can scrutiny add value by looking at it?**
- 4. Where is the evidence to support looking at this issue?**
- 5. Can we evidence impact?**
- 6. Is there a change to National Policy?**
- 7. Does it affect citizens across the City?**
- 8. Are there performance concerns?**
- 9. Is it a safety issue?**

Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel

Chair: Cllr Rita Potter	Vice Chair: Cllr Sohail Khan	SEB Lead: Emma Bennett	Scrutiny Lead: Earl Piggott-Smith
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Date of Meeting	Agenda Publication	Item Description	Lead Report Author	Council Plan Priority	Connected City	Notes
9 September 2020	1 September 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CYP & Families update - response to the Covid-19 Crisis and future plans relating to Children and Young People Work planning 		Children and young people get the best possible start in life		
11 November 2020	3 November 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy Outcome from Wolverhampton Youth Council survey 	Finance business partner Andrew Scragg and Wolverhampton Youth Council			

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEND Self Evaluation • Spotlight Review - Education and Inclusion • Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together Partnership - Annual Report 	<p>Rob Hart/ Katrina McCormick</p> <p>Emma Bennett,</p> <p>Andrew Wolverson/ Vicky Murphy</p>			
13 January 2021	5 January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spotlight Review - Safeguarding the most vulnerable • Children's Social Care Self Evaluation • Welfare Rights Briefing • SEND Strategy Action Plan 	<p>Alison Hinds</p> <p>Alison Hinds</p> <p>Alison Hinds/ Helen Winfield</p> <p>Rob Hart/ Katrina McCormick</p>			
10 March 2021	2 March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the Health and Wellbeing of children and young people • Children's Workforce Health Check 2020 • 2020 Children's Social Work Health Check 	<p>Andrew Wolverson</p> <p>Courtney Abbott, Alison Hinds, Sonia Mahay</p> <p>Courtney Abbott, Alison</p>			

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Portfolio Holders Statement and Questions – Cllr Hardacre and Cllr Reynolds	Hinds, Sonia Mahay.			
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Scrutiny Panel Remit & Functions

Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel

The scrutiny of the provision of all local authority services for children and young people including education, early intervention and prevention, social care, special needs and commissioned services and children's safeguarding including child exploitation

Specific responsibilities

The Panel will have responsibility for scrutiny functions as they relate to:

- Children in need/child protection
- Children and young people in care and care Leavers
- Early intervention and prevention
- Youth offending
- Children's commissioning
- School planning and resources
- Standards and vulnerable pupils
- Family learning
- School improvement
- Special educational needs
- Early years
- Youth employment, skills and apprenticeships

General Role of the Scrutiny Board and Scrutiny Panels

Within the terms of reference set out in the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the Scrutiny Board will:

1. Co-ordinate the work of the Scrutiny Panels and Scrutiny Review Groups.
2. Receive annual reports from the Councillor Champion and give consideration to the work undertaken and issues that the Councillor Champion wishes scrutiny to consider investigating further.
3. Maintain regular dialogue with the Cabinet on service improvement, performance management of cross-cutting issues, policy development and budgetary provision.
4. Oversee and ensure access to appropriate learning and development for scrutiny Councillors.
5. Discharge the call-in procedures relevant to its overarching role.

The Scrutiny Panels will:

1. Maintain regular dialogue with the Cabinet, Scrutiny Board and Councillor Champions.
2. Ensure that members of the public and stakeholders are informed of and involved in issues within the remit of each Panel.
3. Discharge the call-in procedure relevant to their terms of reference.

Appendix A: Roles and Responsibilities

1. Chair of Scrutiny Panel:

- To attend fortnightly meetings with the SEB lead and Scrutiny Officer
- To attend agenda setting meetings and other relevant briefings on a regular basis
- To contribute to the work planning for the panel and to bring forward relevant topics and issues for inclusion
- To chair meetings in a fair and open way and to encourage participation from panel members
- To attend Scrutiny Board (where appropriate) to provide feedback and updates on progress
- To prepare, when possible, questions in advance of a meeting to allow for healthy debate and to ensure that clear resolutions are made that add value and show impact
- To act as champion for scrutiny and to represent the best interests of the citizens of Wolverhampton

2. SEB Lead:

- Meet with the Chair, the Vice Chair and the Scrutiny Officer fortnightly to discuss upcoming issues, updates from previous meetings, workplans and any other relevant business as agreed by all parties.
- Recommend topics for inclusion on the workplan, working proactively with the Chair, Vice Chair and Scrutiny Officer to address any issues/opportunities/challenges that fit with the remit of the panel.
- To advise on the viability of any issues put forward by the panel for inclusion on the work plan.
- To attend relevant Scrutiny Panel meetings and provide an update at each meeting on any relevant issues within the remit of the panel. Also, attending Scrutiny Board (as appropriate) to provide feedback.
- To act as a champion for scrutiny in the Council and to encourage engagement with the scrutiny function and promote a healthy culture within which scrutiny can thrive

3. Scrutiny Officer:

- Provide support and guidance to the panel, its members, officers, partners and other stakeholders regarding the scrutiny function
- To ensure openness and transparency in the scrutiny function and to make sure that information is continuously shared and communicated between all relevant parties in a timely and suitable fashion
- To ensure that the appropriate persons are invited to meetings and that they are given adequate time to prepare and to provide guidance and support where appropriate
- To manage the administration of all relevant panels and meetings within statutory timescales
- To carry out research and information gathering exercises when required
- To provide advice on policy and legislation where appropriate
- To ensure that all resolutions are followed up and responses or actions fed back, monitored and recorded
- To act as liaison between the Chair and the SEB lead to ensure a shared understanding of priorities and work planning.
- To manage the agreed work plan and its outcomes to show impact and added value