CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL

Children,Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel

20 January 2016

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

Venue The Way Youth Zone,School Street, Little Brickklin Street, WV3 0SF

Membership

Chair Cllr Peter O'Neill (Lab)
Vice-chair Cllr Arun Photay (Con)

Labour	Conservative	Liberal Democrat
Cllr Paula Brookfield	Cllr Christopher Haynes	Cllr Richard Whitehouse
Cllr Jasbinder Dehar		
Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre		
Cllr Julie Hodgkiss		
Cllr Rupinderjit Kaur		
Cllr Welcome Koussoukama		
Cllr Martin Waite		
Cllr Daniel Warren		

Quorum for this meeting is three Councillors.

Information for the Public

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Agenda

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

1 **Apologies**

MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS

2 **Declarations of interest**

3 **Minutes of the previous meeting (25.11.15)** (Pages 1 - 6)

[To approve the minutes of the previous meeting as a correct record]

4 **Matters arising**

[To consider any matters arising from the minutes]

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5 **Safeguarding Children's Board Annual: Report and Executive Summary 2014 - 2015** (Pages 7 - 104)

[Alan Coe, Chair of the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board, to present annual safeguarding report]

6 **Draft Joint Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy** (Pages 105 - 120)

[Kathy Roper, Head of Commissioning - All Age Disability & Mental Health, to present a report Draft Joint Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy is a high level document that outlines Wolverhampton's response to the SEND reforms as outlined in the Children's Young Peoples and Families Act 2014]

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL

Children,Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel

Minutes - 25 November 2015

Attendance

Members of the Children,Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel

Cllr Jasbinder Dehar
Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre
Cllr Julie Hodgkiss
Cllr Rupinderjit Kaur
Cllr Welcome Koussoukama
Cllr Peter O'Neill (Chair)
Cyril Randles
Cllr Martin Waite
Cllr Daniel Warren
Cllr Richard Whitehouse
Emmerson Morris
Emma Curran

Employees

Emma Bennett	Service Director - Children and Young People
Earl Piggott-Smith	Scrutiny Officer
Alison Shannon	Head of Finance
Penny Williams	Interim Democratic Services Manager

In attendance

Cllr Val Gibson	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
Cllr Claire Darke	Cabinet Member for Education

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

1 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from the following members of the panel:

Cllr Paula Brookfield
Cllr Christopher Haynes
Cllr Arun Photay
Rosalie Watkins
Kashmire Hawker

2 **Declarations of interest**

No declarations of interest were made relative to items under consideration at the meeting.

3 **Minutes of the previous meeting (28.9.15)**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 28.9.15 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4 **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5 **Budget Review - Draft Budget 2016/17**

Education

Cllr Claire Darke, Cabinet Member for Education, introduced the budget proposals related to her portfolio. Cllr Darke made the following comments about the proposals

Building Schools for the Future Private Finance Initiative Refinancing

Cllr Claire Darke explained that this is one off savings as a result of refinancing of PFI schemes related to Highfields and Penn Schools.

Panel comments and questions

The panel queried the implications of Highfields School becoming academy and the extent to which it would affect the achievement of the savings. Cllr Claire Darke explained that a future change in the status would not affect the savings and also there were no plans to look at achieving similar savings at other schools built as part of the Building Schools for Future programme. Cllr Val Gibson commented that each school will be looked at on an individual basis if there is an opportunity to refinance a PFI scheme in the future.

The panel queried if the same method could be applied to all other PFI schemes to achieve similar savings. Cllr Darke explained that the option to re-finance would depend on the ownership status of the school and provision in the PFI agreement to make a change that could generate similar savings. The Council will look for opportunities to get a better financial deal from PFI agreements as and when appropriate.

The panel queried if future PFI deals will be affected by the drive to encourage nationally that all schools become academies. Cllr Darke explained that the Council will continue to look for opportunities to make changes that would be more financially beneficial and or generate savings.

Primary Capital Programme (expansions) - utilise grant now secured to replace prudential borrowing

Cllr Darke explained the reasons for making the change to replace prudential borrowing with a grant.

No comments recorded on the proposal

Children and Young People

Cllr Val Gibson, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, introduced the budget proposals related to her portfolio. Cllr Gibson made the following comments about the proposals

Drawdown of one off grants for Children and Young People

No comments recorded on the proposal

Youth Offending Team - efficiency savings

Cllr Val Gibson explained that the savings would be achieved by the deletion of a small number of posts. The deletion of these will have no impact on the service. Cllr Gibson explained that there is flexibility in the grant budget for further reductions.

No comments recorded on the proposal.

Budget Pressures - Fostering Allowances within Looked After Children's Services

Cllr Gibson explained the reason behind the increase in fees.

No comments recorded on the proposal.

Children's Services Redesign

The panel agreed to consider this proposal as part of the discussion on the next agenda item.

Resolved:

The panel comments to be included in the feedback report to Scrutiny Board and onward to Cabinet on the Draft Budget 2016/17.

6 **Children's Service Re-Design**

Cllr Val Gibson, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, outlined the proposed changes detailed in the report for the redesign of the current early intervention and prevention model. The changes support the aim to reduce the number of children being taken into care.

Cllr Gibson explained the benefits of the planned changes and the expected outcomes. Cllr Gibson explained the work done with external consultants, iMPOWER to support the project. Cllr Gibson explained that new structure will be aligned to the new planned multi-agency safeguarding hub.

Cllr Gibson explained that the new model will cover the age 0-18 – the age will be extended to 25 cover disabled young people. Cllr Gibson explained that the eight locality strengthening families hubs will be aligned with the existing learning communities. The sites for planned outreach work with families will be provided on an ad-hoc basis - rooms will be booked in local venues which are suitable for families.

Cllr Gibson explained that the planned changes will be supported by the transfer of commissioning responsibilities of health visiting and school nursing to Public Health within the local authority. Resources will be distributed on the basis of need.

Cllr Gibson referred to example case studies and also reductions in staffing numbers. A number of the posts were vacancies and there will be opportunities for re-deployment of staff in the new structure.

Cllr Gibson explained that £2.8 million of the savings £6.8 million will be reinvested in the service. Cllr Gibson explained that the local authority will always need to have provision to bring children into care where necessary. The proposed plan was aimed at reducing the number of Wolverhampton's looked after children to a figure that is closer to that of neighbouring authorities. In line with statistical numbers a reduction in the number of looked after children to 500-600 will also lead to a corresponding reduction in the number of staff.

Emma Bennett, Service Director, Children and Young People, explained that the changes are timetabled to be implemented by April/ May 2016. Service Director explained that the staff concerned had been briefed about the plans and they welcomed the changes. Service Director commented that staff queried in the briefing session if the proposed model would be sustainable for the future

Cllr Gibson explained that there is a requirement on the Council to provide universal services that the proposed changes support other targeted interventions such as Troubled Families aimed at improving and sharing best practice and also part of wider efforts to change the culture of the service.

The panel queried what a realistic number for the number of looked after children in Wolverhampton. Service Director explained that a figure of 500- 600 would bring the Council closer to the figure of comparator authorities. The looked after children figure for Wolverhampton is much higher when considering areas with higher levels of deprivation. The current number of looked after children is 697.
Cllr Gibson explained that the changes are aimed at getting only the right children into care and that early intervention work will help to reduce the demand for specialist services.

The panel welcomed the report and supported the recommendations.

The panel queried the plan to align the eight locality-based design with the Schools Learning Communities. There was concern about the low level of attendance at meetings and queried the nature of the relationship with schools. Service Director explained that there has been a positive response to briefings from schools and the changes have been welcomed.

The panel queried the wording of paragraph 8.4 of the report and the specific reference to young person with disabilities and suggested that this should be changed to refer to a young person with special needs. Emma Bennett agreed to make the correction to the report

The panel queried the wording of paragraph 10.2 of the report and suggested a change to make it clear the original meaning and intention.

The panel queried paragraph 11.3 of the report and if there was clarity about the role of the School Readiness Officer and how the proposal relates to original idea of having a single point of contact. Service Director explained the change is part of work to provide a universal offer and targeted support.

The panel queried the reference in paragraph 14.7 of the report to the use of Valley Park Campus as outreach base as there was information that ownership of the site was in the process of being transferred. The agreement to change ownership is due to be signed in early December. Service Director explained that alternative location would be found if the site was not available for use as an outreach base.

The panel queried the proposed new staffing structure which suggested that the number of frontline workers would be reduced much more than the number of managers. The understanding of the current policy was that savings would be achieved through reductions in backroom staff, while protecting front line staff numbers.

Service Director explained that the table detailed in Appendix 1 did not reflect the reality of the impact of the planned changes on the numbers of managers compared to the number of frontline staff and accepted that the information will be changed to make it clearer. The situation is complicated by the some current roles being reclassified to reflect changes in post holder responsibilities.

Emmerson Morris queried how the plans will affect the support that young people receive in the future. Service Director explained that the changes would help young people get a more targeted response. Key workers will work with the whole family and there would be an increase in intensive flexible support when there is a crisis. Service Director outlined the type of crisis support available to young people and the level of support will increased if extra resources are needed.

Resolved:

The panel support the proposals for the children service re-design, subject to full consideration of the issues highlighted and suggested changes to the draft, as part of the formal consultation process.

The meeting closed at 18:43

Agenda Item No: **5**

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL

Children,Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel

Report title	Safeguarding Children's Board Annual: Report and Executive Summary 2014 - 2015	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Val Gibson Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Linda Sanders, Community	
Originating service	Safeguarding Children	
Accountable employee(s)	Gillian Ming	Board Manager – 01902 550640 Gilllian.Ming@wolverhampton.gov.uk
	Dawn Williams Tel	Head of Service - 01902 555043 Dawn.Williams@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Report to be/has been considered by	Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board	16 September 2015
	Strategic Executive Board	October 2015
	Health & Well-Being Board	07 October 2015

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Panel is recommended to:

- Receive this report for discussion and consideration of progress of the work done by members of Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) to meet their statutory responsibilities.

Recommendation(s) for noting:

The Panel is asked to:

- Note the range of work that is taking place to safeguard children in Wolverhampton, and the continued challenges, developments and achievements in this critical area of work.

1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the scrutiny panel with a copy of the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board's (WSCB) Annual Report and Executive Summary (**Appendix 1 and Appendix 2**). The report informs the Panel of the safeguarding activity during the reporting period; 2014/2015 and the progress made against the business priorities for 2013-16.

The Annual Report was agreed by WSCB and provides an overview of how partners have discharged their safeguarding responsibilities over the preceding year.

2.0 Background

2.1 Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) is a statutory body established under the Children Act 2004. It is independently chaired (as required by statute) and consists of senior representatives of all the principle stakeholders working together to safeguard children and young people in the City. The statutory objectives of WSCB are to:

- Coordinate local work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- Ensure the effectiveness of its work.

Safeguarding definition - to undertake any activity which prevents a child's health, welfare or development being impaired, and includes activity to protect from abuse and other risks such as neglect.

The Board is independent of any of the partners, funded by them all and hosted and supported by Wolverhampton City County Council. The WSCB Chair works closely with all Board partners and particularly with the Strategic Director of Children and Adult Services (under Section 18 of the Children Act 2004). The Strategic Director of Children's Services has the responsibility within the local authority for improving outcomes for children, local authority children's social care functions and local cooperation arrangements for children's services in Wolverhampton.

Statutory Partner Agencies (which includes both the health commissioning bodies and provider bodies, the police, probation and the Council, are under a duty to co-operate with the Board and those accountabilities are defined in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015).

The Board has no service delivery functions but is required to inform (through its co-ordination and effectiveness responsibilities) the commissioning intentions of partner agencies. The Board is also required to monitor, quality assure and evaluate the quality and effectiveness of the services commissioned and delivered in the local area.

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015) requires each Local Safeguarding Children Board to produce and publish an annual report evaluating the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area.

The annual report should be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the Local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The annual report sets out the achievements and progress made during 2014/15 and identifies the challenges facing the Board in 2015/16.

3.0 Progress

3.1 The annual report details the progress made and includes further appendices with individual assurance statements from the organisations represented at the Safeguarding Children Board. WSCB has reviewed the 2013-16 priorities to reflect areas for development, with a particular focus on outcomes for children and their families. More detail on both progress and future priorities can be found in the body of the annual report. The achievement of getting greater quality and consistency of reports sent to WSCB will be an important part of further work next year.

3.2 For each of the Board's Priorities there is a lead that is responsible for driving the priority forward. The leads are all Board members and they report regularly to the Board on both the progress made and challenges faced. The Priority Leads make up the Board's Executive Group.

3.3 Over the past 12 months work has been undertaken to improve children's' safeguarding in Wolverhampton; with particular emphasis on effective governance, front-line service delivery, safeguarding particular vulnerable children and community engagement. Each of these priority areas has demonstrated significant achievements including:

- Ensured WSCB presence at the appropriate level on all partnership/strategic boards including the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWWB) and Safer Wolverhampton Partnership (SWP), Children Trust Board (CTB), Domestic Violence Executive and the Safeguarding Adults Board (WSAB).
- Established a Head-teachers Safeguarding Committee to drive forward and strengthen communication in relation to keeping children safe across all educational establishments.
- Managed the actions arising from Exec Committee work plan.
- Overseen the review of the Independent Chair's performance.
- Embedded the work of the Be Safe Group (the young people's shadow safeguarding board).
- Improved understanding of the local arrangements and service provision relating to all age disabilities.
- Reviewed the Child death process to improve oversight and improve practice.
- Continued to embed the learning from Serious Case Reviews.
- Completed the s.11 audit of the Children Act 2004 which informs the WSCB on the safeguarding position of agencies within Wolverhampton.
- Co-ordinated a series of multi-agency audits.
- Developed a suite of new policies and procedures to inform practitioner practice.

3.4 There is more to do and this report outlines the priorities over the next 12 months and beyond. In particular:

- To maintain the momentum in developing closer partnership working with other partnership/strategic boards and promote a culture of problem solving.
- To ensure that all services (adults and children) embed the safeguarding of children and young people at the heart of what they do.
- To improve communication across the partnership, particularly with frontline practitioners.
- To further develop the coordination of safeguarding activity across the partnership and be further assured in regards to the multi-agency intervention and the quality of services through engagement with:

    - The education sector
    - Faith and community groups
    - GP's

- Assuring ourselves that we can respond effectively to issues relating to:

    - Child Sexual Exploitation.
    - Child Trafficking.
    - Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).
    - Stateless Children.
    - Increase the awareness of services and support to Disabled children and young people in the City.
    - Undertake an evaluation of the effectiveness of Early Help services in the City.

- Responding to the challenges ahead the Board remains committed to:

    - Ensuring the 'voice of the child' influences all that we do.
    - Effective partnerships in the context of change and reducing resources.
    - A clear focus on assuring ourselves of the effectiveness of quality of our multi-agency work with children and young people.

4.0 Financial implications

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. The Safeguarding Adults financial budget is included in the Annual Report.
[GS/12012016/R]

5.0 Legal implications

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. The changes in law and guidance are covered under Section 3 above. The annual report is produced in line with The Care Act 2014.
[TC08012016/A]

6.0 Equalities implications

6.1 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

7.0 Environmental implications

7.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

8.0 Human resources implications

8.1 There are no direct human resources implications arising from this report.

9.0 Corporate landlord implications

9.1 There are no corporate landlord implications arising from this report.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

10.1 Report to the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Report 16.09.2015.
Report to the Health and Wellbeing Board 07.10.2015
Report to SEB 10.2015

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WOLVERHAMPTON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT 2014 - 2015

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Chair's Foreword

This report summarises what so many of us have done in the past 12 months to better safeguard children. It tells of our successes, where we are falling short and then what we are doing about it.

All of us play a part in safeguarding children and young people. We know so well that partnership is at the heart of safeguarding. No matter what any individual or agency does it the partnership and communication and action between all concerned that can make a difference. This does not just apply in protecting children at risk of harm, it is equally so in preventing young people being harmed in the first place. It is for that reason that I am particularly pleased for the Board to be able to report more on how we link with young people and how we respond to their concerns. We have learnt from young people directly about anxieties surrounding bullying. Face to face discussions and local surveys tell us this. In response our plans this year include an anti-bullying campaign which will link directly with schools.

Last year I mentioned the importance of both schools and GPs in safeguarding young people. They are at the front line and should be the first to notice if things are wrong and to report it. We have made progress. This year we have found out more about how schools safeguard children than we have ever done before. This information is being applied to highlight what is working well and how better we as a Board though training and good practice examples can assist. Similarly we now have better information on where GPs might contribute more to child safeguarding. This report will tell you in the section from the Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group what extra training has been provided. It will lead this year to a specific campaign which we hope will lead to further demonstrable improvements.

So many agencies work hard to protect children and it is right to acknowledge the excellent work their staff do. Inevitably media concerns highlight things that go wrong. I know that nurses, social workers, police officers and doctors many others do much that goes unnoticed to protect children. We will never get everything right and we always want to improve further. This report tells you something about how we go about doing just that.

Alan Coe
Independent Chair

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Introduction & Purpose of the WSCB Annual Report

By law we must have a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) in each local authority area. It is a partnership of the main agencies who help protect young people but also includes strong links with the community and, most importantly, young people. The government provides guidance about their role and function and it also says we must have an Annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area (this is a statutory requirement under section 14A of the Children Act 2004). The annual report should be published in relation to the preceding financial year and should fit with local agencies' planning, commissioning and budget cycles. The report should be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local police and crime commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The report provides a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services safeguarding arrangements and reflects multi-agency safeguarding activity across Wolverhampton, highlighting the work undertaken in the year, areas for development and board scrutiny and challenge.

This report illustrates the challenges of improving how we safeguard young people at a time of continuing high demand but reduced resources. As well as making progress in a number of areas the annual report serves to identify where we need to do more which are reflected in the new 2015/16 Business Plan. In the year ahead we know that we need to clarify and strengthen links with other partnership boards, including the Health and Well Being Board (H&WBB), Safer Wolverhampton Partnership, Safeguarding Adults Board and the Children Trust Board to make sure the work of each supports and complements each other.

The annual report lists the contributions made to the LSCB by each partner agency and details of what the LSCB has spent, including on Child Death Reviews, Serious Case Reviews and other areas such as learning events or training. All LSCB member organisations have to provide LSCB's with reliable resources (including finance) that enable us to be strong and effective.
(Ch. 3, para. 16, 17 and 18, Working Together 2013)

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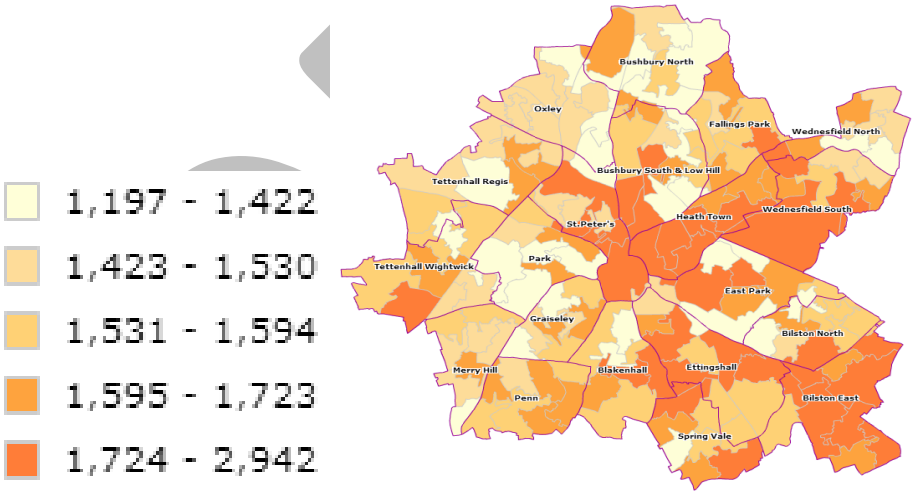
The City of Wolverhampton, Local Background and Context

- Situated to the west of Birmingham, Wolverhampton is one of the 4 local authorities in the Black Country sub-region (see map)
- Rapid growth in the 19th century based on coal and manufacturing industries
- Amongst the most densely populated local authority areas in England: 251,557 people (2013 Mid-Year Pop. Est.) living in its 26.8 square miles.
- Over a third of the population are of non-'White British' ethnicity (35.5% as of the 2011 Census)

(www.bcil.org.uk/) map shows the location of the Black Country within Great Britain and is from http://www.bcll.org.uk/

Wolverhampton has a population of 251,851 and is proud of the diverse cultural richness that this encompasses, with 35% of its residents from BME.



- The greatest numbers of people are usually found in the inner city, the north-east, and the south-east

Children and Young People

a) **General:** A total of 56,353 children and young people under the age of 18 years live in Wolverhampton. This is approximately 20% of the total population in the area.

- Approximately 31.5% of the local authority's children and young people aged 0 – 18) are living in poverty; this rises to 50% in 10 LSOA's. This is higher than the national average.

- The proportion of children entitled to free school meals:

  - In primary schools (including reception) is 29.8% (the national average is 18%)
  - In secondary schools (including Academies) is 23.3% (the national average is 15%)
  - Across the total school population is 27.5%

- Children and young people from minority ethnic group's account for 44.2% of all children living in the area compared with 25.5% in England. Approximately 46.5% of school age children are from a minority ethnic group.

- The largest minority ethnic groups of children and young people in the area are Asian Indian (born in the UK).

- The proportion of children and young people with English as an additional language:

  - In primary schools is 22% (the national average is 18%)
  - In secondary schools is 17% (the national average is 14%)

b) **Health:** The health and wellbeing of children in Wolverhampton is generally worse than the England average:

- Wolverhampton currently has an **Infant Mortality** rate of 7.8 per 1,000 (2010-12) compared to 4.3 per 1,000 for England and Wales. Over the past 20 years there has been a 30% reduction in the average infant mortality rate for England and Wales, whereas in Wolverhampton the local infant mortality rate has remained static and latest data indicates Wolverhampton currently has the highest rate of infant mortality in England and Wales. Whilst it is acknowledged that year on year there is fluctuation in the infant mortality rate in Wolverhampton due to small number variation, the rate has been consistently above the average for England and Wales.

- The **Child Mortality** rate (1 – 17 years) is 13.8 per 100,000 (the national average is 12.5). This is slightly higher than the national average.

- Children in Wolverhampton have worse than average levels of **obesity**:

  - Obese children aged 4 – 5 years is 12.7%; a reduction from 13.1% (March 2013), (the national average is 9.3%)

  - Obese children aged 10 – 11 years is 24.1%; a reduction from 24.4% (March 2013, (the national average is 18.9%))

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- Under age 18 conceptions per 1000 females age 15 – 17 years in Wolverhampton is significantly higher than the national average; although there is evidence to suggest a reducing trend.

About our most vulnerable children:

In line with Section 17 (10) of the Children Act 1989; Children's Social Care have a responsibility to safeguards and promotes the welfare of Children in Need

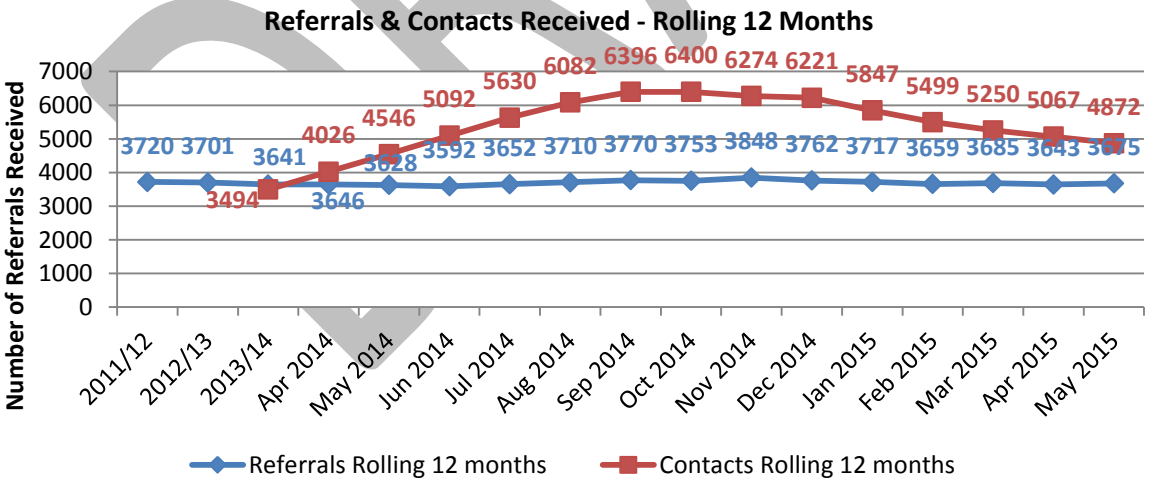
A child is a "Child in Need" if:

- The child is unlikely to achieve or maintain, or to have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining, a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision of services by a local authority;
- The child's health or development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired, without the provision of services; or,
- The child is disabled.

Children (under 18) may be 'looked after' by local authorities under a number of different arrangements such as care orders or emergency protection orders outlined in the Children Act 1989.

Services to Children during the reporting period:

- The chart below shows that there were 5250 contact made which transpired to 3685 children being identified through assessment as being formally in need of a specialist children's services intervention. This represents a slight increase from March 2014 (3641).



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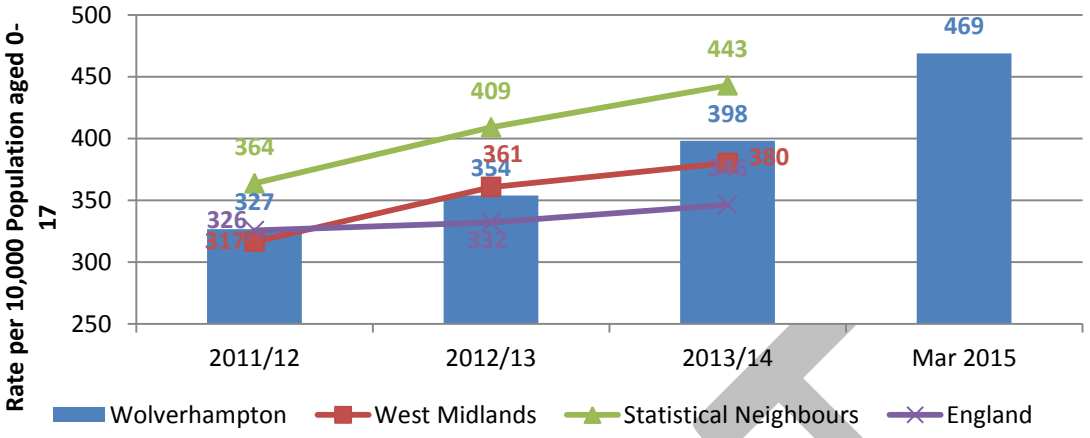
CiN per 10,000 Population aged 0-17



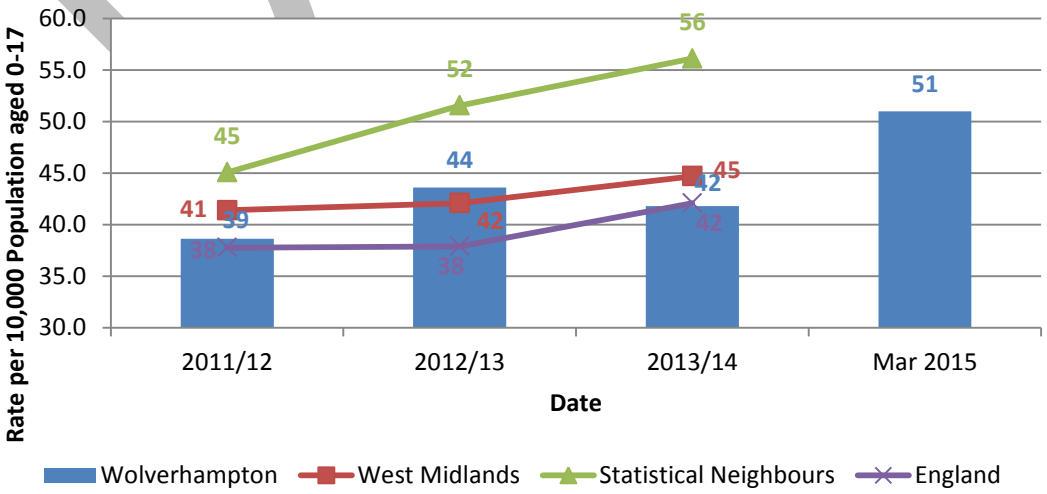
The above graph shows an increase in the rate of children in need over the past three years. The increase in Wolverhampton has been steeper than the increase in rates for England and West Midlands, but is been broadly in line with the increase seen amongst statistical neighbours.

Safeguards for children suffering; or is likely to suffer significant harm.

- When a multiagency child protection case conference decides that a child or young person is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm, a child protection plan is created. This is a working arrangement that enables the family of a child and professionals to understand what is expected of them and what they can expect of others.

- As detailed in the chart below, the rate of children who are subject of a **Child Protection Plan** has increased significantly in 2014/15. The rate of children subject of a child protection plan in Wolverhampton has, in previous years, been broadly in line with the England and West Midlands rates but significantly lower than the rate amongst statistical neighbours. Even with the steep increase seen in 2014/15, the rate remains below that of Statistical Neighbours in March 2014.

CP per 10,000 Population aged 0-17



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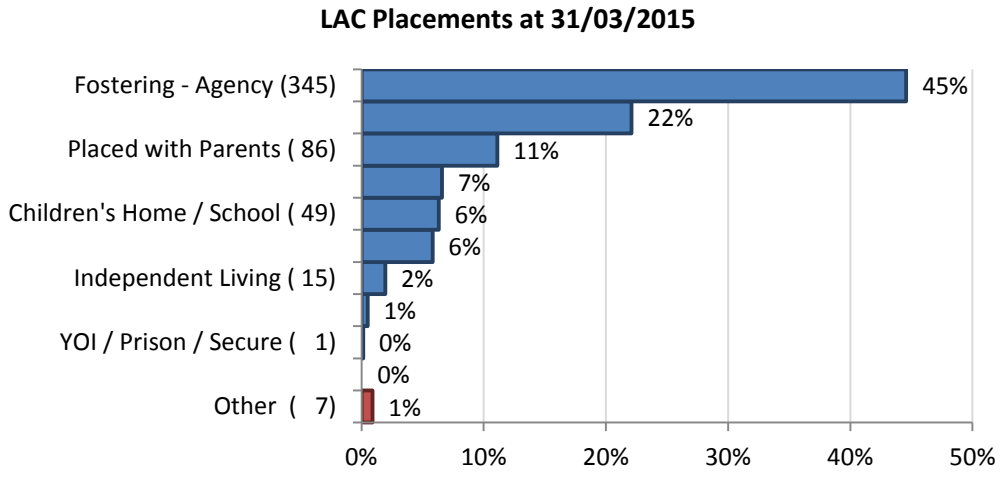
- **Wolverhampton has seen a 35% increase in the number of Looked After Children (LAC) over the last three years. This increase has been** significantly higher than that of comparator groups although throughout this reporting period (2014/15) numbers have stabilised and there seems to be to a trend which indicates there may be an end to the rapid increase seen in previous years.

  The graph below demonstrates the breakdown of placement arrangements of LAC in Wolverhampton.



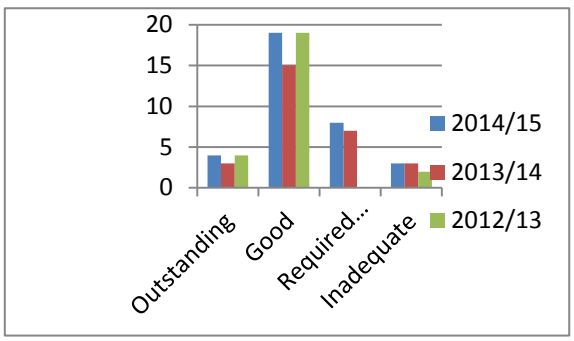
c) Education in Wolverhampton:

- In Wolverhampton 56% (as opposed to 44% in 2012/13) of children at Foundation Stage achieved a Good Level of Development (those achieving at least the expected level within the three prime areas of learning: communication and language, physical development and personal, social and emotional development and in the early learning goals within the literacy and mathematics areas of learning) as compared with the National Level of 60%.

- Until recently Wolverhampton was one of only three local authorities nationally where fewer than 60% of primary-age pupils attend good or better schools; a recent review of Ofsted judgements has demonstrated an improved performance in this area with 68% of pupils now (as at 01.10.2014) attending schools judged by Ofsted as good or better. Wolverhampton is amongst the poorest performing local authority's nationally. Conversely the situation for secondary school pupils has deteriorated with 64% of secondary-age pupils are attending schools judged by Ofsted to be good or better.

Summary of HM Inspections of Wolverhampton Schools

Year	Outstanding	Good	Required Improvement	Inadequate
2014/15	4	19	8	3
2013/14	3	15	7	3
2012/13	4	19	0	2



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Healthy Related Behaviour Survey

What does children and young people tell us about live in Wolverhampton?

Based on a pupil lifestyle consultation exercise carried out with children and young people aged 5 – 15; ("Health Related Behaviour Survey- HRBS), children in Wolverhampton told us the following:-

In relation to Personal Safety;

- 81% of KS2 pupils said that they 'always' or 'often' feel safe during school playtimes/dinner times. 78% said they feel happy during these periods.
- 66% of secondary pupils said that their safety going to and from school was 'good' or 'very good'. 34% said that their safety going out after dark was 'good' or 'very good'.

About Internet Safety:-

- 90% of KS2 pupils had been taught how to stay safe online.
- 36% of KS2 pupils reported using social networking sites – the top reasons were for posting messages (72%), gaming (69%) and posting pictures (52%).
- 83% of secondary pupils report using social networking sites and 15% report talking to people they do not know.
- 19% of KS2 pupils had received something online that made them feel worried or upset.
- 9% of KS2 pupils said they had been bullied online, this increased to 11% in the secondary sample.

Concerns about Bullying

- 28% of KS2 pupils had been bullied at or near school in the last 12 months, of these 40% had been bullied in the last month.
- 21% of secondary pupils had been bullied at or near school in the last 12 months.
- 12 % secondary pupils had been bullied in the last month.
- 75% of KS2 said that there school deals with bullying 'quite' or 'very well', this reduced to 51% of pupils in the secondary sample.

What we were told about Abusive Relationships

- 27% of secondary pupils reported negative relationship behaviour with a current or previous partner.
- 23% of year 10s reported that they were or had been in a relationship with someone who was angry or jealous when they wanted to spend time with friends. 16% reported having their phone checked. 14% reported that a partner had used threatening language towards them. 6% had been hit by a partner.
- 20% of pupils reported shouting and arguing at home in the last month.
- 5% of secondary pupils reported physical violence.

To view the full report, please follow the link:

http://wolvesnet/citypeople/councilnews/2014/september+2014/260914b.htm

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Private Fostering Arrangements in The City.

Private fostering happens when a child under the age of 16 (under 18 if disabled) is cared for by someone who is not their parent or a 'close relative'. This is a private arrangement made between a parent and a carer, for 28 days or more. Close relatives are defined as step-parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, uncles or aunts (whether of full blood, half blood or marriage/affinity).

The Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 2005 sets out the legal responsibilities placed upon Local Authorities to assess and support Private Fostering arrangements. These Regulations are underpinned by the National Minimum Standards for Private Fostering (2005).

During 2014/15, the number of privately fostered carers' notifications has been very small, although it is believed there are likely to be more unknown Private Fostering arrangements. Wolverhampton seems also to be in line with other comparator local authority in how it approaches this matter. The comparator Local Authorities who have been approached for information have similar numbers of private fostering arrangements that they identify and approve.

Over the last year, five cases were brought to the attention of the Local Authority, of these; four met the criteria for private fostering assessments, which have all been completed. From these, three went on to private fostering arrangement, the fourth did not commence.

Private Fostering Activity 2014/15

	Age on 31/03/2014
1	11
2	11
3	12
4	7
5	2

- All 4 cases had action under Regulations 4(1) and 7(1) taken and completed within 7 working days
- 75% (3 / 4) had all visits completed at 6 week intervals or less
- All four children are British (Three are White British and one is Mixed – White / Asian)

There are 2 Private Fostering arrangements currently in place

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Allegations against Professionals Activity for 2014 – 2015

The following detail is relates to cases where it is alleged that a person **who works with** children under 18 years of age has:

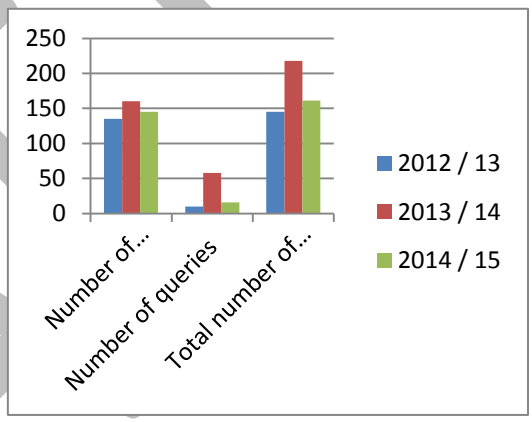
a. behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;

b. possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; or

c. behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she would pose a risk of harm if they work regularly or closely with children.

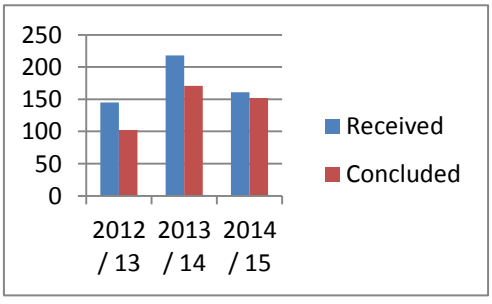
Number received over 3 years

	No of allegations	Number of queries	Total No of referrals
2012 / 13	135	10	145
2013 / 14	160	58	218
2014 / 15	145	16	161



Number concluded compared to previous years

	Received	Concluded
2012 / 13	145	102
2013 / 14	218	171
2014 / 15	161	152



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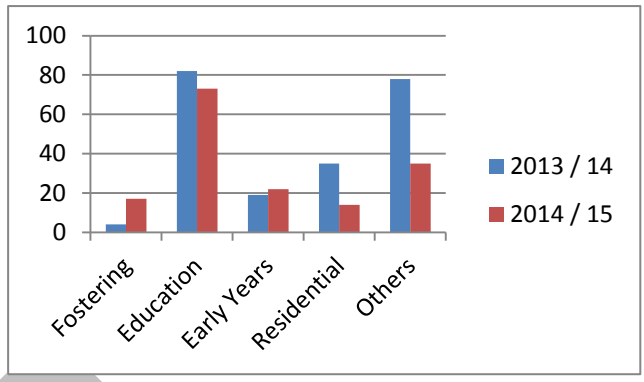
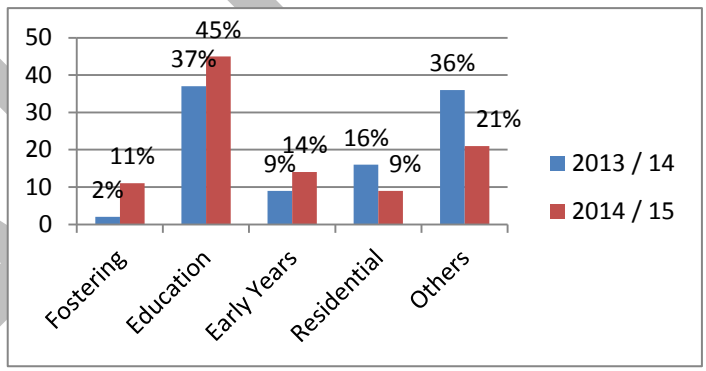
Received by service area of concern

	Fostering	Education	Early Years
2013 / 14	4	82	19
2014 / 15	17	73	22
	Residential	Others	
2013/14	35	78	
2014/15	14	35	



% received by service area of concern

	Fostering	Education	Early Years
2013/ 14	2	37	9
2014 / 15	11	45	14
	Residential	Others	
2013/ 14	16	36	
2014/ 15	9	21	



What the information tells us about Managing allegations in the City:-

1. The total number of referrals received for the year has gone down by 27% compared to last year but has shown an increase of 11% compared to 2012 / 13.
2. The number of referrals concluded for 2014 / 15 was higher than those received. This reflects the higher than usual number of referrals received in the previous year and that were unresolved at the year end.
3. Referrals are categorised in to the service areas to which the concern relates, using the highest figure areas for 2014 / 15 and compared those service areas to the previous year. This clearly shows that there has been a large increase in concerns regarding fostering and a decrease in those regarding residential services. Education concerns have shown a decrease in numbers but an increase as a percentage. The 'others' category is the combination of other service areas, many of which were single referrals.

In addition, 37 of the referrals required Position of Trust (POT) meetings with 4 of these needing more than 1 POT.

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The Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board - Statutory and Legal Context

The Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations in Wolverhampton will co-operate and work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and for ensuring that this work is effective.
WSCB was established in May 2006 in compliance with The Children Act 2004 (Section 13) and The Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006. The work of WSCB during 2014-15 was governed by the statutory guidance in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013, which sets out how organisations and individuals should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and the Local Safeguarding Children Board Regulations 2006 which sets out the functions of Local Safeguarding Children Boards.

Wolverhampton City Council is responsible for establishing a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) in their area and for ensuring that it is run effectively.
The responsibility to the effectiveness of the Board rests with the Chief Officer of Wolverhampton City Council.

The key objective of WSCB:

To co-ordinate and ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each agency on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Wolverhampton

We aim to do this in the following two ways:

1. To coordinate local work by:

- Developing and maintaining policies and procedures
- Participating in the planning of services for children young people and families
- Communicate the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children

2. To ensure the effectiveness of that work by:

- Monitoring what is done by partner agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- Undertaking Serious Case Reviews and other Multi-agency case audits to ensure that there is culture of continuous learning from practice.
- Collecting and analysing data from Child Deaths
  Publishing an annual report on the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements.

The board is led by an Independent Chair, ensuring a continued independent voice for the Board. WSCB continues to be chaired by Alan Coe, who was appointed in February 2013. From April 2013, in line with Working Together 2013, the Independent Chair became accountable to the Chief Officer of the City Council
The Chair also works closely with the Director of Children's Services in addressing local safeguarding challenges.

Relationships between WSCB and other Strategic/Partnership Boards

The Health and Wellbeing Board (H&WBB) was established in Wolverhampton during 2013. It brings together leaders from the across the City Council, NHS and District and Borough Councils to develop a shared understanding of local needs, priorities and service developments.

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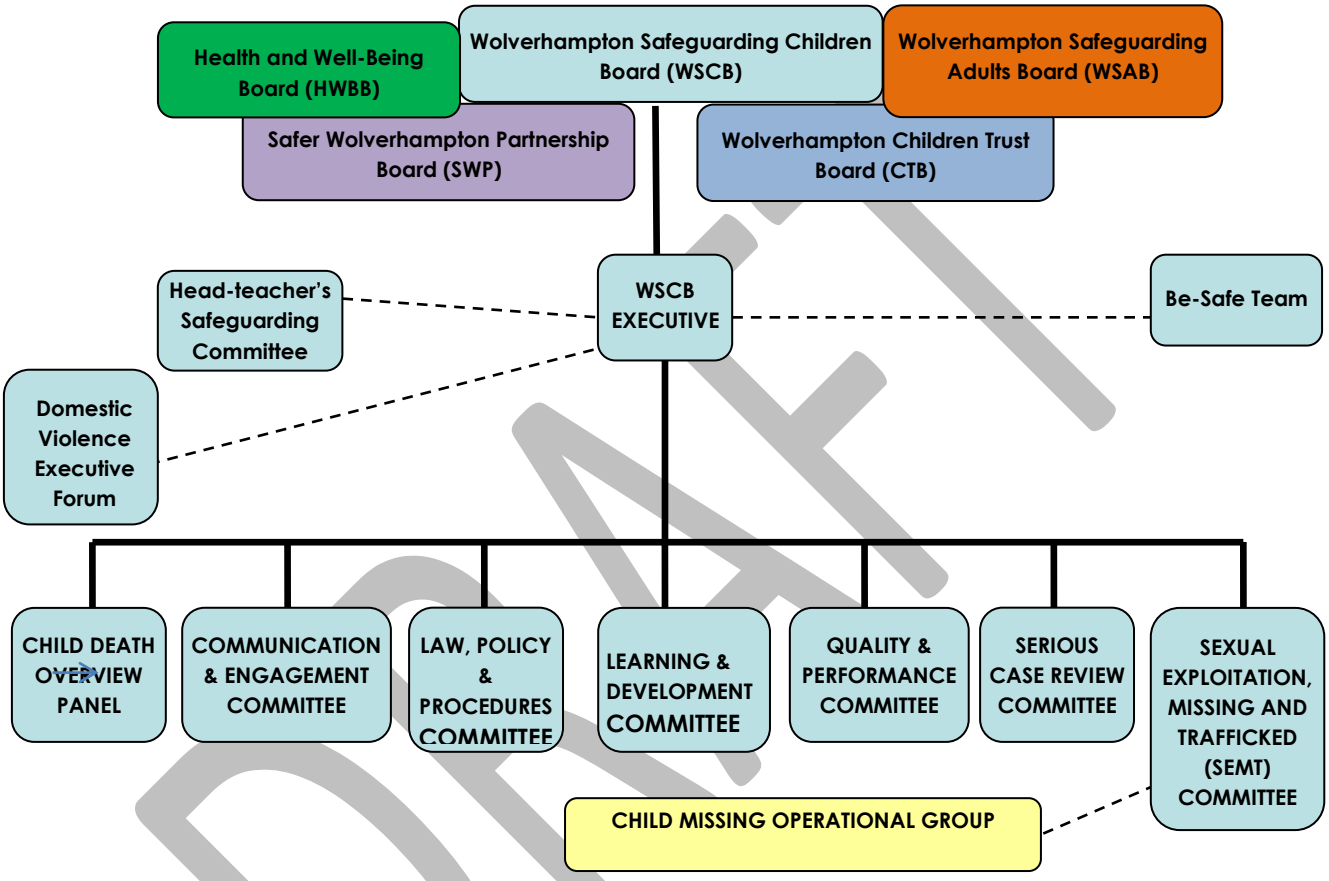
All partner agencies in Wolverhampton are committed to ensuring the effective functioning of WSCB. This is supported by a constitution which sets out the governance and accountability arrangements. Members of the Board are expected to hold a strategic role within their organisation and be able to speak for their organisation with authority, commit their organisation on policy and practice matters and hold their organisation to account.

WSCB Structure



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The above chart offers the Board structure and provides in headline form the main areas of our activity. It works in alliance with other partnership boards and the structure WSCB has formulated to deliver its functions

The Board meets on a quarterly basis and has a membership made up of representatives from all statutory partners and others concerned with safeguarding children and young people.

Who makes up the WSCB?

Membership of WSCB is in compliance with section 13(3) of the Children Act 2004 and was further updated in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013. The following organisations are required to cooperate with the local authority in the establishment and operation of the Board and have shared responsibility for the effective discharge of its functions:

- Wolverhampton City Council (incorporating children's services; adult services, the Youth Offending Team, Education and Public Health responsibilities)
- The DCI Public Protection Unit, West Midlands Police
- DCI Local Policing: West Midlands Police
- Staffordshire and West Midlands Probation Service
- Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Groups
- Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust
- Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust (BCPFT)
- NHS England
- CAFCASS
- Local school representation from: primary, secondary, special and independent schools.
- City of Wolverhampton College
- 1 Community Lay Member
- In addition to those members above as stipulated by legislation, the following organisations have also been invited to become members:
- Wolverhampton Council of Voluntary Sector (YOW is the named representative for the services providing safeguarding supports to children and young people affiliated to the voluntary sector)
- West Midlands Ambulance Service
- West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service
- The Board also have a number of standing Subject Matter Expert, who provide professional advice to the Board from the following areas:
    - Local Authority; Head of Safeguarding; Adults & Children
    - Designated Doctor for Safeguarding
    - Designated Nurse for Safeguarding
    - Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum
    - Safer Wolverhampton Partnership
- The Local Authority's Cabinet Member for Children and Families also attends the Board as a participating observer.

Attendance

The board experiences good attendance from its members with representation across board partners, lay member, voluntary sector and the involvement of other agencies and groups. Board attendance and further details of membership is outlined in appendix 1.

Contributions made to WSCB

The Board is funded by contributions from a number of partner agencies – both cash and 'in kind'. The majority of the money comes from the Council, The NHS and the Police. In the past year there was a small surplus but longer term we are predicted to have a deficit. This means we shall not be able to do all that we wish to or we find additional resources.
The full details of the income and expenditure for 2014/15 is detailed in appendix 2.

Apportioning the strategic work of WSCB

- The Board has overall responsibility for scrutinising and challenging the quality of safeguarding work by local agencies so that practice continuously improves. It does this in two ways:
- by co-ordinating the safeguarding activity of all partners; and

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- for ensuring that safeguarding work is consistent, of a high quality, and effective.

As defined in *Working Together to Safeguard Children (2013, the Board has the following* co-ordinating and monitoring role:

- ❖ monitoring how effectively organisations are fulfilling their duties under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 to safeguard and promote children's welfare, including safe recruitment practices
- promoting better understanding of children's safeguarding issues in the wider local community
- setting up and running a programme of inter-agency safeguarding training
- developing and reviewing inter-agency policies and procedures to safeguard children
- carrying out Serious Case Reviews
- taking an overview of all child deaths (under 18) in the area and identifying any potentially contributory recurrent factors, limitations or limitations in services provided by one or more agencies.

The above functions are delivered through the combined support of a range of Committee made up of nominated representatives or members of the Board. The agreed Priorities are led and monitored by members of an Executive Group made of appointed senior representatives of the main board.

The Executive committee is chaired by the Board's Independent Chair, with the Vice being the Local Authorities Strategic Director for Children Services demonstrates the Cities commitment to keeping children safe in the City. Together they ensure that the focus and momentum afforded to this area of business remains undiluted and there is a strategic lead for WSCB in line with national, regional and local objectives. The role of the Executive is to determine the Boards Business Plan, with some members leading on a specific area of the Boards four Themed Priorities; and to ensure there are links with other strategic groups, including the Health and Wellbeing, Safeguarding Adults, Children's Trust, and Safer Wolverhampton Partnership Boards. The Executive monitors performance against the Business Plan, resources, and determines key issues requiring executive action by partners.

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The Strategic Objective and Business themes for 2014 – 16 are as follows:-

	PRIORITY AREA	PRIORITY LEAD	ACTIVITY
1	**EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE**	**E.Bennett -** Service Director Children and Young People	We will develop the capacity of WSCB and its infrastructure to effectively deliver the core functions of the Board to help keep children and young people in Wolverhampton safe.
2	**FRONT-LINE DELIVERY AND THE IMPACT OF SAFEGUARDING**	**M. GARCHA** CCG EXECUTIVE LEAD NURSE	We will develop challenging and rigorous approaches to monitoring and evaluating the impact of services on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children & young people; and will hold partners to account.
3	**SAFEGUARDING FOR PARTICULAR VULNERABLE CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE**	**M. KERR** WMP: DCI - PPU	We will ensure that everything we do promotes improved practice to help safeguard and meet the needs of those children and young people who are particularly vulnerable, or are at increased risk of harm and improves outcomes for them.
4	**COMMUNICATE & ENGAGE**	**S.DODD** PROJECT COORDINATOR - YOW	We will ensure that we engage children, young people, families and communities of all backgrounds and make up, in the work of WSCB.

The combined work of WSCB is shaped from the WSCB Business Plan and the delivery against each area is deployed by its Committees, and/or Task & Finish Groups.

PROGRESS MADE AGAINST THE WSCB PRIORITIES DURING 2014-2015

PRIORITY AREA 1: Business Lead: Emma Bennett: Assistant Director: Children & Families
EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE We will develop the capacity of WSCB and its infrastructure to effectively deliver the core functions of the Board to help keep children and young people in Wolverhampton safe.

The Development of WSCB

To enable the Board to drive forward the comprehensive safeguarding agenda and be a strong and effective, the board sees the continual development of its governance arrangements as one of the key priorities; this is led by a priority lead, Emma Bennett.

Over the reporting period the governance lead has continued to extend and strengthen the activity around governance in the following ways:

- Regularly monitored the appropriateness of representation of WSCB membership and attendance of partners at WSCB meetings and Committees to effectively deliver against the agreed business work-streams.

- Ensured WSCB presence at the appropriate level on all partnership/strategic Boards including the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWWB) and Safer Wolverhampton Partnership (SWP), Children Trust Board (CTB), Domestic Violence Executive and the Safeguarding Adults Board (WSAB).
- Created a 'joint' working protocol between the WSCB, and a number of other local strategic partnership boards including; WSAB, SWP, HWWB and the CTB.
- Established a Head-teachers Safeguarding Committee to drive forward and strengthen communication in relation to keeping children safe across all educational establishments.
- Overseen the induction and mentoring of the Lay advisor in the first year in role.
- Formed of a task and finish group to review the discrete support to the board. This has led to the agreement to increase the operational business support to the Board with an increase in staffing going forward in to 2015/16. This will be reviewed on an annual basis; with continuation dependent of contributions from board partners.
- Lead on the WSCB development Day
- Strengthened the attention afforded to, and oversee the Boards Risk Register
- Managed the actions arising from Exec Committee work plan
- Overseen the review of the Independent Chair's performance.
- Improve understanding of the local arrangements and service provision relating to all age disabilities.

Work in Progress going ahead in to 2015/16

At present WSCB has only one lay member who has continued to support stronger public engagement in local safeguarding children issues as he contributes to an improved understanding of the role and work of the Board within the wider community. He is a member of the Communication and Engagement committee as an additional strand to the task of actively challenging the Board on the accessibility, clarity and transparency of its plans, priorities and achieved outcomes to children and the public. The Board is seeking to recruit a further lay advisor to the board.

In compliance with Working Together to Safeguarding Children (2013), the Board has produced a Quality Assurance Framework which is currently out for consultation. This will need to be implemented throughout the coming year to assist the Board in understanding how agencies are monitoring and quality assuring the effectiveness of partner agencies safeguarding activity; including the WSCB priorities. The framework includes a multi-agency data set which reflects national indicators, local needs and WSCB priorities.

We have a Safeguarding Children in Education audit process which is distributed to all schools. We had a 100% response rate, a substantial improvement. This audit helps schools and colleges raise safeguarding children and will also include assessing the compliance of schools with safer recruitment standards. It will be used to identify targeted areas of activity for the Board and its partners to strengthen safeguarding arrangements in educational establishments. During the year ahead, the same model and process will be extended to include City of Wolverhampton College, private and independent schools and other educational providers.

Understanding and learning from practitioners is integral to the work of the Board; practitioner views are captured during training events and they are actively engaged in review learning, audit activity, communication campaigns and procedure development. This

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helps our partnership to identify good practice and understand frontline barriers to local safeguarding children practice. Further development is underway to capture the views of practitioners across the multi-agency workforce via a staged evaluation model to be implemented 2015-2016.

Activities for 2015/16

- Monitor the effectiveness of EH services and support
- Align the board priorities to the children and young people plan
- Establish a seamless process to refer information, task request and concerns between the Board, its committees and other partnership/strategic boards
- Create a process for agencies/ front-line staff, children, young people parents and carers to refer concerns
- Review WSCB members involvement and contribution to the board
- Review and update the Boards constitution.
- Implement an Induction programme for all new board/committee members.

A word from our Community Lay Advisor; David Perrin

"It is pleasing to see the continuous improving momentum from WSCB in the safeguarding of our children across the city. I must however hasten to add, we still have a way to go.

As a Lay Advisor my primary aim is to see every single member of the Wolverhampton community understand what safeguarding is; and believe in its principles. The Communication and Engagement Committee are vigorously working towards this end, but it must be seen as an objective for all board members and not solely the responsibility of this committee. This in turn will encourage individuals we all come into contact with to share the message with the same level of interest and application.

One of the objectives of the lay member is to raise the public profile of the Board and its work – I am actively doing this, although I think that for many, it can be difficult to take messages beyond the spheres of influence and activities.

I can see the achievements and developments of the Board in this my first year in post- I just wish that I felt more confident that the messages coming from the Board and its committee are really getting to the frontline and impacting as they should on the dedicated professionals who do their best for the young people of Wolverhampton. This remains a challenge for the Board in the year ahead.

Going forward I'd like to meet individually with the board members I've not yet met with a view of how we can better meet safeguarding needs across the city.

In closing I must applaud those individuals I have been mentored by and have worked closely with; the Independent Chair, Board Manager, Learning & Development Committee Chair and the Communication and Engagement Chair, whom have most definitely led by example in their respective areas".

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Dave Perrin
WSCB Lay Advisor

What were the key achievements from the WSCB Committees against the 2014/15 Key Priorities?

PRIORITY AREA 2: Business Lead: Manjeet GARCHA; EXECUTIVE LEAD NURSE; Wolverhampton CCG
FRONT-LINE DELIVERY AND THE IMPACT OF SAFEGUARDING **We will develop challenging and rigorous approaches to monitoring and evaluating the impact of services on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children & young people; and will hold partners to account.**

Review of Child Deaths

In line with Chapter 5 of Working Together 2013, The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) is a joint statutory group for Walsall & Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Boards. This is a cross-authority panel which consists of representatives from both Walsall and Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Boards. This group has the responsibility for reviewing all deaths of children in both Walsall and Wolverhampton. The panel is chaired by the Executive Director Nursing & Quality, Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group and its work is supported by Designated Doctors for Unexpected Death, nurse practitioners, a child death coordinator, partner representatives (including from Public Health); and the Board Managers for both WSCB local areas.

The overall purpose of the child death review process is to understand why some children die and, wherever possible, put in place interventions to protect other children and to prevent future deaths. Between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015 CDOP activity was as follows:-

- CDOP met 4 times in 14/15
- Reviewed 22 deaths
- 19 reviewed within the year and 3 from 13/14
- 2 with modifiable factors for 13/14 and 2 for 14/15
- 13 were male, 9 were female
- 16/22 deaths were in babies aged 0-27 days
- Zero children had child protection plans
- Zero children had statutory orders
- Ethnicities; 15 white, 0 mixed, 3 asian, 3 black carribean and 1 others
- Zero known to be asylum seekers
- Place of death; 3 emergency department, 4 NNU,7 paediatric ICU, 5 delivery ward and 2 home

The number of deaths of children normally resident in Wolverhampton reported to CDOP in 2014/2015 was the lowest number since CDOP was established in Wolverhampton since 2008. Nationally there has been a reduction also in the number of child deaths.

Achievements for 2014/15- a selection of initiatives joint with various stakeholders have been undertaken to address the wider child death issue. Whilst there will be learning from all, the most significant initiative is the wider city multi agency steering group to address infant mortality which is multi-facetted from pre conception to post delivery.

Promotional activity 2014/15 included

- Safer sleeping
- Family nurse practitioners
- Setting up of multi-agency infant mortality steering group and agreed action plan to address infant mortality in Wolverhampton
- Stop smoking campaigns
- Review of all deaths that met the criteria within the timescales
- Learning from modifiable outcomes and share

Priorities for 2015/16

A continuing focus for the Panel is reviewing the CDOP system and processes, including how agencies can better support staff in being aware of the Rapid Response procedures and in implementing them. This will build on the training already offered, an updated guide to the process and from learning from other CDOPs.

Serious Case Reviews

A 'serious case' is one where:

- abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected; and either –
  - the child has died; or
  - the child has been seriously harmed and there is cause for concern as to the way in which the authority, their Board partners or other relevant persons have worked together to safeguard the child.

Local Safeguarding Children Boards must always undertake a review of these cases. These reviews are called Serious Case Reviews (SCRs).

The purpose of a SCR is to establish whether there are lessons to be learnt from the case about the way in which local professionals and organisations work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

The Serious Case Review Committee (SCRC) on behalf of the Board is responsible for coordinating serious case reviews and learning reviews and for monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of all of the reviews action plans. The SCRC members act as independent panel members for serious case reviews where their agency is not directly involved with the case. The Committee is chaired by the Designated Dr for Child Death, who is also a Consultant Paediatrician for Royal Wolverhampton Trust (RWT); NHS. The group currently meets six times a year. Progress on the actions arising from serious case reviews (SCRs) and learning reviews are monitored by the SCRC. Progress and exception reports on the actions are presented to the Executive Group on a bi-monthly basis and to the WSCB on a quarterly basis as required.

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During 2014-15, 9 cases where brought to the attention of the SCRC. These cases were purely Wolverhampton children. Of the 9 that have been considered by the SCRC, one met the criteria for a serious case review, which has been commissioned, one case review was undertaken by a single agency process within the Youth Offending Team (YOT), 4 are being investigated critiqued further through the committee, and the remaining 3 did not fit within the criteria or remit of work for the SCRC, and have subsequently been forwarded to the relevant service area with advice and guidance for action .

WSCB takes seriously its responsibilities to ensure that lessons learned from serious case reviews are used to shape and improve practice and that learning is disseminated and embedded to support improvements across all partner agencies, with much emphasis on the importance of communicating, Information sharing, reporting concerns in a timely manner and on recording information. These areas are not unique to the findings of local SCR's however, they are regular recommendations threading through most SCR's. This is something that Wolverhampton are keen to improve and will monitor progression going forward, to ensure that intervention pertaining to safeguarding concerns are identified and acted upon at the right time. For 2014-15, the WSCB has included the learning from SCR's, in to its multi-agency training programme, this includes the lessons from local, regional and national SCR, to ensure the key learning s are widely shared. This will in turn enable services to be more responsive to safeguarding concerns and reinforce the message of safeguarding being everybody's responsibility.

Looking forward brief overview of work anticipated for 2015/16

We shall be publishing the findings from the SCR commissioned in 2014 in the coming year. The delay in publication is due to pending court proceedings. But we do not wait to act. In the meantime, the committee has ensured that actions from this SCR are being implemented across all the relevant partner agencies across the city.
This committee will also:

- Ensure that messages from regional and national SCR's and associated research appropriately shared to a wide audience and by way of various methods.
- Continue to scrutinise incidents which do not meet the threshold for the commissioning of a full SCR, but where there are clearly lessons for learning; in these cases, the committee will explore, identify and apply a model to conduct case reviews.
- Organise a development day in addition to the bi-monthly meetings, to evaluate progress against the board business plan and to schedule the activities going forward in to 2015/16 and beyond.

WSCB Quality & Performance Function:

The quality & performance functions of the Board spans across all priority areas, and is a key focus for the Executive Committee

We collect data and performance information to tell us how well we are safeguarding children and to pinpoint where to take action if the information tells us there are problems. Through the Quality & Performance Committee (Q&PC); the Board ensures there is a clear focus on ensuring there are processes in place to improve the way the Board captures; coordinates and helps ensure the effectiveness of local safeguarding children arrangements. In response to the Department for Education's Children's Safeguarding Performance

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Information Framework, the Board has developed its Multi-Agency Performance Scorecard to support some of this function.
This dataset, coordinated via the Council's Business Intelligence Team, contains a number of key performance indicators covering a wide range of subject specific concerns across the broad areas of safeguarding, and child Protection, activity including the provision of Early Help. We have included new data to help us better understand how we identify how well schools and GP practices are fully-engaged in safeguarding. This has helped us get an improved response in the first instance and identify what we need to do to get this in the latter.
The WSCB Performance scorecard is under constant review and has been refreshed to reflect the requirements as outlined in Working Together 2013.

Within the remit of work for the Q&PC, is the management and oversight of the:
1. Section 11 (Children Act, 2004) audit
2. Themed/targeted Multi-agency case file audits (MACFA);

The s.11 audit was issued for completion by WSCB partners in the autumn of 2014. The Board received a summary report in December 2014 and has charged the Q&PC to further scrutinise the findings from the audit and report back to the board during 2015 -16. It is planned that themed audits based on challenges and areas for development identified within the S.11 will be take place during 2015. The Q&PC will also draw on the findings of the s11 audits for challenge and single agency improvement plans.

During 2014-2015 the Q&PC coordinated and contributed to three children's multi-agency audits. These were undertaken via a multi-agency panel consisting of frontline workers and strategic leads. The cases were all thematic and related to the Boards priorities of adolescent neglect, child sexual exploitation and missing. The aim of this audit activity was to understand the child's journey with services and for frontline staff to improve the depth of learning achieved through contributing their own knowledge and experience of working with the child and their family. WSCB audit templates were completed and a systems approach taken to identify key learning and recommendations for improvement. The lessons arising from MACFA is shared with frontline practitioners and managers via WSCB and internal agency communication pathways. This includes sharing the learning through the Communication and Engagement monthly Newsletters; on the WSCB website; and within the delivery of single and multi-agency training.

In addition to the two functions mentioned above, the Q&PC, under the auspices of the board is in the process of agreeing a Quality and Performance Framework to join together all quality and performance activity as required via Working Together 2013. This model will present a new range of outcome indicators that the WSCB monitors and will use to target audit activity, including:-

- The views of children, parents and carers and practitioners
- Single Agency annual reports
- Learning from serious case reviews or learning reviews
- Learning from child death reviews
- Learning from Inspections or internal audits
- Single agency performance and quality assurance activity

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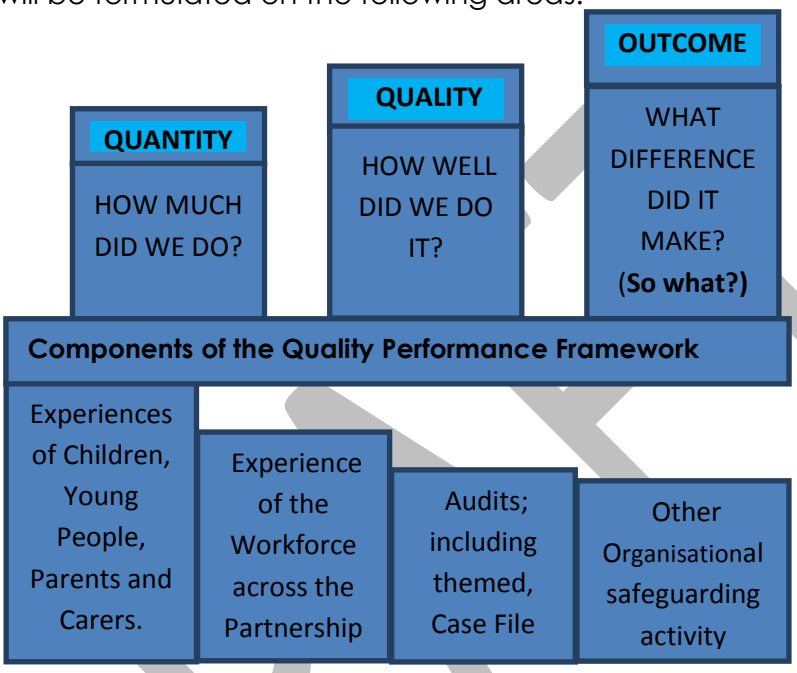
The model will be formulated on the following areas:



As part of the WSCB quality assurance function, we audit practice focussing on different themes on a quarterly basis. A challenge in the coming year is to involve more front line practitioners, parents and young people in the audit process. Establishing a 'scrutiny calendar' will enable the WSCB to have in place an evidence based mechanism which allows Board members to hold each other to account for their agency's contribution to the safety and protection of children and young people. This process will continue to be developed and implemented further during 2015-16.

WSCB has undertaken the required 'Section 11' audit of safeguarding arrangements across its partnership during the autumn of 2014. The final report is due to be presented to the Board in June 2015 and a scrutiny panel will be held during the summer of 2015 to scrutinise the agency returns and ensure that appropriate actions are being taken where shortfalls have been identified

Schools Self- Assessment of Safeguarding arrangement under the Education Act 2002 s.175 /157

An annual audit of schools safeguarding arrangements is undertaken and reported to the Board. The audit is sent to all Local Authority Maintained Schools, Academies, The purpose of the audit is to enable establishments to:

- Assess schools safeguarding practice, identify strengths and highlight areas of development.
- Develop an action plan to address areas of development which can be reviewed on a regular basis in order to help safeguard pupils
- Have evidence of safeguarding practice available for any Ofsted inspection
- Provide statutory information to the Local Authority and WSCB.

Of the 106 educational establishments sent the audit this year 106 (100%) establishments provided a return. This is a significant increase on previous years when less than 10% of educational establishment responded to this request.
To develop this function further, there are a number of educational establishments that have not yet been included in the activity including, Post 16 Providers and Independent Schools, who will be involved in the next cohort of distributions.

During 2014-2015 the Q&PC coordinated and contributed to three children's multi-agency audits. These were undertaken via a multi-agency panel consisting of frontline workers and strategic leads. The cases were all thematic and related to the Boards priorities of adolescent neglect, child sexual exploitation and missing. The aim of this audit activity was to understand the child's journey with services and for frontline staff to improve the depth of learning achieved through contributing their own knowledge and experience of working with the child and their family. WSCB audit templates were completed and a systems approach taken to identify key learning and recommendations for improvement. The lessons arising from MACFA were shared with frontline practitioners and managers via WSCB and internal agency communication pathways. This extended to sharing the learning through the Communication and Engagement monthly Newsletters; on the WSCB website; and within the delivery of single and multi-agency training.

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WSCB Learning & Development Activity

In 2014-15 WSCB Training programme supported our priorities. The demand for some courses throughout the year has meant providing extra events.
Through the Learning and Development Committee, there has been a consistent multi-agency workforce streamlined programme of training activities that:

- Is informed by the Board's Learning and Improvement Framework,
- Is relevant to core business and priorities of WSCB
- Is aligned to statutory guidance, best practice and lessons learnt through the full range of reviews and audits undertaken by WSCB.

This includes reminding the Board, Partner Organisations and Practitioners of their roles and responsibilities in terms of promoting a 'learning culture' in safeguarding children.
WSCB continues to encourage partner agencies to meet their responsibilities to ensure staff receive safeguarding training by providing a varied multi-agency training programme.

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'Working Together 2013' requires that Boards' monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of training, including multi-agency training, for all professionals in the area.
We have recognised that further work is required by the Board and partner agencies to understand what difference training is making to frontline practice. This has led to the development of new ways of evaluating training that will identify pre and post course knowledge and skills, provide evidence of the impact of the training on individuals. This in turn will improve practice and outcomes for children, young people and families. In addition there are plans underway to develop this further to ensure feedback from both facilitators and attendees to evaluate the delivery and engagement for each session.

The findings from the previous year's annual report for WSCB training identified a high non-attendance rate for a proportion of our courses. This has an effect on the numbers of places available, and ultimately numbers of individuals trained. This was also not cost effective. To address this we now charge for non-attendance at training sessions to improve attendance rates and recoup money when people still do not come.

Highlight and feedback on WSCB training:

The provision of Safer Recruitment training, including a recently devised refresher course remains popular. WSCB has a responsibility to ensure safer recruitment practices are embedded. New guidance; 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' will lead to some updating of course material. We provide 8 events per year which are opened up to the entire workforce, both adults and children's.
The demand for the 'Working Practices; Roles and Responsibilities training was in high demand with positive feedback. It will be necessary to increase the number of courses going forward in to 2015/16.

Highlights and feedback on WSCB training:

The provision of Safer Recruitment training, including a recently devised refresher course remains popular. WSCB has a responsibility to ensure safer recruitment practices are embedded. With changes being made to the statutory guidance; 'keeping Children Safe in Education' the course may need to be updated further. We are currently providing 8 events per year which are opened up to the entire workforce, both adults and children's.
The demand for the 'Working Practices; Roles and Responsibilities training was in high demand with positive feedback. It will be necessary to increase the number of courses going forward in to 2015/16.

Trafficking- Jan 2015

"Useful afternoon for gaining some insight into Trafficking
A lot of useful resources
Enjoyed training- opened eyes into what can happen if professionals do not report

DA and the impact on Families- Dec 2014

"Very good day, sensitive issue dealt with appropriately
I found the training very interesting, lots of experience in the room from different agencies.
Great to share good practice
Good delivery of training – relaxed , informative

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Impact of WSCB Training

Attendees provide evidence of the impact of the training both on their practice and on children and families. It shows that the majority of attendees reported:

- increased confidence,
- improved skills
- much better informed on the knowledge base of each course;
- understood what this means for them in practice, and
- more confident that they would be better able to keep children and young people safe as a result.

Working Practices roles and Responsibilities- Nov 2014

"Very Helpful regarding personal situation and how I can now deal with my concerns"

Safeguarding Children and Young People From Self Harm- Mar 2015

"A very interesting and thought provoking training session

Joint WSCB and WSAB Annual Conference – FORCED MARRIAGE AND HONOUR BASED VIOLENCE

On 4th June 2014 a joint conference - "Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence was held in conjunction with Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adults Board, the event was to highlight our joint safeguarding priorities and to improve the awareness of this hidden underreported issue which is of concern for both Boards. The conference attracted 126 delegates who were informed by local and national subject matter experts, including, Karma Nivarna, a national subject relation recognised charity and Home Office subject area Lead.

Going forward in to 2015/16

The Learning and Development Committee has contributed to the development of, and will lead on the implementation of the WSCB's Learning and improvement Framework. This will amalgamated and drive forward a suite of learning and development opportunities in a range of approaches to cover all aspects of the Boards work and will coordinate the dissemination of learning and messages from all WSCB Committees.

WSCB will also be exploring the implementation of a single agency training endorsement and validation scheme as a means of WSCB fulfilling its responsibilities for quality assuring training in keeping with 'Working Together 2013'.

Safeguarding Children – A Shared Responsibility- Mar 2015

"Delegates found the strategy discussion activity useful- raised awareness of decision making."

Contributing to Child Protection Case Conferences-Dec 2014

"Excellent Training, Excellent Trainer, incredibly knowledgeable and approachable when asked questions"

"Maggie is brilliant; this training needs to happen for all staff"

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Developing and Maintaining Policies and Procedures
All inter-agency policies and procedures, training materials, communications and relevant documentation have been revised in line with Working Together 2013 including other national, regional or local guidance, research or learning. This includes a local threshold to support model for assessment. The 'child social work assessment' sets out clear arrangements for how cases will be managed once a child is referred to Children's Social Care (CSC) services.

The Law, Policy and Procedures Committee (LPPC)continue to develop multi-agency policies and procedures together to help to promote shared clarity and improve consistency of practice for agencies and their practitioners across the city. The most recent examples include the development of the Forced Marriage Protocol which has been recognised as the first for the region
The LPPC has been working with our IT providers to ensure the multi-agency child protection procedures and guidance can be linked via a website
http://wolverhamptonscb.proceduresonline.com/
During 2014-2015 the website was redesigned in order to improve the content and accessibility of the site; there this will be further upgrades to this area during 2014-2015

To support the Board in ensuring that safeguarding practice keeps abreast of new developments, during 2014-2015 the LPPC have reviewed, revised, devised and published policies, procedures and practice guidance in relation to:

- Children missing from home and care,
- Self Harm Protocol,
- Sexual Exploitation, Missing and Trafficked (SEMT) strategic process, Child Sexual Exploitation induction programme, Multi agency sexual exploitation (MASE) meetings; and Child Missing Operational Group (CMOG) processes.
- Unborn Baby pathway for intervention
- Supporting Children and young people vulnerable to violent extremism strategy
- Cross Border Child Protection guidance under 'Hague Convention
- Safeguards for children who may be affected by gang activity
- Threshold for support practice guidance
- Escalation Policy; and
- Information Sharing Agreement which all member agencies have now endorsed has been developed to strengthen communication between the WSCB partners

Going forward, the LPPC will:

- ❖ To continue to scrutinise and localise all Board policy and procedural guidance to increase the support of local practice
- ❖ Maintain a close eye on new ways of working alongside the introduction of 'early help' support services and the associated 'new operating model', and ensure practice guidance, policies, procedures and protocols are revised accordingly.

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- Liaise with other WSCB committees and partnership boards to ensure regular briefings, updates of new policies are widely circulated across all agencies
- To provide launch events to ensure key practice related messages involving changes in delivery are shared
- To ensure all updated policies are transferred to the Learning and Development Committee to be included in training, to ensure implementation.
- The committee has set a work-plan with timescales to review key areas, some of which include: Children on the edge of Care, Teenage Suicide, Stateless Children, children of Detained Parents, Female Genital Mutilation; and to closely monitor and updates in relation to areas of concerns; i.e., children at risk of child sexual exploitation, practice and arrangement for Children with Disabilities, and pre-birth assessments.

PRIORITY AREA 3, Business Lead; Michaela Kerr; Detective Chief Inspector – West Midlands Police PPU
SAFEGUARDING FOR PARTICULAR VULNERABLE CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE **We will ensure that everything we do promotes improved practice to help safeguard and meet the needs of those children and young people who are particularly vulnerable, or are at increased risk of harm and improves outcomes for them.**

Safeguards for Vulnerable Children and Young People; Sexual Exploited, Missing and Trafficked (SEMT) Committee

The WSCB SEMT Committee is a multi-agency partnership with a remit and duty to safeguard children and young who may be at increased vulnerability from sexual exploitation, missing episodes and trafficking in accordance with the policies, procedures and guidance outlined in local and national guidance and that of (WSCB).

SEMT Committee has been tasked with ensuring that children who are victims of Sexual Exploitation and are at risk of exploitation have their needs addressed and are effectively protected.
The group has sought to develop an improved understanding of the situation relating to Child Sexual Exploitation within Wolverhampton, and across the region.
The establishment of SEMT, chaired by a senior police officer ensures information is appropriately shared regarding potential offenders and victims of particular vulnerable groups, and an effective action plan developed to protect the potential or actual victim from further harm.

The principles of SEMT which underpin our work include:

- Integrated working (e.g. co-location) – Close collaboration in multi-agency working is essential in developing 'real time' risk assessments to enhance decision making. A truly integrated approach helps to break down cultural barriers, leading to greater understanding and mutual respect among different agencies.
- Joint risk assessments – these ensure clear and sufficient information about particular cases and joint plans for individual interventions.
- A victim focused approach – the needs of the victim must be at the

forefront of our approach not systems and processes.

- ❖ Good leadership & clear governance – strong leadership can often bind different organisations together to develop a shared culture.
- ❖ Frequent review of operations – to continue to drive improvement of service.

Our delivery plan for 2014/15 was built on good practice and local guidance including :-

- ❖ The West Midlands Regional framework for CSE
- ❖ Working Together to Safeguard Children (DfE 2013)
- ❖ Sexual Exploitation of Children: It Couldn't Happen Here, Could It?
- ❖ A thematic report by Ofsted, November 2014
- ❖ *See Me: Hear Me* (OCC 2013), Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation (DCSF, 2009),
- ❖ Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan (DfE, 2011)
- ❖ *I thought I was the only one in the world:* The Office of the Children's Commissioner's Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups, (OCC 2012); and
- ❖ The recommendations made by the Association of LSCB chairs (2013)

These have all been considered alongside the revised WSCB CSE Framework adopted across the 7 West Midlands Police Force areas to manage and better Safeguard Children and Young People at Risk of Sexual Exploitation –has been implemented throughout 2014/15 and will continue in to 2015/16 to include Practice Guidance and Procedure.

Achievements for 2014/15

- We obtained funding for a Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Co-ordinator
- Introduced Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation meetings for every child identified as at risk of CSE
- Embedded Regional CSE framework fully in Wolverhampton
- Developed and published on WSCB website CSE Induction /Awareness pack for all professionals
- Completed CSE multi-agency audit in January 2015
- Developed and delivered a multi-agency CSE training course
- Identified and implemented screening tool for CSE victims; which means we can better understand who is or is likely to be at risk and act on this
- Reviewed national guidance, reports and inspections to benchmark and improve practice in Wolverhampton
- Ensured every child is invited to participate in the multi-agency discussion around their needs.
- By auditing case files established, there was clear evidence of positive responses to the thoughts, wishes and engagement of the child needs being, prioritised and responded to.

Plans for 2015/16

- ❖ The committee has set a work-plan with timescales to review key areas, some of which include: Children on the edge of Care, Teenage Suicide, Stateless Children, children of Detained Parents, Female Genital Mutilation; and to closely monitor and updates in relation to areas of concerns; i.e., children at risk of child sexual exploitation, practice and arrangement for Children with Disabilities, and pre-birth assessments.

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PRIORITY AREA 4: Business Lead: Stephen Dodd; Project Coordinator – **Youth Opportunities Wolverhampton (YOW)**
COMMUNICATE & ENGAGE We will ensure that we engage children, young people, families and communities of all backgrounds and make up, in the work of WSCB.

Improving Communication and Engagement

The whole purpose of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board WSCB is to ensure that children in the local area are safeguarded at every point of service delivery. Having the right level of support at the right time; is critical if children to be able to achieve their full potential. Wolverhampton recognises the fact that if children are not safeguarded they will undoubtedly be healthy, be able to enjoy and achieve, be positive and or enter adulthood successfully. As such, we have established a 'Young people's forum' known as 'Be-Safe Team, to ensure children views opinions and concerns are central in the planning and delivery of our work and is used to shape how we attend to the needs of children and families in the city.

Throughout 2014/15 the Be-safe team has focused its attention to the formalising the group in the following ways:

Be Safe Objectives for 2014/15

- Recruiting, train and establish a dedicated group of young people as the first B-Safe Junior Safeguarding Board.
- To facilitate regular meetings and activities for the new Team, to include a combination of awareness of key safeguarding issues, training and consultation.
- To create and maintain a dedicated web presence for the B-Safe Team, including the use of social media as a communication channel to raise awareness of the Team and its activities.
- To recruit a dedicated B-Safe Team coordinator to provide additional capacity for the Team within the wider HeadStart Team, reporting to the Peer Support Coordinator.
- To give priority to bullying and online safety, coinciding with the national awareness days.
- Supporting of additional opportunities for the B-Safe Team to attend and report to the Safeguarding Board and vice-versa.

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The Communication and Engagement Committee (C&EC), has a dual function to support both the Children and Adults Safeguarding Boards to:

- Improve communication to the workforces of partner agencies
- Develop city-wide communication channels (websites, social media, press coverage, leaflets posters)
- Develop constructive and mutually respectful relationships with communities; making sure that equality and diversity is appropriately considered in all communication and engagement activity.
- Liaise and collaborate with WSCB and WSAB, relevant committees, partnership forums and service users in the above activities

The monthly newsletter continues to be widely distributed to front line practitioners and managers and this promotes the WSCB priorities, the learning from serious case or learning reviews or domestic homicide reviews, as well as key national and local news relating to the safeguarding of children. This communication approach is also supported via a range of short practitioner guides and briefing papers. Managers and practitioner feedback can evidence how useful this newsletter is in keeping frontline staff up to date with national and local learning.

Activities undertaken throughout 2014/15:

- Branding inc logo agreed for 'Wolverhampton Safeguarding' following consultation with public
- Consultation on website carried out in Oct 2014
- Website scoped and brief agreed
- 1 x public engagement activity to raise awareness of safeguarding and consult about branding and information needs carried during half term in October 2014 – Wolverhampton's Safeguarding Week
- 4 x Campaigns for 2015-16 agreed – Prevent, CSE, Violence Against Women and Girls, What does good care look like?
- Identified channels of communication available to WSCB across WSCB partners
- Undertaken work to inform future campaigns / community engagement – e.g. vulnerability of disabled children (inc. those not registered disabled), need to raise awareness of private fostering
- Established with individual faith groups, Sikh Partnership Forum and Community Cohesion Forum.
- Created and started to implement a Faith group engagement plan developed with Inter Faith Wolverhampton
- Worked to establish a greater understanding of the range and nature of faith groups in the city. – key partners have shared information about faith groups.
- Workforce communication is now clearly agreed as the responsibility of C&E committee – with all WSCB committees responsible for identifying key messages / information to share

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Evidence of the Voice/Contribution of Children and Young People

Working with younger people and by accessing the Healthy Related behaviour Survey (http://wolvesnet/citypeople/councilnews/2014/september+2014/260914b.htm), we identified priorities and actions including

- Joint work programme
- 2014/15 agreed with B-Safe Team linking with C&E C support for B-Safe team's chosen campaigns around:
  - ✓ Bullying (in run up to and during Anti-Bullying Week in Nov 2015
  - ✓ Internet Safety in and around Safer Internet Day Feb 2016

Data from Health Related Behaviour Survey (http://wolvesnet/citypeople/councilnews/2014/september+2014/260914b.htm), also has strong bearing on choice of these 2 campaigns

Work anticipated for 2015/16:

- Develop 2 x practitioner forums to formalise workforce feedback on safeguarding progress / lack of progress
- Commission, produce, launch and develop Wolverhampton Safeguarding website
- Plan, carry out and measure impact of 4 x campaigns inc. public engagement activity around: Prevent, CSE, Violence Against Women and Girls, and 'What does good care look like?'
- Undertake an additional workforce communication campaign to promote Information Sharing
- Identify capacity to collate a list of faith groups; ascertaining up to date contact details for as many as possible; and encouraging faith groups to register on Wolverhampton Information Network and with WVSC database to receive information and support. Build working relationships with faith groups from each of major faiths inc small, unaffiliated groups
- Explore external funding opportunities for a faith group engagement worker jointly with Inter Faith Wolverhampton
- Carry out a survey to better understand safeguarding arrangements in faith groups
- Hold a city-wide high profile event for faith groups to:
  - celebrate their contributions to the city
  - listen to their needs and suggestions
  - highlight their safeguarding responsibilities and offer support to meet these;
  - connect faith groups with support from WVSC and YOW and promotional opportunities presented by Wolverhampton Information Network
  - Support B-Safe Teams campaigns around Bullying and Internet Safety

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Agencies Annual Contribution to the Safeguarding of Children and Young People 2014/15

Each agency with a link to the Board produces their own summary of what they have done individually. People wishing to find out more about any of them can find them in Appendix 4

Summary and final remarks

The WSCB has continued to develop multi-agency arrangements in order to improve the safeguarding of children and young people in Wolverhampton over the last twelve months. The Board throughout this report has illustrated good multi-agency working and co-operation which can be evidenced in the way in which agencies work with each other to safeguard children.

The Board through its governance structures now collaborates with other partnership/strategic boards in the city on a number of different issues including Domestic Violence, CSE, Missing, Gang activity, and self- harm processes and auditing, and is making steady progress in joining the adult and children agenda at relevant points.

Appropriate arrangements are in place to ensure that the Board complies with its statutory obligations and functions as outlined in Working Together 2013, and at the point of writing this report, the release of the 2015 working together guidance has been released and will further strengthen the role and functions of the board going forward.

The Board has agreed its Learning and Improvement Framework which will be implemented to ensure that where best practice and lessons are learned, these are used to drive service improvements across agencies, this will be instrumental as we are waiting to publish the findings from a SCR commissioned during this period with delayed publications pending court proceeding. It is also likely that the Board will need to consider undertaking a further SCR, or an alternative learning review having recently received a request from DFE in regards to a case of neglect that has recently reached the public domain.

The Business Plan is approaching its third year and a great deal of progress has been made towards the delivery of the plan which concludes in March 2016. The Business Plan is used by each WSCB Committee and Task and Finish Groups to identify and shape the workplans and drive priorities at both a local and regional level and has influenced the development of the Children's and Young People's Plan. Information sharing is an area in which the Board is striving to develop. The Board has undertaken a number of actions in relation to child sexual exploitation and to ensure members are fully engaged in driving this agenda. Over the next twelve months, the Board will give consideration to how these activities can be developed and expanded to ensure risk to children as a result of abuse can be reduced.

Overall the Board is an effective learning organisation which seizes opportunities to learn from a variety of sources in order to develop training and practice, and to ensure safety and optimal outcomes for the children of Wolverhampton.

We anticipate our challenges for the coming year include the following:

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- To maintain the momentum in developing closer partnership working with other partnership/strategic boards and promote a culture of problem solving
- To ensure that all services (adults and children) embed the safeguarding of children and young people at the heart of what they do
- To improve communication across the partnership, particularly with frontline practitioners
- To further develop the coordination of safeguarding activity across the partnership and be further assured in regards to the multi-agency intervention and the quality of services through engagement with:
    - The education sector
    - Faith and community groups
    - GP's

We also need to turn attention to:-

- Recruiting a 2nd lay member to the board
- Assuring ourselves that we can respond effectively to issues relating to; Child Trafficking, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Stateless Children
- Increase the awareness of services and support to Disabled children and young people in the City
- Undertake an evaluation of the effectiveness of Early Help services in the City
- Ensure that the learning from the deaths of children are disseminated across the partnership and used to inform practice.

Responding to the challenges ahead the Board remains committed to:

- Ensuring the 'voice of the child' influences all that we do
- Effective partnerships in the context of change and reducing resources
- A clear focus on assuring ourselves of the effectiveness of quality of our multi-agency work with children and young people.

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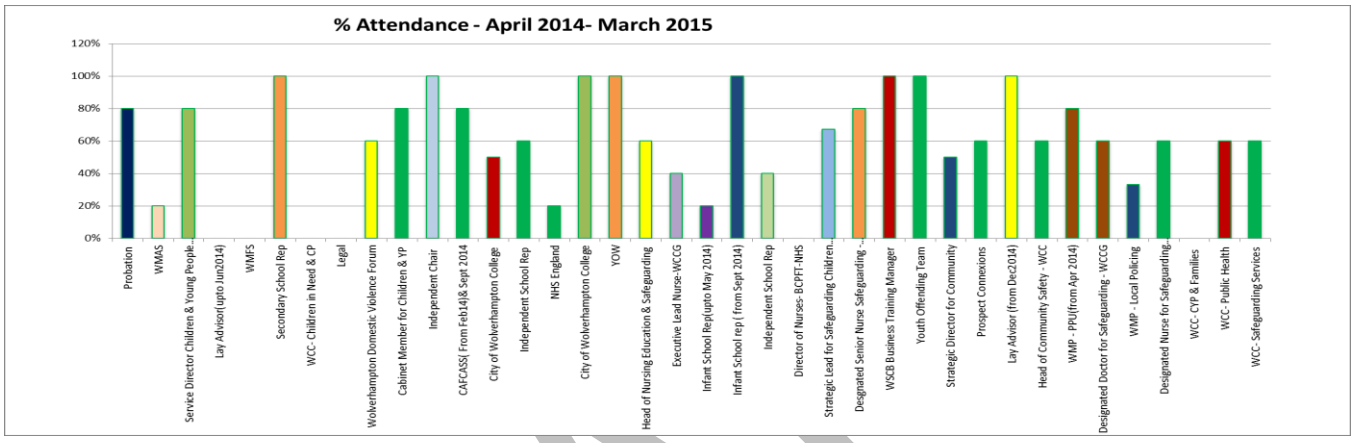
Appendix 1

Board Attendance

The full board meets 4 times a year. During 2014 -2015, there was also the Board Development Day; 4th April 2014.



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Name	% attendance - April 2014- March 2015
Probation	80%
WMAS	20%
Service Director Children & Young People - WCC	80%
Lay Advisor(upto Jun2014)	0%
WMFS	0%
Secondary School Rep	100%
WCC- Children in Need & CP	0%
Legal	0%
Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum	60%
Cabinet Member for Children & YP	80%
Independent Chair	100%
CAFCASS(From Feb14)& Sept 2014	80%
City of Wolverhampton College	50%
Independent School Rep	60%
NHS England	20%
City of Wolverhampton College	100%
YOW	100%
Head of Nursing Education & Safeguarding	60%
Executive Lead Nurse-WCCG	40%
Infant School Rep(upto May 2014)	20%
Infant School rep (from Sept 2014)	100%
Independent School Rep	40%
Director of Nurses- BCPFT-NHS	0%
Strategic Lead for Safeguarding Children & Adults - BCPFT	67%
Desgnated Senior Nurse Safeguarding - WCCG	80%
WSCB Business Training Manager	100%
Youth Offending Team	100%
Strategic Director for Community	50%
Prospect Connexions	60%
Lay Advisor (from Dec2014)	100%
Head of Community Safety - WCC	60%
WMP - PPU(from Apr 2014)	80%
Designated Doctor for Safeguarding - WCCG	60%
WMP - Local Policing	33%
Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children - WCPT/RWHT	60%
WCC- CYP & Families	0%
WCC- Public Health	60%
WCC- Safeguarding Services	60%

Appendix 2

Budget 2014-15

The WSCB income is largely generated from its members, with the exception of any additional carried forward from previous years, and/or income accumulated from WSCB training.

The income revenue for the period 2014-15 is detailed as follows:

Contributions		
	*Carry Forward from 2013/14	-15,499
	Police	-14,770
	Police - One off contribution to CSE Co-ordinator	-15,000
	Probation Service	-3,000
	Prospects	-750
	CAFCASS	-550

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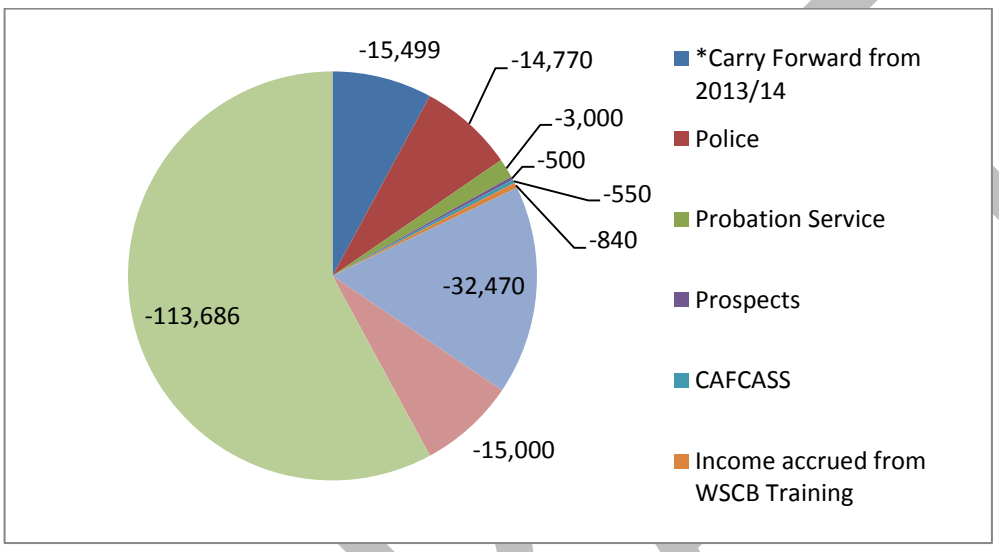
	CCG	-32,470
	CCG - One off additional contribution for 2014/15	-15,000
	CCG - One off contribution to CSE Co-ordinator	-15,000
	Wolverhampton City Council (WCC)	-113,686
	WCC - One Off Public Health Contribution	-40,000
	WCC - One off contribution to CSE Co-ordinator	-15,000
Total Contributions		**-165,226**



- The carried forward Munro initiative grant funding from 2011 is expected to be fully consumed in this financial year.
- Outlined in the details above are a number of 'one-off' contributions, most of these are additional allocated funds from key partners towards the newly created CSE Coordinator position.
- The CCG and Public Health have also allocated further amounts to support the Board to strengthen its capacity in the business unit.

The LA is the largest financial contributor to the Board totalling 58% of the combined income. The CCG is the next largest contributor providing 25% of the Boards income. The balance with the exception of the carried forward and income generated from training is funded by; Prospect, Probation and West Midlands Police which equates 9% of the total income

Expenditure 2014/15

Below is a breakdown of expenditure for the board and its related activities during 2014/15. This includes the budget projection for the remainder of the year.

Expenditure:

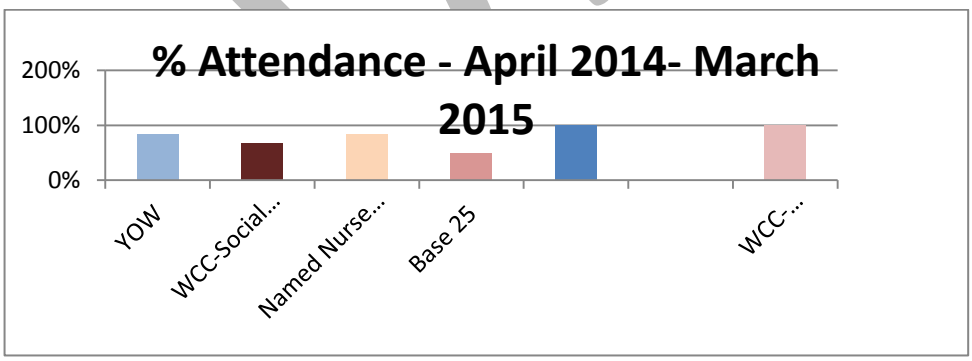
	Salary Costs	69,806
	Training Expenses	31,600
	Venue Cost	2,000
	Car Allowances	2,160
	Catering	2,000
	Stationery	4,640
	Independent Chair	15,000
	Serious Case Review	9,000
	Computing - Purchase of Software	4,800
	Public Liability Insurance	220
	Payments to Walsall LA "CDOP Post	24,000
Total Expenditure Budget		**165,226**

- **TRAINING**; It is projected that there will be at least a 10% underspend in relation to training which reflects the changes to commissioning of training that has taken place throughout the year. The Underspend will be carried forward. It is intended that further savings of a similar amount will be facilitated during the 15/16 financial year.
- The **CDOP Co-ordinator** is jointly funded with Walsall Local Authority. The above costs represent the **full cost** of the post.

Appendix 3

COMMITTEES ATTENDANCE 2014-15

Law Policy and Procedure

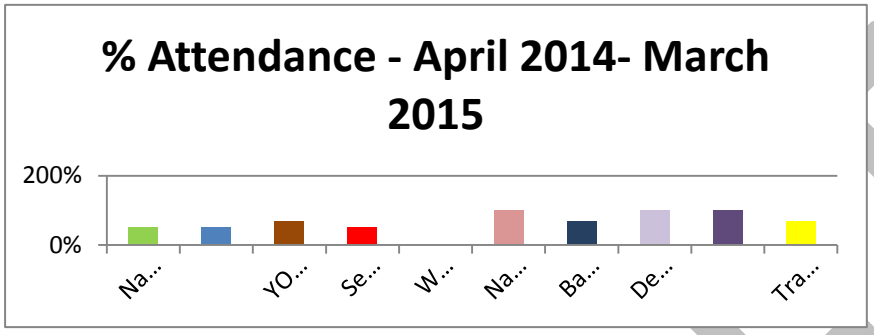


Met 6 times during 2014-15

Organisation	Attendance %
WCC- Head of Safeguarding Services (**Chair**)	100%
YOW	83%

WCC-Social Inclusion and Children Centres	67%
Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children - RWHT	83%
Base 25	50%
WSCB Business & Training Manager	100%
WCC-Integrated Working	0%

Learning and Development



Name	% Attendance
Designated Nurse for Safeguarding – WCC – **(Chair)**	100%
Named Nurse for Safeguarding - BCPFT-NHS	50%
City of Wolverhampton College	50%
YOW	67%
Senior Nurse for Safeguarding Children -RWT	50%
WMP-PPU	0%
Named Doctor for Safeguarding	100%
Base 25	67%
WSCB Business & Training Manager	100%
Training Facilitator	67%

Quality and Performance Committee

4 meetings

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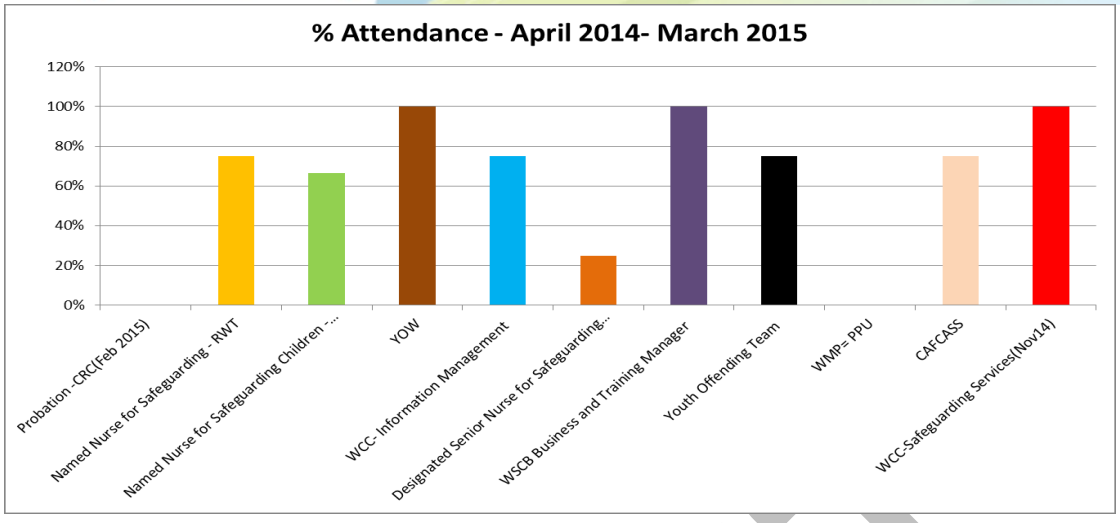

Organisation	% Attendance
Named Nurse for Safeguarding – RWT **(Chair)**	100%
Probation –CRC(from Feb 2015)	0%
Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children - BCPFT- NHS (Aug 14)	67%
YOW	100%
WCC- Information Management	75%
Designated Senior Nurse for Safeguarding Children - WCCG	25%
WSCB Business and Training Manager	100%
Youth Offending Team	75%
WMP= PPU	0%
CAFCASS	75%
WCC-Safeguarding Services(from Nov14)	100%

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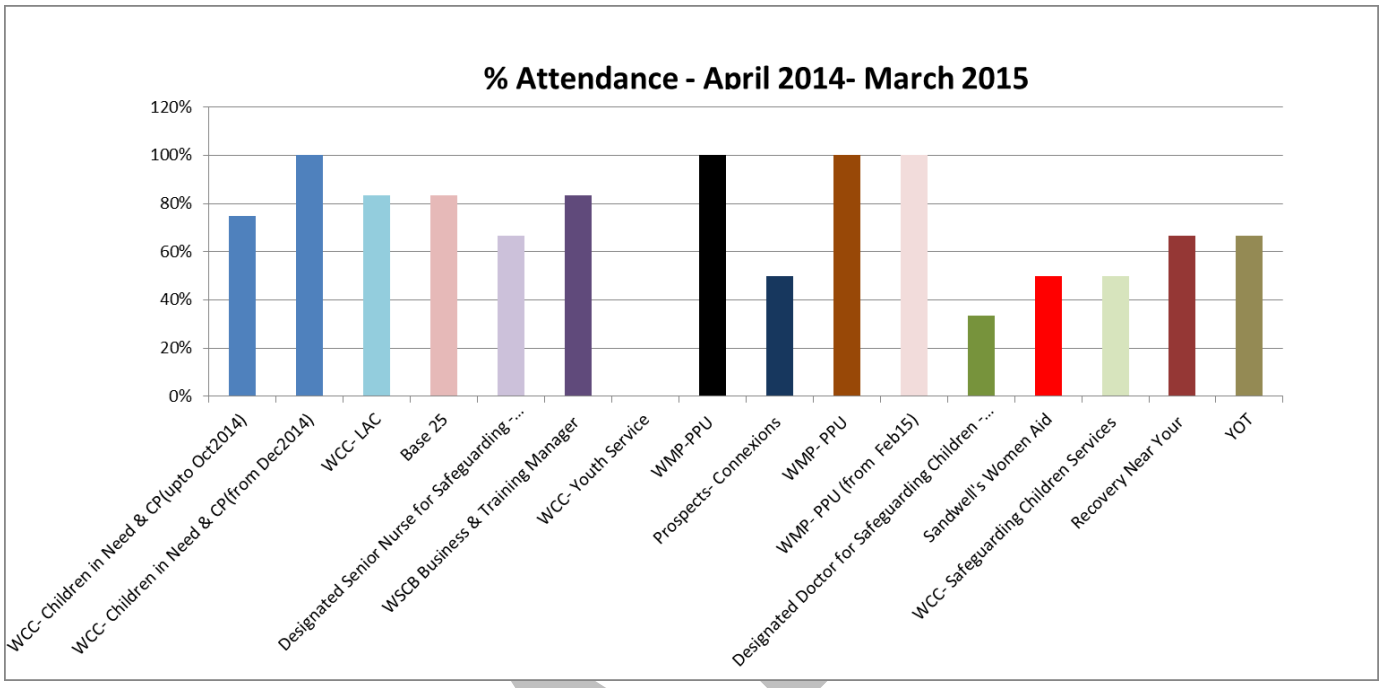
Sexual Exploitation Missing and Trafficked Committee

6 meetings



Organisation	% Attendance - April 2013-March 2014
WCC- Children in Need & CP(up to Oct2014)	75%
WCC- Children in Need & CP(from Dec2014)	100%
WCC- LAC	83%
Base 25	83%
Designated Senior Nurse for Safeguarding - WCCG	67%
WSCB Business & Training Manager	83%
WCC- Youth Service	0%
WMP-PPU	100%
Prospects- Connexions	50%
WMP- PPU	100%
WMP- PPU (from Feb15)	100%
Designated Doctor for Safeguarding Children - WCCG	33%
Sandwell's Women Aid	50%
WCC- Safeguarding Children Services	50%
Recovery Near Your	67%
YOT	67%

Appendix 4

WSCB Partners Single Agency Contributions to Safeguarding

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Partner Agency	Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust (BCPFT)

What were the agreed safeguarding objectives for 2014/15?	Achievements against the above Objectives :-
1. Develop reliable data collection regarding children living in households where adult mental health is an issue 2. Monitor numbers of Children and Young People (CYP) where adult mental health issues have resulted in a CP Plan/CIN/CAF 3. Offer joint training/supervision opportunities for children and adult mental health services. 4. Increased involvement in early intervention and identification of CYP, who are affected by adult mental health issues. 5. To continue to raise the Toxic Trio and Hidden Harm Agenda across multi-agency partners 6. Undertake case file audit as outlined in the Safeguarding Team Audit forward Plan to ensure safeguarding children risks are identified.	1. Development of a Safeguarding Dashboard. 2. BCPFT have had Audits which supported monitoring numbers of Children and Young People (CYP) where adult mental health issues have resulted in a CP Plan/ CIN /EHA. 3. Supervision provides opportunities for reflective practice by staff, and action plans are devised. 4. BCPFT have worked in partnership with Wolverhampton CCG , Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board and other partners to effectively comply with the self-harm policy. 5. A number of audits have been undertaken in line with LSCB Performance Frameworks and the Safeguarding Children Team Audit 6. Plan which includes: • HV/SHA records audit (CP/CIN/LAC) • Conference Reports (quality and standards) • Quality of BAAF form • Service user feedback (LAC) • Adult Mental Health File audit

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Improvement Plans where barriers have existed.	Impact for Children, Young People and Families
• A more robust system for collecting safeguarding performance data which will help the teams to review compliance with CCG and Safeguarding Boards requirements. • Additional work is required to design a safeguarding module to uncover and report on difficulties with compliance of data collection. • An internal Safeguarding Performance Dashboard will offer assurance to the Trust Board that safeguarding is meeting the required targets. • Effective engagement with the Divisions from the Named Nurse perspective.	• BCPFT needs to continue to improve in terms of developing "voice of the child" within all Divisions. Therefore, training is on-going.

In relation to safeguarding children, what are your priorities/objectives for 2015/16

- To ensure that lessons learnt from Serious Case Reviews (SCRs), and case file audits etc. are shared with all staff
- To continue to ensure the Trust offers clear accountability; ownership and clarity around governance structures
- Increase capacity to deliver safeguarding training.
- Improve IT systems to enable sharing information with other agencies,
- Improve engagement with MARAC/DARTs by increasing capacity e.g. appointment of a Domestic Abuse nurse across adults and children.
- Review the role of the LAC and Paediatric Liaison, and the governance around Rapid Response.
- Development of Safeguarding assurance frameworks and monitoring of serious case reviews/DHR's/ CQC action plans.
- Safeguarding needs to review structure and capacity to meet demand.
- BCPFT to continue to deliver internal single agency training to all staff and also encourage our staff to attend multi agency safeguarding children training e.g. in specific areas like CSE, FGM, Forced Marriage, Modern day Slavery etc…

Robust systems of reporting out of area LAC continues to need monitoring.

Provide a statement on the effectiveness of the contribution made by your organisation/service to the Board and/or its committees?

Senior Leadership presence within Safeguarding Children Boards and sub-groups. Engagement with partner agencies in terms of information sharing and lessons learnt.

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Agency	CHILD and FAMILY COURT ADVISORY and SUPPORT SERVICES (CAFCASS)

What were the agreed safeguarding objectives for 2014/15?

Cafcass (the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service) is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Ministry of Justice. The role of Cafcass within the family courts is: to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; provide advice to the court; make provision for children to be represented; and provide information and support to children and their families.

Cafcass' statutory function, as set out in the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000, is to "safeguard and promote the welfare of children". Safeguarding is therefore a priority in all of the work we undertake within the family courts and the training and guidance we provide to staff reflects this.

- **Effectiveness of Safeguarding Arrangements**

A key focus during 2014/15 was continued improvement following our "good" Ofsted judgement in April 2014. Ofsted summarised that Cafcass consistently worked well with families to ensure children are safe and that the court makes decisions that are in the children's best interests. The report also highlighted areas where Cafcass should make improvements, and these areas formed a dedicated action plan which we implemented throughout the remainder of the year.

In relation to safeguarding children, what are your priorities/objectives for 2015/16

- To undertake three thematic audits in 2015/16, focusing on further improvements required, in the joint working between the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) and the Guardian.
- Alongside our internal methods of quality assurance, we record and disseminate learning identified within service user correspondence, including correspondence received from children and young people. The learning points are fed back to the National Improvement Service (NIS) which maintains a national learning log, updated and disseminated throughout the organisation on a quarterly basis. The learning log sets out clear action plans designed to improve safeguarding practice and systems across the organisation, this area of work will be continued and further strengthened going forward.
- There will be further scrutiny given to our safeguarding practice and processes by the Family Justice Young People's Board (FJYPB) comprising young people with direct experience of the family court. The FJYPB contribute to our publications, review our resources for direct work with children, and are involved in the recruitment of frontline staff. Board members also review the complaints we receive from children and young people.

Provide a statement on the effectiveness of the contribution made by your organisation/service to the Board and/or its committees?

Cafcass is committed to joint working, as demonstrated in some of our work as recorded in the full agency report. We continue to work with partners such as the Association of Directors Children's Services (ADCS), the FYJPB and the National Family Justice Board. With ADCS in particular we will continue to work in partnership to identify and share good practice.

Cafcass also plays a strong leadership role at a local level, actively participating in Local Family Justice Boards. Cafcass chairs 10 out of 42 local Family Justice Boards and has a strong

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leadership role on all others.
Number of serious incidents involving children and young people and outcomes from reviewing them
Cafcass has contributed to 26 Individual Management Reviews (IMRs), requiring a variety of methodological approaches. Of all the child deaths Cafcass has been made aware of from April 2014 – March 2015, in 52% of cases, maltreatment was suspected. This information is collated and managed nationally.
The learning from IMRs is collated and reported in an annual paper, which is disseminated nationally within Cafcass. We also publish externally a redacted version of the report, with a focus on wider learning points within the family justice system

Agency	National Probation Service

What were the agreed safeguarding objectives for 2014/15?

All colleagues must read the Working Together as part of their induction. There are resources accessible to allow staff to refresh their own knowledge of safeguarding. It also has to be seen in conjunction with other public protection practices like Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangement (MAPPA), Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) and Safeguarding Adult arrangements.

NPS activities must reflect the importance of safeguarding children at all levels of need. This includes a clear line of accountability for the commissioning and/or provision of services designed to safeguard and promote the welfare of children:

- Senior Management to lead the organisation's Safeguarding Children arrangements,
- Active participation with Local Safeguarding Children Boards
- A culture that supports the child's safety and development,
- A clear process for eliciting and sharing information, in order to safeguarding children and to promote their welfare.
- Safe recruitment practices, including Disclosure & Barring Scheme.
- Supervision and support of staff (including mandatory training and learning opportunities to develop practice),

- Clear procedure and working arrangements with Local Authorities for investigating allegations against staff with regard to their work/contact with children.
- Strategic and operational involvement in multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding children, including MAPPA, MARAC, Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH) etc.
- A clear risk escalation and transfer process for Community Rehabilitation Companies and NPS to follow when the risk towards a child/ren escalate to the level that requires management of the case by NPS (in line with the Risk Escalation Policy).
- NOMS Whistle-blowing policy must be integrated into training and codes of conduct.

NPS will:-

- Assess the risk of serious harm posed to children by offenders due to their actual offending

including targeting children or the impact it has on them, for example domestic abuse.

- Highlight concerns in relation to potential harm e.g. substance misusing parents /carers, challenging environments.
- Identify children at increased risk of exposure to victimisation including CSE, Honour Based Violence, Female Genital Mutilation, Organised Crime and Serious Group Offending as either victims or perpetrators.
- Identify children at risk of anti-social behaviour and other negative behaviour due to the behaviour of parents and others.
- Include the impact of caring responsibilities on the parents/carers ability to comply with the proposed sentence of the Court.
- Consider the impact imprisonment will have on the child/ren's welfare when custody is a stated option of the Court.
- Support families (Think Family Approach) to access services to support rehabilitation for parents/carers and positive outcomes for children and families.
- Share information to support the safeguarding, protection and welfare of children at both strategic and operational levels.
- Respond to requests for Serious Case Reviews, including archived cases, and review their involvement in the management of the cases including court process and allocation.
- Liaise directly with CRC colleagues to complete risk escalation processes and support the completion of Serious Case Reviews to include court process and allocation.

Achievements against the above Objectives :-

Despite a challenging year of flux and organisational shift the safeguarding procedures in place for staff to follow have remained constant. Staff have continued to work closely with Partners to ensure that risk assessments are completed where we are aware of children at risk of harm and that these are collectively followed through.

Staff continue to be integral to MAPPA and MARAC and through IOM arrangements work with partners to manage those offenders at highest risk to the public.

All staff have a personal development objective to keep children safe from point of contact with an adult and this is continually reviewed through the sentence.

Where recruitment has taken place, this is in line with NPS Policy and Procedure and ensures safe vetting practice.

In relation to safeguarding children, what are your priorities/objectives for 2015/16

As above. The NPS continues to drive these objectives as an organisation through the current business year.

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Provide a statement on the effectiveness of the contribution made by your organisation/service to the Board and/or its committees?

- The recent organisational split has rendered both NPS and CRC's responsible authorities for LSCB's. During the past 12 months, there has been a stabilisation period of both NPS and CRC's identifying where the resource critical needs are. This has impacted on the attendance to Board and Committees for Wolverhampton however contribution to driving forward the changes has remained strong from within both NPS and CRC.
- The development of MASH is fully supported by the NPS in Wolverhampton.
- NPS has provided a financial contribution to the Board in 14/15.
  - NPS has provided attendance at committee level or has shared attendance with CRC's to ensure appropriate level of cover.

Agency	City of Wolverhampton College

How does your agency demonstrate its commitment to safeguarding children

TRAINING

- All named designated safeguarding officers have received safeguarding officer training.
- 276 staff members had attended safeguarding awareness training in 2014/15.
- 27 managers had successfully completed safer recruitment training in 2014/15.
- In 2014/15 safeguarding team have attended 6 workshops delivered by the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Board.
- Members of the safeguarding team have attended: the following multi agency training:

  - Guns and Gangs
  - Bullying
  - Young people and the internet.
  - Contributing to child protection case conferences
  - Sexual Exploitation of Children
  - Domestic abuse

- During student induction period the safeguarding team deliver 20 minutes safeguarding awareness sessions for all students.
- The College's Student Services Director is the Vice Chair for the Learning and Development Committee.

a) POLICY AND PROCEDURES

- College has a safeguarding policy in place which is updates annually and reflects the guidance provided by Department for Education – Keeping children safe in education and HR Government document Working together to safeguard children.

b) COMMUNICATION

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- Termly safeguarding reports are submitted to the governing body.
- Student Services Director keeps the Executive Management Team updated on any changes in relation to safeguarding.
- Heads of school are briefed during the one to one meetings to discuss areas of student services including safeguarding.
- The College's Student Services Director is a member of the WSCB Communication ad Engagement Committee. Through this work the college's Head of Marketing has supported the development of the new logo for the safeguarding boards website.

c) IMPROVING QUALITY

- College has in place safeguarding risk register action plan for 2014/15. The action plan is monitored by the Director of student services and updated on an annual basis.

d) CONTRIBUTING TO PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

- To date 263 safeguarding referrals made to the college safeguarding team.
- 10 referrals made to children social care and 3 referrals to adult social care in 2014/15.
- 4 referrals made to the police in 2014/15
- 246 referrals dealt by the safeguarding team as early intervention (welfare issues).
- In 2014/15 there were 170 female and 93 male safeguarding referrals made to the safeguarding team.
- There has been an increase of 88% of safeguarding referrals in 2014/15 of White British students compared to 2013/14
- In 2014/15 Indian student safeguarding referrals have almost doubled compared to the previous year.
- In 2014/15 Black & White Caribbean students safeguarding referrals have increased by 9 compared to the previous year.
- In 2014/15 there was an increase of 16-18 year old student safeguarding referrals by 80% compared to the previous year. An increase of 153% of 19+ student referrals.
- There has been an increase of 55% referrals from Essential Skills - SLDD, Pathways & Alternative Provision compared to previous year.
- There has been an increase of 127% of referrals from Creative Arts in 2014/15 compared to previous year.
- Princess Trust referrals have increased by 85% in 2014/15 compared to previous year.
- There has been an increase of 167% of learner referrals in 2014/15 from health industries compared to 2013/14.
- 100% increase of learner referrals from service industries in 2014/15 compared to previous year.
- There has been an increase of 186% learner referrals from technology in 2014/15 compared to previous year.

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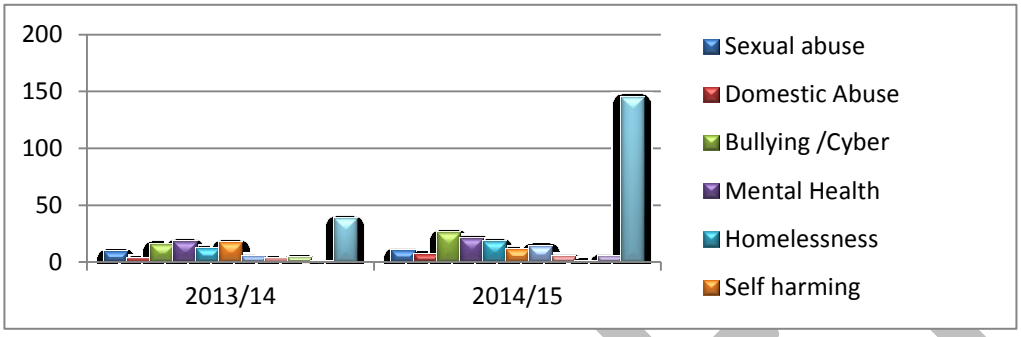
- There has been an increase of 171% of learner referrals from Bilston East ward in 2014/15 compared to previous academic year.
- In 2014/15 there was a sevenfold increase of referrals from Bushbury south and low hill compared to 2013/12.
- Merry hill ward had an increase of threefold of referrals in 2014/15 compared to the previous academic year.
- In 2014/15 Dudley district had seen an eleven fold increase of referrals compared with the previous academic year.
- **Nature of referrals**



- There has been an increase of 40% of referrals made to children social care services and the police in 2014/15 compared to previous academic year 2013/14.
- There has been an increase of 25% of referrals from the youth offending team compared to the previous academic year.
- In 2014/15 there has been an increase of 8% of learners who identify themselves as Looked after children compared to previous academic year.

What were the agreed safeguarding objectives for 2014/15?

Students and staff feeling safe, being able to share concerns and manage risk of harm either to themselves or others.

Achievements against the above Objectives :-

- During our Ofsted Inspection in October 2014 safeguarding was graded as Good with Outstanding features
- 30 safeguarding awareness training workshops delivered to staff.
- 8 safer recruitment workshops delivered to managers
- 96 safeguarding student inductions delivered.
- 2 PREVENT face to face workshops delivered by the police.
- Channel general awareness on line training for all staff.

In relation to safeguarding children, what are your priorities/objectives for 2015/16

Students and staff feeling safe, being able to share concerns and manage risk of harm either to themselves or others.

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Provide a statement on the effectiveness of the contribution made by your organisation/service to the Board and/or its committees?

The Student Services Director is a highly engaged member of both the Learning and Development Committee and the Communications and Engagement Committee.

Through the Learning and Development Committee we have supported the review of multi agency training, evaluations and quality procedures.

Through the Communications and Engagement Committee the college has involved its marketing department to support the developments of the new joint board website. The college provided a number of ideas for a new logo layout and colour scheme and supported the committee in gaining the views of local users to identify a new logo for the site.

The Student Services Director is a member of associated boards including: Children's Trust Board and SEND Partnership Board. This ensures that the work of the board is considered in the wider remits of associated boards, ensuring that young people are safeguarded within the city.

Agency	Prospects Services [Connexions]

What were the agreed safeguarding objectives for 2014/15?

- Launch of corporate self-assessment process to inform internal risk management. Initial assessment to be launched by Autumn 2014
- Safeguarding Management group to devise and approve internal risk matrix and monitor high risk contracts more closely
- Development of procedures to bring safeguarding work into company quality procedures currently certified under ISO9001
- Review Allegation Management procedures and devise code of conduct for delivery staff by September 2014
- Embed the Early Help assessment into PA practice
- Attend relevant safeguarding training within the city

Contribute to multi-agency case file audits and any other audits/reviews/inspections.

Achievements against the above Objectives :-

- Initial assessment launched October 2014
- Internal risk matrix completed and internal safeguarding group remit redefined in light of this.
- Company quality procedures- work underway.
- Code of conduct for staff completed and launched
- Early Help embedded in service delivery
- Relevant training attended
- MASE work extended and a high level of attendance sustained by Personal Advisers.

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In relation to safeguarding children, what are your priorities/objectives for 2015/16

Not applicable-organisation is no longer on Safeguarding Board and Connexions service has been brought in house to the City Council

Agency	The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust [RWT]

How does your agency demonstrate its commitment to safeguarding children and the work of the Board?

The Chief Nurse who is also Deputy Chief Executive holds safeguarding in her Executive Director portfolio.

The Trust Board receives an annual child safeguarding report.

The Trust Board members receive safeguarding training on an annual basis

The Trust Safeguarding Group meets bimonthly and reports through the Trust governance structure to the Trust Board

The RWT safeguarding team has this year undergone a process of assurance using the Markers of Good Practice (DH 2008) and has a robust work-plan in place to address the key areas of risk highlighted in the assurance process. The team has undergone a process of restructuring and investment in key areas to meet the demands of the domestic violence and child sexual exploitation agenda.

The Trust has a Named Nurse for safeguarding children, a Named Midwife, a Named Nurse for Looked After Children, a Named Doctor for Looked After Children and a Named Doctor for safeguarding children

A comprehensive training needs analysis has been undertaken and all staff having contact with children, young people and parents or carers received level 2 safeguarding training (RCPCH 2014) and staff working in paediatrics, midwifery and community health undertake level 3 safeguarding training annually.

The FNP, Health Visitors, Midwives, School Nurses and Children's Nursing Service receive regular safeguarding supervision

What were the agreed safeguarding objectives for 2014/15?

- To ensure that acute and community health services in Wolverhampton develop a robust communication pathway with local authority children's centres and social care that is overviewed and transparent to the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board.
- Ensure that Royal Wolverhampton Trust (RWT) provide health care services that incorporate their statutory duty as highlighted in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2013) and feedback to, contribute to and are monitored by the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board.

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- To ensure that community and acute health services provide a health care service that embraces lessons learnt from Serious Case Reviews and that the existing work programme reflects these values.
- RWT as the main provider of health services in Wolverhampton work closely with the Wolverhampton CCG to ensure that the rising number of Looked After Children in Wolverhampton receive Initial and Review Health Assessments as is required from the legal framework.

Achievements against the above Objectives :-

Regular communication facilitated by colocation of key professionals in the children's centres and referrals to social care are monitored and followed up by the safeguarding team

Serious case review action plans were monitored and overseen by the Joint Health Service Safeguarding Children Group

- The service for Looked after Children has worked collaboratively with the CCG to ensure services and reviews for Looked After Children are effective and timely consistent with statutory requirements

In relation to safeguarding children, what are your priorities/objectives for 2015/16

To ensure connectivity across the organisation in relation to the sharing of information for children at risk of CSE and DV

- To collaborate in the Child Protection Information Sharing programme with HSCIC and the Local Authority
- To collaborate with partner agencies in the development of the Wolverhampton MASH and ensure timely information sharing and consultation on cases of concern
- To further develop the Trust TNA and ensure that all staff working with children, young people, parents and carers receive training at level 3 (RCPCH 2014) in relation to learning from serious case reviews and domestic homicide reviews
- To work with partner agencies to develop a quality assurance framework that identifies the impact of safeguarding on children, young people and families

Provide a statement on the effectiveness of the contribution made by your organisation/service to the Board and/or its committees?

The Trust has representation at a senior level on the safeguarding Board and representation at every Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children's Board Committee. Key staff Chair and contribute to the work of the Board including it's Committee's and ensures participation in regular multi-agency case-file audit and table top reviews.

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Agency	Safer Wolverhampton Partnership (SWP)

What were the agreed safeguarding objectives for 2014/15?

Channel and Prevent

Raise awareness across partners of Channel referral pathways; partners need to be briefed on the current Prevent risks and feel confident in directing individuals to available support. A series of joint briefings/workshops will be held for safeguarding boards to facilitate this.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

A revised VAWG strategy will highlight key areas of development which will reduce the risks to children and young people and where WSCB oversight is needed.

Gangs and Youth Crime

A refreshed Gangs and Youth Crime Problem Profile will inform the development of a revised strategy and targeted interventions needed to support children and young people.

Achievements against the above Objectives :-

A Channel and Prevent safeguarding awareness event was held in March 2015 to alert organisational safeguarding leads to the vulnerabilities linked to Prevent and arrangements for referring individuals needing support. The event was well attended and has provided a catalyst for an increase in referrals. Additionally, the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 has introduced a statutory Prevent duty on a range of agencies and placed Channel Panel on a statutory footing.

The VAWG Strategy refresh is well underway and due for sign off in the autumn of 2015. In the interim, significant steps have been taken to improve the management of high risk domestic violence cases and embed learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews.

A refreshed gangs problem profile has been completed which is being used as a basis for developing a revised Reducing Gang Harm Strategy. This will include an enhanced focus on young people and prevention. This should be finalised by autumn 2015.

In relation to safeguarding children, what are your priorities/objectives for 2015/16

Domestic Homicides – Shared Learning

It is proposed to host a shared Serious Case Review/Domestic Homicide Review learning event in the autumn of 2015 to disseminate findings and facilitate change within front-line services, and to ensure prompt dissemination of learning from future reviews.

Prevent duty

A key focus for 2015/16 will be on embedding changed practice following introduction

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of the Prevent duty arising from the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

Youth Crime

To reduce the number of young people involved in crime either as victims or offenders.

Provide a statement on the effectiveness of the contribution made by your organisation/service to the Board and/or its committees?

The strengthened link between WSCB and Safer Wolverhampton Partnership enables us to collectively drive forward areas of shared responsibility. This relationship has worked well for 2014/15 and will be formalised during 2015/16 to embed that practice.

The additional focus SWP is putting into VAWG and domestic abuse in particular has a significant impact upon safeguarding children.

Agency	Wolverhampton CCG

What were the agreed safeguarding objectives for 2014/15?

WCCG fulfil their statutory duty to be members of the Local Safeguarding Children Board as the Director for Nursing and Quality for WCCG is a member of WSCB, and the Designated Doctor and Nurse for Safeguarding Children attend as advisors to the WSCB. The agreed objectives for 14/15 were:

- Chairing of 3 WSCB committees, and are active members on several committees.
- Employ services of designated professionals and a Named GP lead for Children's Safeguarding.
- Continue to make financial contribution to the safeguarding board, including an additional £15.000 (15/16) for the Sexual Exploitation Coordinator role.
- Completion of Bi Annual Section 11 audits.
- Monitoring provider compliance with nationally mandated requirements and additional local KPIs agreed in the quality schedules in each contract.
- Commission, manage and monitor LAC placements contributing to the overarching ambition to reduce the number of children in LAC placements and also to ensure placements are close to home

Achievements against the above Objectives :-

- All key designated and named professionals have been recruited and are in place
- Timely completion of reviews contributing to the publishing of SCRs. The action plans are completed with learning cascaded across primary and secondary care. Key learning is the improved collaborative working arrangements now in place between addiction services and primary care by developing a joint protocol to enable collaborative working with complex patients.
- Audits in place to monitor compliance with implementation of SCR recommendations in primary care.
- Marginal decrease in the number of reportable child deaths in Wolverhampton.

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Significant improvement in reportable number of child deaths which involved co-sleeping as a modifiable factor following a sleep safe campaign launched in October 2012.

- Training plans in place for all appropriate staff and volunteers who work with or have contact with children and families (professional roles and responsibilities)
- All CCG staff is aware of their own responsibilities and those of the organisation for safeguarding and protecting children; Level 1 Safeguarding Training is included in the mandatory training for all employees.
- Engagement with children and young people
- CCG led the health component of the SEND local offer which has been recognised as best practice nationally
- Quality assessments of all External Placement Panel placements (due to be completed September 2015) and the development of a robust data base to monitor and record LAC activity.
- Enhanced and improved monitoring of provider compliance via monthly Clinical Quality Review Meetings
- CCG hosted 4 sessions of mandatory level 3 Safeguarding Children Training for GPs and their practice staff. 355 individuals attended including 134 GPs from 46 practices. Ongoing training schedules are being planned.
- Providing supervision to other health care professionals; the CCG Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children provides supervision to the Family Nurse Practitioners. Designated Dr provides supervision for the Named Dr for Safeguarding Children and Named GP for Safeguarding Children.
- A safeguarding web page has been developed and available on the CCG Intranet
- A self-populating template is being developed to support GPs in the writing of child protection conference reports.
- Contribution to the WSCB table top review chronology reports

In relation to safeguarding children, what are your priorities/objectives for 2015/16

- Development of education and training framework
- Improved working with agencies i.e. MAPPA
- Improved compliance with education and training levels in provider contracts
- Raising awareness in primary care across GPs and practice staff
- Raise awareness for PREVENT, CSE, FGM and SEMPT
- Be integral partner for MASH
- Continue to work with GPs to improve attendance at case conferences
- Monitor action plans to assure actions completed across the provider landscape

Provide a statement on the effectiveness of the contribution made by your organisation/service to the Board and/or its committees?

The CCG Governing Body are assured that WCCG are compliant of their statutory duties regarding safeguarding children and provide a high level of oversight of the quality and safety matters of safeguarding and looked after children across the city.
The Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board is assured that the CCG is committed to ensuring that its providers provide a safe system that safeguards children at risk of abuse and neglect, as set out in:

- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 Statutory Guidance on promoting the Health and Wellbeing of Looked After Children 2015

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Agency	Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum (WDVF)

How does your agency demonstrate its commitment to safeguarding children and the work of the Board in relation to the following areas?

a) TRAINING - *Promoting, delivering and evaluating single agency & multi-agency training*

- Our funding contract, policies, procedures, and practice demonstrates that generic safeguarding training is mandatory for front line staff, as is training for subject specific safeguarding elements, for example Prevent training, etc.
- WDVF has delivered a range of subject specific safeguarding training around Violence Against Women and Girls.

b) POLICY AND PROCEDURES – *embedding policy and procedure in practice*

- Relevant policies and procedures are discussed with staff at team meetings, and raised at the multi-agency WDVF Executive Board to be embedded into practice in different organisations.
- WDVF is instrumental in developing multi-agency subject specific policies and procedures, including being instrumental as a key partner in developing the first joint adult and child Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence Protocol together with the two Safeguarding Boards.

c) COMMUNICATION – *sharing all relevant information with the workforce*

- Information is cascaded with WDVF and partner agency staff electronically, and specific items are discussed at WDVF team meetings with a view to identifying if and how WDVF procedures and practice needs to change.

d) IMPROVING QUALITY– *single agency audit, supervision, Section 11 etc*

- Every person referred to our service is risk assessed using the national risk model, which identifies any safeguarding adult and children concerns.
- Supervision of our Independent Domestic Violence Advisers is undertaken by the Strategy Coordinator/General Manager, and these staff also receive external clinical supervision for their caseloads.
- Processes such as Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) that WDVF coordinates and provides governance around are externally audited.
- The latest audit is wholly positive around all aspects including governance, commitment, attendance, adult and children support, and correct application of criteria.

e) CONTRIBUTING TO PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT– *supplying performance data and commentary*

- WDVF provides Violence Against Women and Girls data and commentary to the Quality and Performance Committee to both Safeguarding Boards.
- WDVF contributes to and attends quality and performance committee meetings to critically analyse, develop, and refine performance dashboards for the Boards.
- WDVF provides update reports to the Boards from WDVF Executive Board.

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What were the agreed safeguarding objectives for 2014/15?

- Increase first time reporting of Violence Against Women and Girls
- Reduce the prevalence of Violence Against Women and Girls
- Reduce repeat Violence Against Women and Girls incidents
- Increase Violence Against Women and Girls offences brought to justice
- Reduce serious harm from Violence Against Women and Girls including homicide prevention

Achievements against the above Objectives :-

- Increase in reporting of domestic violence, sexual violence, forced marriage, and honour based violence
- Increase in the number of children identified in families suffering domestic violence and jointly screened
- Increase in Violence Against Women and Girls offences brought to justice
- Increase in Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) referrals and joint action plans to reduce those at highest risk of serious harm and homicide
- Overwhelmingly positive external audit of MARAC arrangements in terms of governance, commitment, attendance, adult and children support, coordination, and correct application of criteria

In relation to safeguarding children, what are your priorities/objectives for 2015/16

- Increase first time reporting of Violence Against Women and Girls
- Reduce the prevalence of Violence Against Women and Girls
- Reduce repeat Violence Against Women and Girls incidents
- Increase Violence Against Women and Girls offences brought to justice
- Reduce serious harm from Violence Against Women and Girls including homicide prevention

Provide a statement on the effectiveness of the contribution made by your organisation/service to the Board and/or its committees?

WDVF continues to be committed to safeguarding adults and children. Our Strategy Coordinator attends and contributes to Board meetings as a professional adviser to the Board and away day events, and attends sub-group meetings both as a standing member and to make specific contributions – eg with new policies and procedures. WDVF ensures that information is cascaded from the Board into our organisation and to our partners, as well as providing information, guidance, and advice around Violence Against Women and Girls subjects to the Board and its committees.

Agency	West Midlands Fire Service

What were the agreed safeguarding objectives for 2014/15?

- Ensure safeguarding training is completed
- Ensure policy is up to date and reviewed to ensure the correct standard is met.

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- Section 11 is reviewed

Achievements against the above Objectives :-

- All staff within Wolverhampton has received basic level safeguarding training, also all relevant information in regards to Child trafficking.
- Information around FGM, county terrorism and radicalisation has also been disseminated to staff at all levels.
- WMFS policy on safeguarding is reviewed and updated at regular intervals.
- All staff has access to safeguarding policies and are required to ensure they are up to date and also adhere to the policy.
- Section 11 is completed and reviewed 6 monthly or whenever actions have been completed.

In relation to safeguarding children, what are your priorities/objectives for 2015/16

To ensure all relevant and up to date information is given to staff as soon as possible.

Provide a statement on the effectiveness of the contribution made by your organisation/service to the Board and/or its committees?

All objectives relevant to West Midlands Fire Service have been implemented and upheld as part of the commitment from West Midlands Fire Service to assist in the delivery of the Boards objectives and effectiveness.

Agency	Youth Organisations Wolverhampton

How does your agency demonstrate its commitment to safeguarding children and the work of the Board in relation to the following areas?

TRAINING -

YOW has promoted safeguarding training opportunities through the Monthly Safeguarding Updates it has produced and circulated since May 2014.

WSCB multi-agency training (including general awareness of the WSCB multi-agency training programme, as well as notice of particular forthcoming courses, and those that are undersubscribed)

- voluntary sector specific training – Early Help, Introduction to Safeguarding to individual organisations and VCS more generally.
- external training and webinars – e.g. courses organised by Anti-Bullying Alliance, and Safe Network

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POLICY AND PROCEDURES – *embedding policy and procedure in practice*

- Details of all new policies and procedures approved by WSCB have been circulated to vol orgs via the WSCB database (around 550 organisations) via the monthly safeguarding Updates and occasionally via a specific communication e.g. updated Multi-Agency Referral Form.
- A Safeguarding Forum was held in Oct 2014 - various policies and procedures were highlighted at this event too.
- The YOW Co-ordinator has also worked directly with around 10 groups to develop their safeguarding policy and practice.

COMMUNICATION – *sharing all relevant information with the workforce*

- Since May 2014 YOW has produced and circulated a monthly Safeguarding Update to all 550 voluntary and community organisations on the Voluntary Sector Database held by WVSC. This has covered safeguarding adults as well as safeguarding children topics and drawn from the following: WSAB and WSCB board meetings and committees; DfE; Safe Network; Children and Young People Now; UK Safer Internet Centre; CEOP; Anti-Bullying Alliance; NSPCC CASPAR email.
- This has been circulated to partners on WSAB and WSCB since Jan 2015.
- YOW Co-ordinator has taken a lead role in chairing the Communication and Engagement Committee.

IMPROVING QUALITY– *single agency audit, supervision, Section 11 etc*

- YOW Co-ordinator sits on the Quality and Improvement Committee and has co-ordinates Early Help Implementation under the Children's Trust Board.
- This has proved a trickier area for YOW. Having no control over what individual organisations do, the tasks around quality improvement are more around promoting and encouraging good practice.
- Engagement from VCS in Section 11 audit has been minimal although a number of groups attended the Section 11 online audit tool training in June 2014.
- A range of organisations were identified for encouragement to participate in Section 11 audit and suggestion was made to include Section 11 completion in contracts over a certain amount for VCOs from local statutory organisations – but no action has resulted from either.

CONTRIBUTING TO PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT– *supplying performance data and commentary*

- YOW co-ordinator sits on the Quality and Performance Committee.

What were the agreed safeguarding objectives for 2014/15?

- Establish a VCS safeguarding forum
- Promoting VCS involvement in demonstrating their safeguarding effectiveness via Safe Network Standards and Section 11
- Continuing to develop and build on links with faith groups
- Improve safeguarding information to the VCS

Increase the numbers of VCS reps on WSCB committees

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Achievements against the above Objectives :-

1. Establish a VCS safeguarding forum

   One meeting of the Safeguarding Forum was held in Oct 2014, with, no further progress during the reporting year.

2. Promoting VCS involvement in demonstrating their safeguarding effectiveness via Safe Network Standards and Section 11

   Development is in its infancy.

3. Continuing to develop and build on links with faith groups
   - Lists of faith groups collected.
   - Volunteer resource now secured to collate these and update contacts wherever possible. Also to connect Faith Groups up with Wolverhampton Information Network and WVSC's voluntary sector database.
   - Agreement on improving faith group engagement has been reached with Inter Faith Wolverhampton – including joint bid to Reaching Communities for Faith group engagement worker.
   - Relationships initiated with some Individual Faith groups and collaborations of faith groups.
   - Survey of Safeguarding processes in use in Faith Groups was circulated but had a poor response – maybe because relationships aren't good enough yet?

4. Improve safeguarding information to the VCS
   - Monthly Safeguarding Updates have been circulated to all VCOs (and circulated within WSCB partner organisations through the Board)
   - Feedback from all groups that have mentioned it has been positive.

5. Increase the numbers of VCS reps on WSCB committees
   - Because of lack of development of the VCS Safeguarding Forum there have been no new reps for WSCB Cttees.

In relation to safeguarding children, what are your priorities/objectives for 2015/16

1. Establish a VCS safeguarding forum
2. Improve VCS access to key safeguarding training
3. Promoting VCS involvement in demonstrating their safeguarding effectiveness via Safe Network Standards and Section 11
4. Continuing to develop and build on links with faith groups
5. Increase the numbers of VCS reps on WSCB committees

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Provide a statement on the effectiveness of the contribution made by your organisation/service to the Board and/or its committees?

YOW has been an active member of WSCB and of all the Cttees it sits on (Communication & Engagement cttee; Executive cttee; Law, Policy and Procedures cttee; Quality and Performance cttee; and Serious Case Review cttee).

In terms of effectiveness, YOW contributes a perspective which focuses on small groups and contributions to Threshold Document, Development of shared Safeguarding website (slow but now sure)

Agency	Base 25

How does your agency demonstrate its commitment to safeguarding children and the work of the Board in relation to the following areas?

TRAINING - *Promoting, delivering and evaluating single agency & multi-agency training.* Base 25 has continued to share its expertise through offering its training programme across the city. Base 25 staff has also attended relevant safeguarding training and other relevant training to ensure that staff are up to date with current standards and duties.

e) POLICY AND PROCEDURES – *embedding policy and procedure in practice.* Base 25 continues to review and update its policies to ensure their relevance. All staff and volunteers receive training and briefings around any changes in policy.

f) COMMUNICATION – *sharing all relevant information with the workforce.* Base 25 has regular meetings to ensure that information is shared. There are also internal electronic systems for effective information sharing purposes.

g) IMPROVING QUALITY– *single agency audit, supervision, Section 11 etc.* Base 25 project co-ordinators audit all case closures and cases are reviewed on a regular basis. All staff and volunteers receive the appropriate level of supervision.

h) CONTRIBUTING TO PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT– *supplying performance data and commentary.* Through attending and contributing to EHA, CIN, CP, MASE, CMOG and Serious Case Review meetings Base 25 contributes to various plans.

What were the agreed safeguarding objectives for 2014/15?

1. To improve the early identification of young people at risk.
2. To increase self-esteem of young people.
3. To increase self-confidence and emotional resilience
4. To improve young people's ability to make informed decisions
5. To increase self-awareness and sense of identity
6. To minimise harm to self and others.

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Achievements against the agreed Objectives:-

1. To improve the early identification of young people at risk:

- Increased number of referrals made to projects
- Increased number of agencies referring to projects (increase in the number of referrals from 'mothers')
- There has been an increase across the projects with regards to lower risk young people, this demonstrating that young people are being identified at an early stage of intervention. This has also enabled preventative work to be delivered with those identified and where necessary, their siblings.

2. **To increase self-esteem of young people.**

- Utilising a range of assessment tools, there has been an increase demonstrated in self-esteem with young people accessing the projects. Tools used to measure impact have included: Warwick and Edinburgh Mental Health assessment, Outcome Star, Outcome wheels and various goal setting tools.

3. **To increase self-confidence and emotional resilience**
    - Emerging themes from professionals, parents and young people involved in the projects have included: comments, observations and reflections around perceptions of the young person's level of increase in their confidence and self-esteem and what that looks like:
    - an improved ability to communicate more positively with peers, parents and professionals; Increased involvement in positive activities and an improved ability to manage emotions more effectively.
4. **To improve young people's ability to make informed decisions**
    - Reduction in the risk indicators for young people assessed now making safe/better decisions
    - Parent and/or professional perspective has shown an improvement in the decisions made by young people.
    - Increased knowledge around healthy relationships, staying safe, identifying risk and risky situations, sexual health, around protective behaviours and utilising this knowledge when making decisions.
5. **To increase self-awareness and sense of identity**
    - Through the programmes developed through the projects, concepts of self and identity have been explored at all stages across all of the thematic areas. Young people have been able to locate themselves within the context of their own lives and have demonstrated an awareness of those that have influence on them and how they influence and impact on others. This has also impacted on their confidence, self-esteem and their ability to make decisions. Young people have shown ability to empathise with others and an understanding around their own emotional literacy with regards to how others make them feel.
    - A lot of work developed with young people around de-constructing concepts around negative beliefs and values. Young people have demonstrated an understanding of the realities of negative lifestyle and have identified alternative perspectives on change.
6. **To minimise harm to self and others.**
    - Decrease in the assessed risk factors.

A lot of the thematic work has been delivered around sexual health, exploitation,

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grooming, drugs and alcohol misuse, crime, violence and engaging in gang related activity. This has positively impacted on the behaviour choices of the young people involved in the projects. Most have demonstrated a change in attitude and a more confident approach towards staying safe.

Case study 1

Young person A was aged 14 and referred to the project by the Youth Offending team due to displaying a number of risk factors. At the point of referral she had been going missing and had been found in London with no explanation of why, she was believed to be in a relationship with a 19 year old male who was known for exploiting underage girls however she denied this relationship. Young person A was not in education and had a negative peer group, she would not engage in the project as she stated she did not need it. The worker had to use an assertive approach and gave her the control of when and where the sessions would take place. She eventually engaged and sessions were delivered over a 6 month period on self-esteem, grooming, healthy relationships, identifying risk and sexual health. As a result of the intervention the young person made a statement to the police as she disclosed CSE. The statement encouraged other young people to come forward and the perpetrator was convicted. Young person A is now in full time education and has had no recent missing episodes and is making positive friendships at school.

In relation to safeguarding children, what are your priorities/objectives for 2015/16

To identify and generate new funding for projects

- To continue developing partnerships with other organisations
- To offer more external training opportunities for professionals around the thematic areas of the various projects, to raise awareness and increase referrals

Provide a statement on the effectiveness of the contribution made by your organisation/service to the Board and/or its committees?

Base 25 continues to support young people in shaping their lives through the early identification of young people at risk and providing projects that offer both prevention and intervention to ensure that children and young people are safeguarded.

Case Study 2

Sally was referred to SAFE due to displaying abusive behaviour towards mum; she had previously witnessed domestic abuse from dad. Sally was controlling with mum and had previously cut up her clothes due to not wanting her to go out. At the start of the intervention Sally was reluctant to focus on making changes to her behaviour stating, "It works and gets me what I want so why do I need to change." Through the SAFE programme Sally was able to reflect on her own experiences and gain an understanding that her behaviour was learnt from what she had observed from her dad. The worker used a new tool looking at the impact of female to male domestic abuse and the consequences that her behaviour could have on her future relationships as she transitioned into adulthood.

Sally is now at the stage that she is recognising that she needs to make different choices around her negative behaviour. Mum has stated that she has begun to see changes in her daughters behaviour at home and there has been a decrease in her abusive behaviour.

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Agency	West Midlands Police

Executive Summary

In June 2014 her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary (HMIC) carried out an inspection of the West Midlands Police response to Child Abuse; the report can be found at:

http://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmic/?type=publications&s=&cat=child-protection&force=west-midlands&year=2014

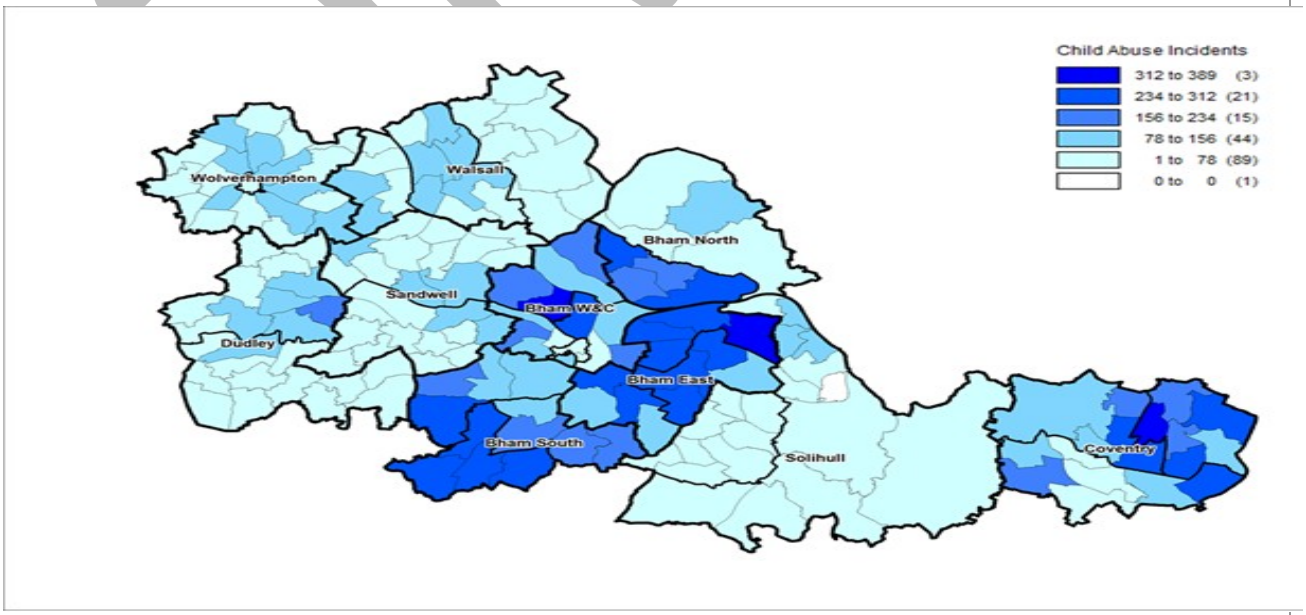
The report made a number of recommendations that were accepted by the force. An action plan was drawn up to address the issues highlighted and the work to improve the service to children in the force has continued. The updated action plan and was presented to Wolverhampton Local Safeguarding Board in February 2015

The report was independent and represents an in depth assessment into child abuse services within the force. It should be noted that the revised force structure for public protection had not been implemented at that time, have commenced implementation in late June 2014, reaching completion in November 2014.

Emerging Themes

The increase in cases (crime and 'non-crime' child abuse investigations) that have to be managed and investigated by the Wolverhampton Child Abuse Investigation Team (CAIT) has increased significantly between April 2014 and March 2015, with non – crime incidents concerning children having shown a particular increase to over 65% compared with the previous year.

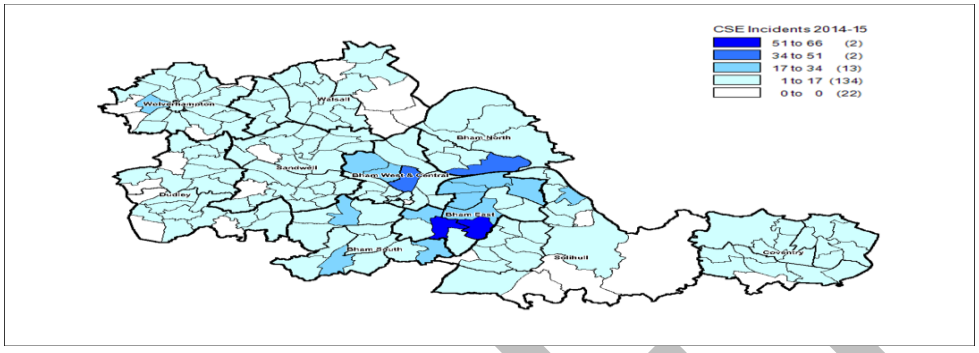
The below graphic shows the number of recorded Child abuse incidents (crimes and non-crimes) across the West Midlands Police area, including Wolverhampton between 1 April 2014 and March 31 2015



Child Sexual Exploitation cases are continuing to increase; the improved focus of all

partner agencies in this area of child abuse is leading to the early identification of victims and offenders. As a result in Wolverhampton the workload for the police CSE Coordinator has increased significantly and with it the demand from local policing colleagues and partnership teams.

The below graphic shows the number of recorded CSE incidents (crimes and non-crimes) across the West Midlands Police area, including Wolverhampton between 1 April 2014 and March 31 2015



The structure and governance for the Wolverhampton child sexual exploitation and missing group (CMOG) from a police perspective has continued to develop and improve; the volume of cases is a challenge in terms of being able to progress actions and to obtain effective updates however the excellent relationships within the CMOG and the commitment by all agencies has ensured that each child has a robust and appropriate plan in place, updates are provided by partners at each meeting and outcomes are being tracked..

Challenges

The level of resource required to review, manage and complete investigations within the child abuse investigation arena is significant.

West Midlands Police are also committed to the introduction of a multi-agency safeguarding hub for children in Wolverhampton (MASH) and to developing enhanced structures around bringing offenders to justice for CSE.

These present significant resourcing challenges which will continue to be kept under review to ensure that we are meeting the increasing demands for service in these critical areas.

West Midlands Police is still facing considerable funding reductions over the next five years and the imperative to identify a sustainable resourcing model is clear; therefore the need to work closely with partners to improve the early identification of risk and 'need' is vital to ultimately reducing the demand and volume of cases that present a greater risk.

The challenge facing West Midlands Police financially over the next five years equates to saving £25 million per year; to this end the force has developed a programme to redesign the organisation (Policing 2020).

The Policing and Crime Plan developed and implemented by the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) sets out the force priorities; this clearly reflects

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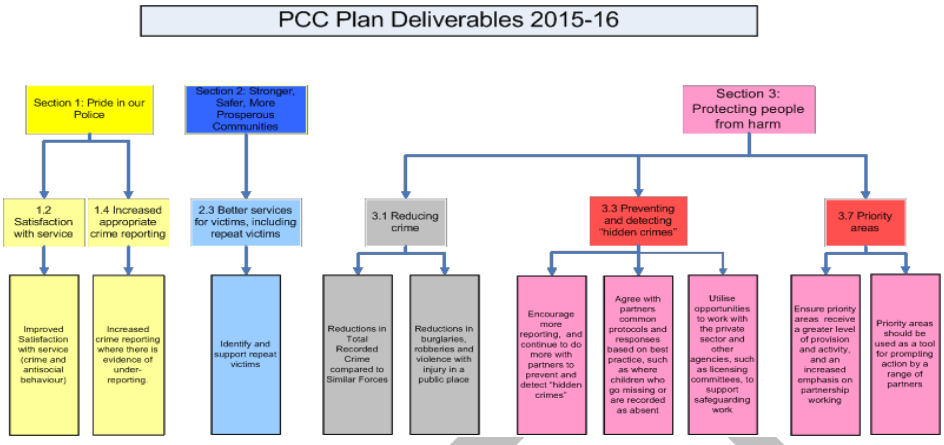
the commitment of West Midlands Police to tackle crime against the vulnerable, reach all communities and tackle 'hidden crime' and is as follows:



TRAINING

The force has invested heavily in a structured learning and development training plan for all areas of vulnerability; this programme has now been delivered to the vast majority of operational 'front-line' police officers and supervisors.

All dedicated child abuse investigators are either experienced, trained detectives or are working towards detective status on the nationally accredited ICIDP (investigative training) programme

All CAIT officers attend the specialist child abuse investigators course (SCADIP) and supervisors the responding to child death course

All local policing officers and child abuse specialists have been given specific training on key areas of child abuse, including ensuring that the voice of every child is captured and put at the heart of our decision making, that children who are impacted on by domestic incidents are identified and referred for joint agency discussion and appropriate response, that appropriate processes used to capture evidence from children are utilised and specially trained officers deployed and that indicators of CSE are identified and referrals made accordingly.

West Midlands Police have a structure for bringing together Sergeants and Inspectors to discuss the findings of multi and police only reviews and examples of good and poor practice; this supports the development of teams.

West Midlands Police have delivered a training package to all frontline police officers (constable and sergeant level) to improve their knowledge and awareness of child safeguarding within the broader context of vulnerability.

In addition the force has developed an awareness package supported by an 'Aide Memoire' titled 'Improving our services to children'; this was developed to address the need to improve practice and recording information obtained by police officers from their interaction with children. This has been delivered by local policing senior leaders to their teams so that the commitment of local police leaders is clearly heard by frontline officers.

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West Midlands Police will seek to increase the level of multi-agency training for police officers and staff within the MASH and those who require training around Strengthening Families.

Police Officers are also required to complete 'E-learning' packages that are provided through the National Centre for Applied Learning technologies (NCALT) system.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Following a review of investigative structures and processes across the force area introduced in June 2014, there are now 153 constables dedicated to local Child abuse investigations across the force, made up of 7 teams each covering a local authority area, including Wolverhampton. These are supported by a central online child sexual exploitation team (14 constables), the central CSE team (15 constables) and a central referral unit into which all referrals from partners regarding potential child protection issues are received and initially assessed before being forwarded to local CAIT for further action / strategy discussion and section 47 activity (joint agency response with children's services)

Local CAITs manage all investigations into sexual abuse of a child under 18, all neglect, physical and emotional abuse of a child under 18 where offender is inter familial, in a position of trust or by someone with responsibility for the child, all HBV, FGM, FM on a child under 18 and all SUDI and SUDC's (sudden, unanticipated death of an infant under 2(SUDI) or a child aged 2-18 (SUDC). This includes all CSE investigations with the exception of the most critical, complex and voluminous CSE investigations which are managed by the Central CSE team and allocated via force tasking processes

To support this change in the structure and processes for managing investigations across the West Midlands, clear and detailed operating principles and service documents have been developed for every team and officer working within Child Abuse which are accessible on the force intranet page.

There is a trained child abuse manager on duty between 8x4 every week day and on call from 4pm each night and at weekends. Standard operating principles have been developed determining the roles and responsibilities of all officers within child abuse, including on call functions.

The following diagram details the process for responding to and investigating child abuse / child protection issues by West Midlands Police:

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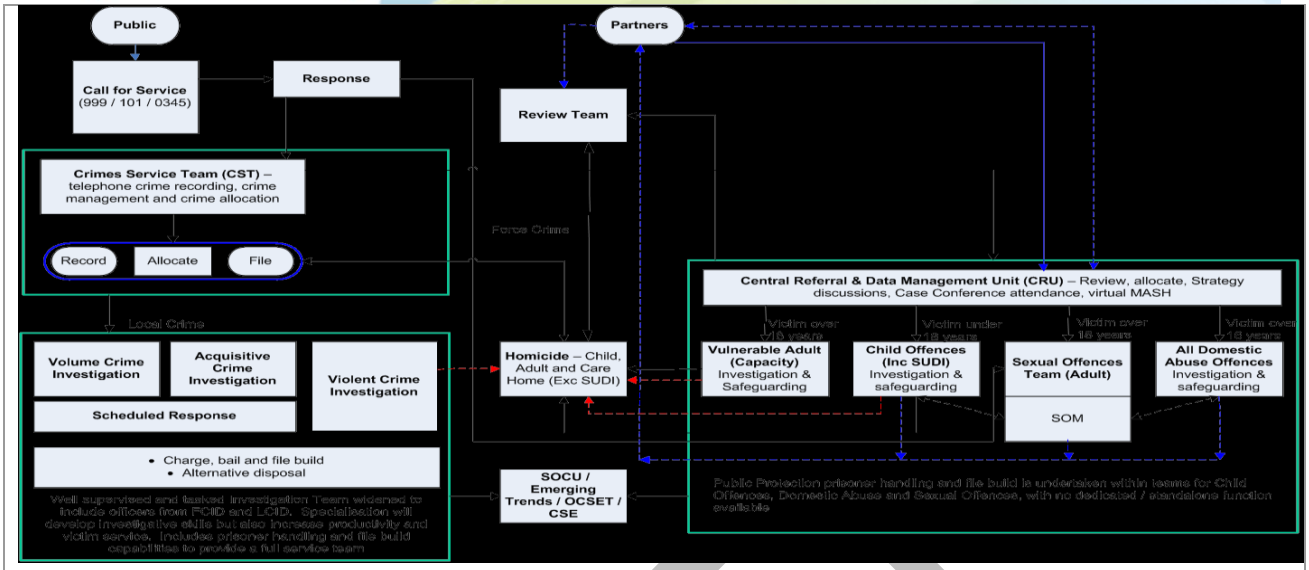

WMP has fully implanted the regional framework for CSE, including the CSE risk assessment and screening tools, each CAIT DI chairing the local authority CSE and Missing multi agency operational groups and the police CSE coordinator attending each multi agency sexual exploitation (MASE) meeting.

COMMUNICATION

West Midlands Police have a comprehensive internal and external communications strategy which incorporates the West Midlands Police website (www.west-midlands.police.uk) that not only provides the public with general information regarding organisational communication and information, but includes hyperlinks to local geographic areas, including Wolverhampton Local Policing Unit (LPU) so that localised, specific information on information and police contacts unique to Wolverhampton can be assessed 24 hours a day.

West Midlands Police utilises social media opportunities to communicate with and engage our local communities both at a force and local level, including each of the neighbourhood teams in Wolverhampton having Twitter pages which daily tweet updates and local information (plus an overarching LPU twitter feed@wolvespolice and the LPU Senior Leadership team, @fraser9529wmp)), the Wolverhampton Police Facebook site (which currently has over 5000 'likes'), a Flickr and a Wolverhampton Police YouTube presence.

All West Midlands Police officers and staff have a personal email account that can receive and send internal and external email correspondence, we have a West Midlands Police intranet site which communicates force issues and information to staff, supported by a dedicated Wolverhampton LPU and PPU intranet sites where further local and Child Abuse specific information is made available to all staff.

West Midlands Police produce a daily e-bulletin called 'Newsbeat' which disseminates to all police employees daily key information, good news and updates on policy, processes and organisational structures.

Within the PPU a dedicated PPU specific newsletter is also regularly produced and made

available to all staff.

These 'electronic' communication opportunities are supported by public and partnership meetings and communication forums (further details of which can be found on the local police webpage and LSCB site), daily team briefings and a structured 'team talk' programme whereby senior managers deliver awareness raising and discussions around key topics.

IMPROVING QUALITY

West Midlands Police completes Section 11 audits for all 7 Local Authority areas, including Wolverhampton.

We are active participants in the schedule of multi – agency audits co-ordinated by the LSCB and support this with an internal programme of audit and lessons learnt within the organisation both at LPU and PPU level.

In response to the findings from HMIC and as part of our 'next steps' plans to continue to improve the service we are delivering to children, West Midland Police is seeking to strengthen its audit processes and invest in a small dedicated team of officers who will undertake regular, structured single agency audits determined by identified areas of risk and requirements that will feed into our bi – monthly Service Improvement meeting structure and allow us to conduct comprehensive analysis and develop action plans around where we can improve our service to children and vulnerable people.

CONTRIBUTING TO PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

Following the restructure of investigative functions an updated data set around performance management has been developed.

This provides a range of criminal justice and staffing information (including outcomes from calls for service, reported crimes, vacancy rates, outstanding suspects and timeliness of investigations).

Each LPU has monthly performance meetings where this data is considered alongside other management information (such as response times, training information) and good practice / opportunities to improve and barriers to service identified.

As referenced above, the PPU are committed to strengthening their internal audit and data management team and recognise that this is an area for development going forward, with a clear focus on agreeing consistent and appropriate data sets with all LSCBs and ensuring that we provide timely and accurate data to partners to support a fully informed and cohesive partnership approach to improving our service to children in the future

Contribution to the LSCB and sub committees

West Midlands Police is an active contributor to the LSCB and its committees and is equally held to account by the board.

Each LSCB meeting is attended by the Chief Superintendent of Wolverhampton LPU) and the DCI responsible for all Child Abuse investigations across the city.

The DCI leads on Priority area 3 for the board and is the chair of the LSCB SEMT Committee, with the DI for Child Abuse chairing the CMOG.

The DCI also sits on the Wolverhampton LSCB Chief executive group and Serious Case

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Review committee with the DI being a member of the Child Death Overview panel.

West Midlands Police do not provide representation for the Quality, Performance, Communications, Learning and Development sub committees of the Wolverhampton board, however attendance and commitment to the work of the LSCB is strong and energetic and informed contributions (and challenges) to all business areas made through those and virtual forums.

Moving forward, West Midlands Police remains committed to the introduction of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and provides the post of Vice Chair to the strategic group overseeing the development and implementation of a MASH in Wolverhampton and is a member of the Operational group designing the agreed model.

Agency	Wolverhampton City Council: Children's Social Care

How does your agency demonstrate its commitment to safeguarding children and the work of the Board in relation to the following areas?

TRAINING - *Promoting, delivering and evaluating single agency & multi-agency training*

- Basic Awareness – Neglect: including two train the trainer's workshops to agree what the single agency training should consist of.
- Learning lessons from Serious Case Reviews and Audit: A series of 6 briefings were held in December 2014/January 2015
- The WSCB Multi-agency training programme: Supporting the delivery of training to ensure that the workforce maintain appropriately updated on their knowledge in respect of legislative changes; new guidance and local policies and procedures.
- Induction - A number of e-learning modules have been developed and incorporated into the Councils Induction Programme to ensure that all employees irrespective of the Directorate understand their personal responsibilities to ensure children and young people are safeguarded; including what to do if they believe a child is vulnerable to child sexual exploitation. These e-learning modules are also available for Councillors to complete.
- Social Workers have had single agency training opportunities and trained in the use of the Home Inventory (Child and Family Training) –They were also trained in Safeguarding Children: Assessment and Analysis Framework (SAAF) –

POLICY AND PROCEDURES – *embedding policy and procedure in practice*

- WSCB CSE Toolkit –Work was undertaken jointly with the West Midlands Police Constabulary PPU to agree the processes to be followed by the Police, Children's Social Care and the Safeguarding Service to ensure that children vulnerable to Child

Sexual Exploitation were appropriately supported.

- Children Social Care Policies and Procedures – local policies and procedures are aligned with WSCB procedures; which are referenced to ensure front-line staff are working in accordance with the WSCB Inter-agency Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures. All staff are notified of new procedures as these have been authorised for publication by the Service Director (Children, Young People and Families); and case file audits undertaken by the local authority consider whether policies and procedures are being adhered to. The Children Social Care, Policy Officer is a member of the WSCB Law, Policy and Procedures committee to ensure consistency.
- Safeguarding Guidance for Councillors – This guidance is reviewed annually and briefings are offered to new Councillors as required; to ensure they are cognisant of their safeguarding and corporate parenting responsibilities.

COMMUNICATION – *sharing all relevant information with the workforce*

- Safeguarding Newsletter – The Safeguarding and Quality Service publishes a newsletter which is circulated to staff across the People Directorate.
- Children's Social Care – A quarterly newsletter is published and circulated to staff across the Children's workforce.
- Safeguarding Newsletter; compiled on a monthly basis by the Voluntary Sector Representative, is disseminates to all WSCB partners of both adults and children workforce, including Council employees.
- The Lead Member for Children, Young People and Families meets weekly with the Strategic Director (People) and Service Director (Children and Young People); which promotes robust scrutiny and challenge.
- Safeguarding Challenge Meetings are undertaken with the Lead Member, Managing Director and Leader of the Council quarterly with a focus on performance management information and safeguarding; to examine the effectiveness of service provision. The Council has a good understanding of its corporate responsibilities in regards to ensuring children are effectively safeguarded and their welfare promoted. To support Councillors the guidance in respect of their duties and responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and adults 'at risk or in need of protection' has been updated.

IMPROVING QUALITY– *single agency audit, supervision, Section 11 etc*

  - Case File Audits – These have been undertaken by the Children's Social Care Management Team (including the Managing Director and Strategic Director – People) on a monthly basis. Learning from audits has been discussed at the quarterly cross-service Safeguarding Meetings to ensure learning is disseminated as widely as possible and recommendations from audit have been addressed through the development of service related actions plans. Findings from audit have contributed to the Workforce Development Programme for Social Workers and Managers.

- Health Check – the local authority is required to undertake an annual 'health check' of the organisation on a range of issues affecting the workload of social workers and to support the implementation of a set of national standards for employers and a supervision framework for practitioners. The framework identifies five key topics and

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areas that require improvement; as follows:

- Effective Workload Management
- Pro-active Workflow Management
- Having the Right Tools to Do the Job
- A Healthy Workplace
- Effective Service Delivery

The Annual Health Check Report 2014/15 for both Children's and Adults Social Care Services will be submitted to the People Directorate Social Work Development Board.

- Dip Sample Audits – In addition to the monthly Case File Audits; the Head of Service for Children in Need of Help and Protection; and the Head of Service for Looked After Children have undertaken a number of dip sample audits to ensure that changes in policy/practice directly arising from the 'monthly' audits has been embedded across Children's Social Care services.
- Supervision – Whilst supervision audits have been undertaken; these have not resulted in consolidation of learning across Children's Social Care. It has been recognised that this is an area of management oversight which requires strengthening and work will be undertaken during 2015/16 to develop a 'Competence Based Supervision and Appraisal Policy' which will include the use of reflective practice; and a report is scheduled to be submitted to the People Directorate Social Work Development Board in 2015.
- Multi-Agency Case File Audit – The WSCB undertakes quarterly multi-agency case file audits; and this process is actively supported by Children's Social Care.

What were the agreed safeguarding objectives for 2014/15?

- In order to achieve these priorities senior managers have continued to examine how to:
  - Do things differently for less
  - Manage affordable demand
  - Shift the balance of care
  - Ensure the 'Home First' principle is embedded
  - Ensure personalised approaches are embraced and services reshaped to support Asset based working
- Develop and embed whole system, corporate and integrated approaches with partners
- Further stimulate innovation and creativity
- Ensure those we serve continue to be at the heart of everything we do

There is a genuine commitment within Wolverhampton to promoting early intervention work ensuring children and families get access to early help.

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Achievements against the above Objectives :-

- During 2014/15 the People Directorate achievements included:
    - Implementation of new operating model integrating early help
    - Families are First programme
    - Decrease in numbers of Looked After Children
    - Transfer of Families in Focus programme into Early Help
    - DCLG funding

- The service was re-structured to align early help services and those of Children's Social Care across the City. This resulted in the creation of 18 Social Work Units, which are co-located with early help services and Health Visitors in Children and Family Support Centres.

In relation to safeguarding children, what are your priorities/objectives for 2015/16

- The City Strategy outlines a shared partnership vision for Wolverhampton and its goal of 'prosperity for all' will be achieved through the close collaboration of partners in: encouraging enterprise; empowering people and communities and re-invigorating the city. A shared commitment to undertake early intervention and prevention is one of the five priorities within its 'empowering people and communities' theme.
- Wolverhampton's Corporate Plan confirms the Council's commitment to vulnerable families; and sets out the way in which the Council intends to develop and improve its services. It focuses on a combination of those issues that matter the most to local people, the national priorities set by Central Government and the unique challenges arising from the changing social, economic and environmental contexts.
- Strengthening Families Where Children are at Risk is the principle objective of the Children and Young People's Service for 2015/16 and aims to ensure effective early help and support is provided to vulnerable families at the earliest point possible. This is underpinned by a number of policies and strategies which support the strengthening families' agenda:
    - Children, Young People and Families Plan 2015-2025
    - Wolverhampton Youth Justice Board Plan
    - Early Help Plan 2015-2018
    - Looked After Children Sufficiency Strategy 2014-2017

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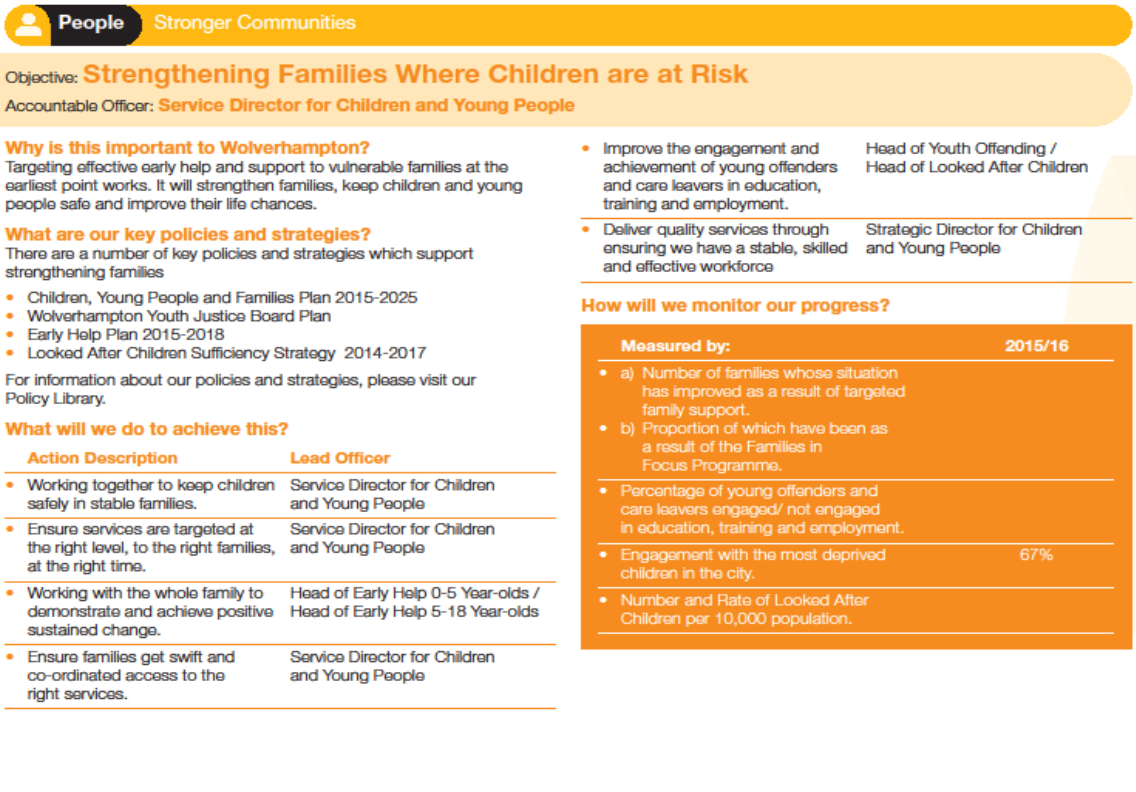

People Stronger Communities

Objective: **Strengthening Families Where Children are at Risk**

Accountable Officer: **Service Director for Children and Young People**

Why is this important to Wolverhampton?

Targeting effective early help and support to vulnerable families at the earliest point works. It will strengthen families, keep children and young people safe and improve their life chances.

What are our key policies and strategies?

There are a number of key policies and strategies which support strengthening families

- Children, Young People and Families Plan 2015-2025
- Wolverhampton Youth Justice Board Plan
- Early Help Plan 2015-2018
- Looked After Children Sufficiency Strategy 2014-2017

For information about our policies and strategies, please visit our Policy Library.

What will we do to achieve this?

Action Description	Lead Officer
Working together to keep children safely in stable families.	Service Director for Children and Young People
Ensure services are targeted at the right level, to the right families, at the right time.	Service Director for Children and Young People
Working with the whole family to demonstrate and achieve positive sustained change.	Head of Early Help 0-5 Year-olds / Head of Early Help 5-18 Year-olds
Ensure families get swift and co-ordinated access to the right services.	Service Director for Children and Young People
Improve the engagement and achievement of young offenders and care leavers in education, training and employment.	Head of Youth Offending / Head of Looked After Children
Deliver quality services through ensuring we have a stable, skilled and effective workforce	Strategic Director for Children and Young People

How will we monitor our progress?

Measured by:	2015/16
a) Number of families whose situation has improved as a result of targeted family support. b) Proportion of which have been as a result of the Families in Focus Programme.	
Percentage of young offenders and care leavers engaged/ not engaged in education, training and employment.	
Engagement with the most deprived children in the city.	67%
Number and Rate of Looked After Children per 10,000 population.	

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As part of the Service Transformation Phase 2, the Local Authority has engaged iMPOWER Consultancy Service to undertake a short term piece of work with Wolverhampton, funded through the LGA. iMPOWER's findings has resulted in a decision being made that the Council should establish an Edge of Care Service as a matter of priority due to the continued challenge it faces in relation to the numbers of children who are looked after. It is recognised that there is a need for a high quality, responsive support for families in crisis and the development of the Edge of Care Service is geared to address this gap in provision.

The current service structure for Early Help Services of a 0-5 and 5-18 service areas will as a consequence require transformation such that the proposal is for Early Help Services 0-18 to be bought under the management of a single Head of Service and the Edge of Care Service being the responsibility of a second Head of Service. All of these developments are part of a whole system review and the specific details of what the service will look like going forward will be defined over coming months.

Agency	Youth Offending Team

How does your agency demonstrate its commitment to safeguarding children and the work of the Board in relation to the following areas?

TRAINING –

Over the last year, the YOT has actively sought opportunities to train staff in Safeguarding specific issues on a multiagency basis. Key training provided included: Learning from SCRs., PREVENT training, Risk and vulnerability management training, Information sessions re MASE. The YOT has also participated in the mandatory WCC training.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES –

The YOT has redesigned its Risk and Vulnerability Strategy to ensure it is fit for current purpose and it embraces current issues such as PREVENT, MASE and other procedures. All staff have been trained in respect of this policy.

COMMUNICATION

YOT awaydays have been utilised to share all relevant information with the workforce along with other meetings such as case managers, YOT officers etc.

IMPROVING QUALITY– the YOT has undertaken a number of audits over the last year relating to a sample caseload. Learning is embedded by staff sharing in the audit process and being sighted on the findings which are followed up in supervision.

The YOT also has in place an active Section 11 audit.

All YOT Court and Panel reports are gate kept to ensure standards are maintained and Safeguarding issues are to the fore.

CONTRIBUTING TO PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT– the YOT supplies regular returns to the YJB , CYP, and SWP in respect of current performance. Current National Standards audit relates to victims and prevention services.

What were the agreed safeguarding objectives for 2014/15?

Our main objective for 14/15 was to ensure that our risk and vulnerability policy and procedures was modernised and embedded in the work of the YOT and that has been achieved. Two of the YOT management team were trained as PREVENT trainers. The YOT is working to embed MASE procedures as part of our mainstream work. The YOT is an active partner in WSCB committees.

Provide a statement on the effectiveness of the contribution made by your organisation/service to the Board and/or its committees?

In a climate of reducing resources, the YOT strives to be an active WSCB member and contribute to the development of Safeguarding children. The YOT is active in the development of the MASH.

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Acronyms Explained

A & E	Accident & Emergency
BCPFT	Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust
BME	Black and Minority Ethnic
CAFCASS	Children and Families Court Advisory Support Service
CDOP	Child Death Overview Panel
CP	Child Protection
CPP	Child Protection Plan
CiN	Child in Need
CMOG	Child Missing Operational Group
CP-IS	Child Protection Information Sharing
CRH	Central Referral Hub
CRU	Central Referral Unit
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
CTB	Children's Trust Board
CYPS	Children and Young People's Services
DFE	Department for Education
DHR	Domestic Homicide Review
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FM	Intensive Surveillance and Supervision'
HWBB	Forced Marriage
IRO	Health and Well-Being Board
IMR	Independent Review Officer
ISS	Independent Management Review
JSCG	Joint Safeguarding Children Group
LAC	Looked After Children
LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer (Allegations)
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board
LSOA	Local Super Output Areas
MARAC	Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference
MACFA	Multi-agency Case File Audit
MASE	Multi-agency Sexual Exploitation Meeting
POT	Position of Trust Meeting
PPU	Public Protection Unit
RWT	Royal Wolverhampton Trust
SWP	Safer Wolverhampton Partnership
SCR	Serious Case Review
SEN	Special Education Need
SEMT	Sexual Exploitation, Missing and Trafficked
SWMPT	Staffordshire & West Midlands Probation Trust
VAWG	Violence Against Women & Girls
VCO	Voluntary & Community Organisations
WCC	Wolverhampton City Council
WDVF	Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum
WIFRN	Wolverhampton Inter-Faith & Regeneration Network
WMP	West Midlands Police
WSAB	Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adults Board
WSCB	Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board
YOT	Youth Offending Team
	Youth Organisations Wolverhampton

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WOLVERHAMPTON SAFEGUARDI
CHILDREN BOARD
ANNUAL REPORT
2014 -2015
Executive
Summary

This executive summary highlights some of the work undertaken by the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board during 2014/15. It describes the Board's structure, activity and highlights the key progress achieved against the priorities for the reporting period.

The annual report provides an analysis of the effectiveness of the Board and reflects on the activities and best approaches to ensure constant improvement.

There have been many developments and achievements during this reporting period, with this, it is hoped that you will find the annual report interesting and useful and urge you to share it far and wide so that more and more people become aware of who we are, what we do and, critically, speak to us about how we can improve the lives of our children. For a copy of the full annual report; please contact 01902 550645 or visit our website: www.wolvesscb.org.uk

In Wolverhampton, we advocate that Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility, this is the case whether you are a professional, a parent, a volunteer or none of those we all have a responsibility to ensure that children have the best possible start in life, growing up happy, healthy, safe and have the opportunity to access the right level of service and support, at the right time, to be able to achieve their full potential. The job of the Board is to ensure that the efforts of those agencies and groups who have contact with children work individually and collectively to ensure that children are helped, supported and protected.

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Wolverhampton is the home town to approximately 56,353 children and young people under the age of 18 years, or approximately 20% of the total population in the area.

The annual report details the Boards role and function to safeguarding children in line with Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 which required each local authority area to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB); it also specifies the organisations and individuals that should be represented on the LSCBs. The membership of Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) complies with this requirement. Information relating to the Boards membership can be found within the appendices of the full report.

LSCB's have a range of roles and statutory functions, for the purpose of this years' annual report, the full objectives, role and functions are outline in the statutory guidance; Working Together to Safeguard Children (2013).

The current business priorities covering a three year period (2013-2016) were agreed by members' at the annual development day 2013 to help drive improvements against the core functions and requirements of the Board. These support the key objectives of the Business Plan priorities and themes which offers the underpinning framework for the work throughout this period

On the basis of all of the above, the work of the Board is informed by a set of clear priorities that is underpinned by an up to date and well-structured Business Plan.

Full information on progress against the strategic priorities can be found in the full report.

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The Board's Objective and Business themes for 2014 – 16 are:-

	PRIORITY AREA	PRIORITY LEAD	ACTIVITY
1	**EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE**	**E. Bennett** Service Director Children and Young People - WCC.	We will develop the capacity of WSCB and its infrastructure to effectively deliver the core functions of the Board to help keep children and young people in Wolverhampton safe.
2	**FRONT-LINE DELIVERY AND THE IMPACT OF SAFEGUARDING**	**M. Garcha** CCG EXECUTIVE LEAD NURSE	We will develop challenging and rigorous approaches to monitoring and evaluating the impact of services on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children & young people; and will hold partners to account.
3	**SAFEGUARDING FOR PARTICULAR VULNERABLE CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE**	**M. Kerr** WMP: DCI – PPU	We will ensure that everything we do promotes improved practice to help safeguard and meet the needs of those children and young people who are particularly vulnerable, or are at increased risk of harm and improves outcomes for them.
4	**COMMUNICATE & ENGAGE**	**S. Dodd** PROJECT COORDINATOR - YOW	We will ensure that we engage children, young people, families and communities of all backgrounds and make up, in the work of WSCB.

The combined work of the Board is shaped from the WSCB Business Plan and the delivery against each area is driven by Committees, and/or Task & Finish Groups.

PROGRESS MADE AGAINST THE WSCB PRIORITIES DURING 2014-2015

PRIORITY AREA**: EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE**
PRIORITY LEAD**: E. Bennett**; Service Director Children and Young People – WCC.

- Regularly monitored the appropriateness of representation of the Board and its Committees
- Increased the influence of the Board by strengthening relationships with other key strategic groups, e.g. the Health & Wellbeing Board and the Adult Safeguarding Board, Children Trust Board
- Established a Head-teachers Safeguarding Committee to drive forward and strengthen communication in relation to keeping children safe in educational establishments.
- Increase the funding stream to the Board to ensure there is capacity to deliver its core functions.
- Routinely reviewed the work of all Committees to ensure this is being effectively undertaken and where applicable influencing practice
- Reviewed the membership and Terms of Reference for each Committee
- Monitor the activities of the Boards Business Plan
- Introduced and monitor the Board's Risk Register

PRIORITY AREA**: FRONT-LINE DELIVERY AND THE IMPACT OF SAFEGUARDING**

PRIORITY LEAD: **M. Garcha**- CCG EXECUTIVE LEAD NURSE

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

During 2014/15, 19 children died in our area, the CDOP reviewed each circumstance to identify any issues that could require a Serious Case Review (SCR); any matters of concern affecting the safety and welfare of children in the area; or any wider public health or safety concerns arising from a particular death or from a pattern of deaths in the area; and make specific recommendation to the Board.

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Serious Case Review

During 2014-15, 9 cases where brought to the attention of the SCRC. These cases were purely Wolverhampton children, one of which met the criteria for a serious case review. There is a delay in publication that is due to pending court proceedings. But we have not delayed responding, as the committee has ensured that actions from this SCR are being implemented across all the relevant partner agencies.

Quality and Performance Functions

Quality of Performance has been a key priority for 2014/15. The Committee have throughout the year reviewed and scrutinised child protection activity performance data. Through the development of a more effective multi-agency dataset the Committee has provided written reports at each Board meeting on the analysis of data around safeguarding children.

The dataset has also been significantly improved during the year to a more multi agency tool to give the Board a picture of whether activities are making any differences to safeguard children and to adequately alert the Board of any risks in the system. Other subject areas monitored and reported on through this Committee; includes **Section 11 Audits, Private Fostering, and Management of Allegations.**

This Committee has also led on 3 Multi-Agency Case File Audits (MACFA) over the year. The themes; **Children Missing, Self Harm and Adolescent Neglect**, are summarised and findings disseminated through the partnership to frontline staff. Some of the findings from these exercises offered the assurance that practice was generally effective, there was evidence of good engagement from relevant agencies and that plans led to change in families and improvement in children's lives.

Whilst progress has been made in respect of the Quality and Performance functions of the Board, this area remains under further improvements for the Board.

Learning & Development Activities

Through this Committee there has been a consistent multi-agency programme of training that:

- Is informed by the Board's Learning and Improvement Framework,
- Is relevant to core business and priorities of WSCB

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- Is aligned to statutory guidance, best practice and lessons learnt through the full range of reviews and audits undertaken by WSCB.

Highlight and feedback on WSCB training:

- Safer Recruitment training, including a recently devised refresher course remains popular.
- The demand for the 'Working Practices; Roles and Responsibilities training was in high demand with positive feedback. It will be necessary to increase the number of courses going forward in to 2015/16.

The most popular statements recorded over the year includes:

- increased confidence,
- improved skills
- much better informed on the knowledge base of each course;
- understood what this means for them in practice, and
- more confident that they would be better able to keep children and young safe as a result of the attending courses.

We held a conference with the Safeguarding Adults Board to raise awareness of Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence

Going forward, the Committee intends to:

- further embed the WSCB's Learning and improvement Framework.
- Develop and implement of a single agency training endorsement and validation scheme to ensure the Board is fulfilling its responsibilities for quality assuring training in compliance with 'Working Together 2013'.

Law, Policies and Procedures

To support the Board in ensuring that safeguarding practice keeps abreast of new developments, during 2014-2015 this Committee have reviewed, revised, devised and published policies, procedures and practice guidance in relation to:

- Children missing from home and care,
- Self Harm Protocol,

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- Sexual Exploitation, Missing and Trafficked (SEMT) strategic process, Child Sexual Exploitation induction programme, Multi agency sexual exploitation (MASE) meetings; and Child Missing Operational Group (CMOG) processes.
- Unborn Baby pathway for intervention
- Supporting Children and young people vulnerable to violent extremism strategy
- Cross Border Child Protection guidance under 'Hague Convention
- Safeguards for children who may be affected by gang activity
- Threshold for support practice guidance
- Escalation Policy; and
- Information Sharing Agreement which all member agencies have now endorsed has been developed to strengthen communication between the WSCB partners

Going forward, the LPPC will:

- ❖ To continue to scrutinise and localise all Board policy and procedural guidance to increase the support of local practice
- ❖ Maintain a close eye on new ways of working alongside the introduction of 'early help' support services and the associated 'new operating model', and ensure practice guidance, policies, procedures and protocols are revised accordingly.

PRIORITY AREA**: SAFEGUARDING FOR PARTICULAR VULNERABLE CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE**

PRIORITY LEAD**: M. Kerr;** DCI West Midlands Police

<u>Sexual Exploited, Missing and Trafficked (SEMT)</u>

The WSCB SEMT Committee is a multi-agency partnership with a remit and duty to safeguard children and young who may be at increased vulnerability from sexual exploitation, missing episodes and trafficking in accordance with the policies, procedures and guidance outlined in local and national guidance and that of (WSCB).

SEMT Committee has been tasked with ensuring that:

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- children who are victims of, or at risk of CSE have their needs addressed and are effectively protected.
- The is increased understanding of the situation relating to Child Sexual Exploitation within Wolverhampton, and across the region.
- information is appropriately shared regarding potential offenders and victims of particular vulnerable groups, and
- effective action plans are in place to protect the potential or actual victim from further harm.
- This Committee is also has oversight responsibility for CMOG and MASE activities.
- Progressed work in supporting the identification, assessment and safeguarding intervention of children at risk of **sexual exploitation** through the establishment of the tailored Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) meetings

Achievements for 2014/15

- obtained funding for a Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Co-ordinator
- Introduced Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation meetings for every child identified as at risk of CSE
- Embedded Regional CSE framework fully in Wolverhampton
- Developed and published a CSE Induction /Awareness pack
- Completed CSE multi-agency audit in January 2015
- Developed and delivered a multi- agency CSE training course
- Identified and implemented screening tool for CSE victims;
- Reviewed national guidance, reports and inspections to benchmark and improve practice in Wolverhampton
- Ensured every child is invited to participate in the multi-agency discussion around their needs.

PRIORITY **AREA: COMMUNICATE & ENGAGE**

PRIORITY LEAD**: S.DODD ;** PROJECT COORDINATOR - YOW

The Communication and Engagement Committee (C&EC), has a dual function to support both the Children and Adults Safeguarding Boards to:

Improve communication to the workforces of partner agencies

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- Develop city-wide communication channels (websites, social media, press coverage, leaflets posters)
- Develop constructive and mutually respectful relationships with communities; making sure that equality and diversity is appropriately considered in all communication and engagement activity.
- Liaise and collaborate with WSCB and WSAB, relevant committees, partnership forums and service users in the above activities
- Promoted awareness of P**rivate Fostering** which has helped ensure that more privately fostered children and young people can be identified and supported

Oversee the activities of the B-Safe Team who this year has:

- Recruited, train and establish a dedicated group of young people as the first B-Safe Junior Safeguarding Board.
- Facilitated regular meetings and activities for the new Team, to include a combination of awareness of key safeguarding issues, training and consultation.
- Created and maintain a dedicated web presence for the B-Safe Team, including the use of social media as a communication channel to raise awareness of the Team and its activities.
- Employed a dedicated B-Safe Team coordinator
- Focused much of its attention on tackling bullying and online safety, coinciding with the national awareness days.
- Created a avenue of opportunities for the B-Safe Team to attend and report to the Board and vice-versa.

Summary of Challenges for 2014/15

In summarising, the Board can evidence that progress is being made, equally, we recognise that we have a number of challenges, these include:

We anticipate our challenges for the coming year include the following:

- To maintain the momentum in developing closer partnership working with other partnership/strategic boards and promote a culture of problem solving

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- To ensure that all services (adults and children) embed the safeguarding of children and young people at the heart of what they do
- To improve communication across the partnership, particularly with frontline practitioners
- To further develop the coordination of safeguarding activity across the partnership and be further assured in regards to the multi-agency intervention and the quality of services through engagement with:
    - The education sector
    - Faith and community groups
    - GP's

We also need to turn attention to:-

- Recruiting a 2nd lay member to the board
- Assuring ourselves that we can respond effectively to issues relating to; Child Trafficking, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Stateless Children
- Increase the awareness of services and support to Disabled children and young people in the City
- Undertake an evaluation of the effectiveness of Early Help services in the City
- Ensure that the learning from the deaths of children are disseminated across the partnership and used to inform practice.

Responding to the challenges ahead the Board remains committed to:

- Ensuring the 'voice of the child' influences all that we do
- Effective partnerships in the context of change and reducing resources
- A clear focus on assuring ourselves of the effectiveness of quality of our multi-agency work with children and young people.

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Agenda Item No: **6**

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL

Children,Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel

20 January 2016

Report title	Joint Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Val Gibson Children & Families	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Linda Sanders, People	
Originating service	Disabilities & Mental Health	
Accountable employee(s)	Kathy Roper Tel Email	Commissioning Team Manager 01902 550975 Kathy.roper@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	List any meetings at which the report has been or will be considered, e.g. Strategic Executive Board Cabinet	 19 January 2016 24 February 2016

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Panel is recommended to:

Consider the report and make comments on the Joint Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy as part of the consultation process.

1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Joint Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy for consideration and comment as part of the consultation prices which will end on 14 February 2016.

2.0 Background

2.1 This Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy developed by the SEND Partnership Board outlines the commitment from partners in education, health and social care in the city to making sure that disabled children and young people get the same life chances as children who do not have a disability.

2.2 This strategy aims to highlight the good practice already achieved in co-production with families and young people by the City Council, Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and other partners during the local implementation of the SEND code of practice. It also highlights the challenges emerging in the city and areas for further development.

2.3 There is much to celebrate but we know that there are also many challenges, in particular the increasing number of children and young people with profound and multiple learning disabilities, autistic spectrum disorder, social, emotional and mental health difficulties (SEMH), specific and moderate learning difficulties and language and communication difficulties.

2.4 Listening to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and their carers is an integral part of the work we do, and they have told us that we should be striving for well-planned support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities from birth to 25. This means integrated services across education, health and social care, which work closely with parents and carers and where needs of the young person are identified in their Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and that these are met without unnecessary bureaucracy and delay.

2.5 This strategy is a high level document designed to highlight key strategic priorities. There is a risk that stakeholders will not feel that the strategy provides sufficient detail to cover all areas. The implementation of the strategy will therefore be supported by a number of detailed plans that will be influenced by the information gathered during the consultation activities.

3.0 Financial Implications

3.1 There are no financial implications directly associated with this report. The implementation plans associated with the delivery of the strategy will need to include comprehensive financial plans. The delivery of the new strategy will need to be within the existing financial resources.

3.2 The Joint Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy outlines the City Council's and the Clinical Commissioning Group's response to the requirement set out in the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities reforms set out in the Children and Families Act 2014.
[GS/07012016/H]

4.0 Legal Implications

4.1 This strategy supports the City Council and the CCG in the delivery of their statutory duties in relation to the SEND reforms as set out in Chapter 3: Working together across education, health and care for joint outcomes of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Code of Practice 0 – 25 years.
(RB/06012016/L*)*

5.0 Equalities implications

5.1 There are equalities implications associated with this report as it relates to disabled children and young people. An equalities analysis will be completed before consultation commences and updated throughout the consultation process.

6.0 Environmental implications

6.1 There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

7.0 Human resources implications

7.1 There are no human resources implications associated with this report.

8.0 Corporate landlord implications

8.1 There are no corporate landlord implications associated with this report.

9.0 Schedule of Background Papers

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Wolverhampton's Joint Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

2015-2020

NHS
Wolverhampton
Clinical Commissioning Group

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL

Version 4 13.7 15

Introduction

Wolverhampton is passionate about improving the lives of all children and young people, the Children's Trust Board has developed an ambitious 10 year Children, Young People and Families Plan – 'Healthy, Happy Families'.

This Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) strategy developed by the SEND Partnership Board outlines the commitment from partners in education, health and social care in the city to making sure that disabled children and young people also get the same life chances as children who do not have a disability.

This strategy aims to highlight the good practice already achieved in co-production with families and young people by the city council, Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and other partners during the local implementation of the SEND code of practice. It also highlights the challenges emerging in the city and areas for further development.

There is much to celebrate but we know that there are also many challenges, in particular the increasing number of children and young people with profound and multiple learning disabilities, physical disabilities, autistic spectrum disorder, social, emotional and mental health difficulties (SEMH), specific and moderate learning difficulties and language and communication difficulties.

Although these are national challenges, locally we know that the number of children growing up in the city will be increasing by approximately 1000 children to 64,200 over the next 10 years. 4.9% of these children will have some form of disability, Up to 10% of children will have some type of learning disability or difficulty, 1 in 100 children will be diagnosed with an autistic spectrum condition, of which 50% will also have some degree of learning disability.

There has been significant investment in our special schools, with 3 of the 7 schools being rebuilt through the Building Schools for the Future programme and co-located with mainstream schools. 6 of the 7 special schools are rated good or outstanding by Ofsted. In 2015 a Free School called Wolverhampton Vocational Training Centre providing vocational courses opened offering provision for 16-18 year olds

In addition across our mainstream schools there are 6 Resource Bases in primary schools and 2 within secondary schools and a range of outreach services provided through devolved budgets to the special schools in the city.

However increasing demand for specialist educational provision for children with complex needs is one of the challenges the city is facing and this needs to be addressed through a comprehensive review of the City's Graduated Response with an emphasis on early help and support and inclusion in mainstream for all but those children and young people with the most severe special educational needs and disabilities.

Integrated and collaborative working between the city council and the CCG has improved enormously as a result of the requirements of the SEND reforms within the Children and Families Act 2014 and the SEND code of Practice 2014. Children with complex health care needs are now proactively identified by the CCG and the Children's Continuing Health pathway is now aligned with the Adult Continuing Health Care and the Education Health and Care planning process resulting in an improved experience for young people with complex health care needs and their journey of transition into young adulthood. The CCG are also now working with family carers and young people to improve decision making processes and to embed co-production in all elements of the organisation. The involvement of young people and parents in the creation of the health information on the Local Offer has been recognised nationally as an example of good practice.

The transition into adulthood is always described by young people and parents as one of the most difficult times in their lives. The care management teams responded to

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this challenge by being one of the first areas in the country to move to an All Age Disability model with the disabled children and young people's team now supporting young people and their families until they are 25 years old, in line with the principles of the SEND Code of Practice. http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=5794&p=0

While much progress has been achieved we are aware that a more integrated strategy is needed to make sure that we achieve further improvements and that education, health and social care must work more closely to respond to the challenges we face. This strategy is designed to address these issues and bring about the necessary improvements in the quality of provision and better outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities from early years to adulthood.

Our Vision

Listening to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and their carers is an integral part of the work we do and they have told us that we should be striving for well-planned support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities from birth to 25. This means integrated services across education, health and social care, which work closely with parents and carers and where needs of the young person are identified in their Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and that these are met without unnecessary bureaucracy and delay.

We believe that every child and young person with special educational needs and disabilities from Wolverhampton should, where ever possible, have their needs met locally, and that they should be able to use high quality provision which promotes good health, care and educational progress and achievement. This includes access to universal services as well as specialist support where required.

Our vision is also that children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities should be recognised as full citizens with the ability to contribute to their local community, and that when they need support to do this that the right support is available.

We expect every early years provider, mainstream school and post 16 setting to make effective provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities, so that they can make good progress in their learning and can move easily on to the next stage of their education and have aspirations for employment and independent adult life.

The principles of the SEND code of Practice 2014 underpin this vision, and they state that Local Authority as the lead agency must have regard to:

- the views and wishes and feelings of the child or young person and the child's parents.
- participating as fully as possible in decisions; and being provided with the information and support necessary to enable participation in those decisions.
- the need to support the child or young person, and the child's parents in order to facilitate their development and to help them achieve the best possible educational and other outcomes, preparing them effectively for adulthood.
- the use of effective practice, data and wider intelligence and independent assessment to drive improvement.
- the development of clearly defined roles, responsibilities and accountability.

Our vision is therefore to fully include children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and their parents or carers, in all decisions about their individual support and about local education health and care provision. We will continue to embrace the principle of co-production and provide high quality accessible information, advice and guidance to support children and young people with special educational needs and

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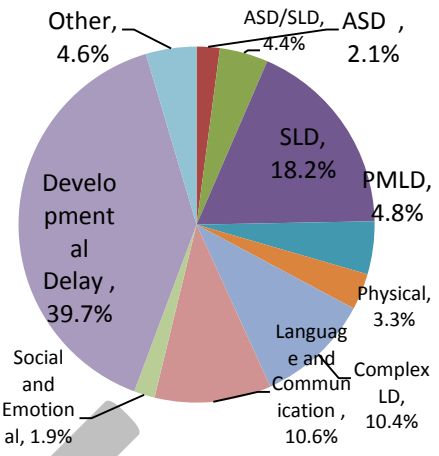
disabilities and their families throughout their early lives and into adulthood.



Key Priorities

Early Years

Specialist support for early years children with special educational needs or disability is provided by the Child Development Centre (CDC) and Special Needs Early Years (SNEY).

The SNEY provides assessment, diagnosis and early intervention for individual children from birth to 5 through a co-ordinated multi-agency approach.

Referrals to the SNEY multi-agency panel show an increase year on year, there has been a 12% increase since September 2011, with referrals from schools nearly doubling in 2014/15. This reflects schools requiring higher levels of support to implement the SEND reforms for children at SEN Support and the increasing number of children with complex needs in mainstream provision. The team has a current caseload of 479.

There were 20 referrals for children with a visual impairment and 10 referrals for children with a hearing impairment in 2014 in the early years. Children with visual and hearing impairments under 5 years of age make up 22% and 14.8% of the current staff workload.

Within the city there is an under 5's Autistic Spectrum Condition diagnostic panel. Between September 2011 and July 2012 the panel received 38 referrals and diagnosed 21 children. Between September 2014 and June 2015 the panel received 35 referrals and diagnosed 15 children with ASC.

Good practice

The 'Team Around the Child' (TAC) continues to be the most effective way of providing co-ordinated support for children with complex needs. 78 children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities SEN received a full TAC approach.

Wolverhampton City Council are cited in '*Paving the way*' as an area of outstanding practice.

"Wolverhampton *is best example in the country of key working for disabled children under 5".* Christine Lenehan, Director, Council for Disabled Children

Integrated multi -agency work for under 5's between the SNEY team and a Health colleague at The Gem Centre is well established and works well.

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A child with complex visual impairment has been successfully integrated and supported by the Visually Impaired Service into mainstream nursery with double funding.

There are excellent links between the Hearing Impaired Service and Children's Hearing Services including information sharing, liaison and training.

.Challenges

53.8% of children supported by SNEY and 40% of children supported by the Visual Impairment Team have complex needs that require Team Around the Child (TAC) and multi-agency meetings that are requiring increased contact visits.

The under 5's Multi Agency Referral Panel have referrals from health professionals, early years settings and schools of children who have significant behaviour difficulties but not assessed developmental delay.

However, as there is currently no service that we can signpost or suggest for families SNEY are also also seeing children referred to them from CAMHS who do not meet their criteria. There is a gap in service delivery for these children, and services need to be re-designed to respond to the changing needs of children.

From 2016/2017 with the move to increase childcare to 30 hours per week for working parents, means there is a need to develop appropriate levels of provision for families that include children with SLD/PMLD.

AIM 1: to identify solutions to support children under 5 who need support with their mental health in partnership with the CAMHS service.

AIM 2: to develop a full range of suitable early years provision for children with complex needs and Autism.

Education

The city council supported 1415 children and young people with a Statement of Educational Needs (SEN) in 2015 and 85 children with an Education Health and Care plan (EHC). Special School provision has capacity to provide places for up to 792 children with the rest being included within our mainstream schools.

Boys are two and a half times more likely to have statements of Special Educational Needs at primary schools and nearly three times more likely to have statements at secondary schools compared to girls, this is likely to be linked to the increase in diagnosis of conditions such as ASC and ADHD where there is a higher prevalence of boys with the diagnosis. This is also true for Special Educational Needs without statements up to the age of 10, after which the prevalence declines from a peak of 18.6% at ages 9 and 10 to 15.7% for 15 year olds.

For pupils with statements the most common primary type of need is autistic spectrum disorder (22.9%). The most common at School Action Plus are behaviour, emotional and social difficulties and speech, language and communication needs (both 23.8%) and moderate learning difficulty (21.3%). These have consistently been the most common types of need over the past few years..

AIM 3: To ensure that Wolverhampton's Special School estate is fit for purpose and meets the full range of more complex needs of the children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities now being placed.

Within mainstream school settings cross the City there are currently 5714 children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities who do not have a Statement of SEN or an EHC Plan being supported through reasonable adjustments and additional SEN support funded from school budgets.

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Mainstream schools are increasingly having to support a wider range of children and young people with more complex needs that previously would have been accommodated within special school provision. Mainstream schools therefore need increased levels of support and training through outreach services, nurture groups and more targeted resource bases across the City to be able to meet the needs of these children and young people.

AIM 4: to identify a more robust graduated response with an emphasis on early support and intervention in order to enable mainstream schools to meet the needs of the range of more complex needs now being included within the schools.

Percentage of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities **by primary need**

Almost 7 in 10 Looked After Children (LAC) have special educational needs. There has been a significant increase in the number of LAC children in the city. This has affected the Out of City placements and needs to be investigated further as a majority have high needs (Statements/EHCP).

AIM 5: to develop local provision in order to reduce the number of children needing residential provision

An SEN & Inclusion working group has been recently been established and is reviewing SEND provision within the city. They will develop an action plan to respond to this challenge.

Considerations

- Special schools may need to be reconfigured to a broad spectrum approach.
- A more targeted and graduated approach, with an emphasis on early help and support, is required to meet needs of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. This includes support for mainstream schools such as outreach and nurture groups.

Education Health and Care Plans

Parents and carers have been involved in the development, introduction and piloting of Education Health and Care plans. Co-production will continue as the EHCP process evolves and is reviewed and we receive feedback from parents about the process.

From 1st September 2014 local authorities were required to consider new requests for an assessment of special educational needs under the new legislation, and co-ordinate services around a child or young person. Children and young people with existing statements are currently being transferred to the new system in a phased way, prioritised at key transition points. 85 Education Health and Care plans have been completed since 1st September 2014; this is the highest number of transfers to EHC plans within the Birmingham and West Midlands area. Children and young people with a current Statement of Educational need will not automatically have a new EHC plan. Children with a current Statement of Educational needs will undergo an EHC Needs Assessment. Schools are expected to meet the first 15 hours of Teaching Assistant support. If the needs of the child can be met from within the schools own resources then this will be taken in consideration in determining whether or not an ECH plan is required which is in line with national guidelines. This is a particular concern for parent support groups nationally and locally.

The EHC plan must be child centred; outcomes focused, and involve the child or young person, their family and all the relevant professionals. The CCG and health providers have fully co-operated with the introduction of the new assessment and planning process.

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Wolverhampton has been commended by the Department of Education on the quality of the local EHC plan template.

The Department of Education have put some challenging timescales on the single assessment process, with new referrals, conversions from Educational Statements and conversions from LDA's to statements being completed within 20 weeks, achieving these timescales is a challenge if we truly want to embrace the delivery of person centred plans.

AIM 6: to support all children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and their families through a process of co-productions to develop a person centred, outcome focused Education Health and Care Plan.

AIM 7: Where a children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities does not transition to an EHC plan it is our aim to make sure that they have the most comprehensive support plan possible and that families are provided with appropriate information, advice, and support.

Personal Budgets

For children and young people assessed as needing an EHC plan, they have the right to request a personal budget from April 1st 2015. The local authority, CCG, families and young people are currently working collaboratively to develop local policy, procedure and processes to implement this new requirement which will be included in the local offer.

At present a funding matrix is established for the education component of a personal budget, children and young people assessed as meeting the Continuing Health criteria can have a direct payment from the CCG and children assessed as having social care needs can have direct payment to meet their needs in the community.

A Multi-agency Funding Panel has been established to consider all requests for personal budgets following an EHC plan. To date areas that have attracted the most requests for a personal budget are for home to school or home to short breaks transport.

AIM 8: to develop a single integrated Resource Allocation System (RAS) to support eligible social care outcomes and ultimately to develop a single combined Resource Allocation System for all three elements of the EHC plan.

Health

Data has been collected by the Clinical Commissioning Group via the GP practice systems using GRAPHNET. The data set is in its early stages and still needs to be ratified. Further work is being undertaken by Public Health as part of Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA). This information shows that there are more boys than girls identified with SEN and health/physical conditions including autism, ADHD, acquired disabilities, learning disabilities, and congenital conditions. There is a variation by condition but in general there is a higher prevalence of conditions recorded in older children aged 10-19. When the data is compared with the deprivation quartile it shows that there are in general more people registered with these conditions living in the poorest 20% of the population than we would expect.

The CCG has led a health based work stream since April 2014 in order to develop and deliver on new requirements. It has actively involved parent representatives from the parent/partner forum and this work has been cited in Department for Education and national Contact a Family best practice training and guidance tools.

A video has been made to demonstrate this good practice and can be viewed at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tcBUk1G8YqA

All information published on the health sections of the Local Offer have been reviewed by parents to make sure that it is accessible and relevant for parents and carers who may need to access these health services.

Voice 4 parents (the local parent forum)and Changing Young Lives (a local rights based organisation working in co-production with disabled young people) have also been commissioned by the CCG to work with them to improve transparency in decision making and the involvement of local parents and young people in the development of local health services.

A new Children's Continuing Care pathway has been established by the CCG. This is delivered in partnership with the local authority and other partner organisations to provide seamless high quality care for disabled children and young people who have specialist and complex needs that cannot be met by existing universal or specialist services alone.

The aim is to review all packages of care for children who have been assessed as being eligible for Continuing Care at least annually, to make sure that they still meet the needs of the young person. Systems and processes have been put in place to support early planning and seamless transition for young people in to adult continuing health career services and this is made possible by a range of transition clinics at the Royal Wolverhampton Hospital Trust

The provision of community equipment including tele-care can support and maintain the independence of a young person, both at home, school and in the community. New technology can revolutionise a young person's life.

Equipment can be provided to the young person via Wheelchair services, Occupational Therapy services, the Independent Living Service, School, hospital, and the Clinical Commissioning Group. Each service has difference criteria and referral pathways.

However at present equipment is not transferred from school to home, or other services and so a young person can have multiple pieces of the same equipment, in different localities, which can need replacing on a regular basis as the child grows.

AIM 9: to review the children's equipment services and to develop a more stream line and integrated equipment service, which is responsive to the needs of disabled children, disabled adults and their families.

Short Breaks

Children and young people's short breaks were reviewed between 2013-2014, they are now provided in four distinct ways;

- Community based activities
- Schools based activities
- Direct Payments
- A range of residential overnight services

In April 2015 40 children and young people were in receipt of an overnight short breaks, 38 young people are in receipt of a direct payment and approximately 800 community based short breaks were provided from a range of providers. The short breaks offer also includes two short breaks caravans that families can use and which are fully booked during school holidays.

If the options of personal budgets, outreach (supporting families in their

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homes and in community settings) and shared care become more developed and utilised we would expect to see a reduction in the demand for residential provision.

Around two thirds of the services are provided following and assessment of needs and one third are direct access.

Since the end of the Aiming High for Disabled Children's programme and the removal of the ring fence from funding, we have had to re-evaluate and target funding to activities that genuinely give families a break, that respond to the outcomes identified in an EHC plan and to those areas activities that families have told us are most beneficial.

During consultation families were clear that short breaks were most beneficial at weekends and in school holidays. Families also wanted a co-ordinated programme of activities with better information about access and availability

"(We need) good variety of activities that offer something for children of all abilities over the course of the year. Appropriately trained staff who are interested in helping the children get the most out of the activities they attend."

AIM 10: to increase the number of young people provided with a personal budget for their short breaks and to develop and extend the range of providers available for them to use.

Using information from the Local Offer feedback facility we have started to work closely with colleagues in leisure services to improve the leisure offer to disabled children and young people.

AIM 11: to embrace digital media as a way to provide up to date information about the short breaks, universal services and child care options for disabled children.

Transport

We currently provide transport to 800 pupils and spend £2.2m.The principle journeys are to and from special schools.

Wolverhampton City Council should review and make a decision about whether the provision of transport for pupils of statutory school age is necessary to facilitate the attendance at a designated school. Transport deemed necessary must be provided free of charge.

To date one of the key areas that families request a personal budget for as part of their EHC plan is transport.

AIM 12: is to include a personal budget for transport as part of the creation of a single resources allocation system, and to do this in co-production with families.

Local Offer

Wolverhampton Local Offer was co-produced with young people and parents and published on 1st September 2014. WWW.wolverhampton.gov.uk/send/localoffer .

Parents of disabled children and young people have been an integral part of the process of developing Wolverhampton's Local Offer. They have worked collaboratively on the design and the content with professionals from health, social care, and media teams.

One parent involved said "it was important to be involved and get the message across to others parents in a similar position"

The local authority has commissioned the local young people's rights based organisation 'Changing Young Lives' to provide critical commentary on the Local Offer so that it can be subject to on-going improvement.

"It is so important to work in a co-production with us young people. Our unique views on what should be done will

shape the Local Offer website and our contribution to decision –making will enable us to build our self-confidence, self-esteem, and empower us to make decisions about our own lives" (Young Leader CYL)

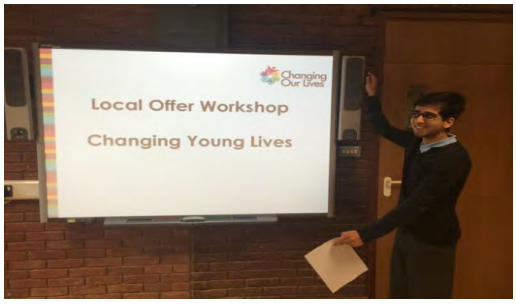
The Young Leaders have involved 57 young people aged 12-19 in their work and have made a number of recommendations for future development of the Local Offer including:

- the addition of film clips
- the use of an accessible toolbar on the web pages
- The use of 'easy to understand' language

We have a duty to seek views on our Local Offer but more importantly we want to make sure that the services and information we provide reflect the needs of parents, carers and young people**.**

Maintaining and upkeep of the Local Offer remains an area for on-going development by the local authority and CCG so that the information remains relevant, meaningful and accessible for children, young people and families. This is overseen by the SEND Partnership Board.

AIM 13: to further develop the Local Offer into a vibrant accessible interactive Local Offer that is up to date, easy to use and that meets the needs of local people.



Joint Commissioning

The Children and Families Act 2014 and the SEND code of Practice requires local authorities and the CCG to make joint commissioning arrangements for education, health and care for children and young people with SEN from 0-25. Joint Commissioning should be informed by a clear assessment of local needs to support prevention identification, assessment and early intervention.

In order to better understand our local population needs and plan accordingly the CCG and local authority have worked together to develop a local needs analysis. This has not been without its challenges due to different recording systems. However, colleagues in public health remain committed to support the collection and collation of the most reliable and accurate record of disabled children and young people in Wolverhampton.

Our aim is to continue to work with collaboratively with Public Health to develop a joint strategic needs analysis for disabled children and young people that the city is responsible for. This will be supported in the future by the use of a child's NHS number in their EHC plan.

From September 2014, commissioners within social care, health and education have worked together to develop and deliver the EHC assessment, planning and funding of services to support the identified needs and outcomes for individual children and young people. The necessary EHC funding panel process has been implemented and all commissioners are party to this.

The implementation of the SEND strategy and the formal joint commissioning arrangements between the LA and the CCG is a current priority. It is important that these developments are placed within the wider context of partnership discussions to improve commissioning arrangements for children and young people.

Preparing for Adulthood

The move from children to adult provision can be one of the most daunting times for a disabled young person and their families. There are so many things to consider including where to carry their education, how to become more independent, the possibility of employment and somewhere new to live. The journey for every young person is different but planning early and getting the right information and support is critical.

A guide to 'Preparing for Adulthood' is available for parents and young people on the Local Offer.

http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=5794&p=0

Young People preparing for adulthood with the most severe forms of special educational needs find it difficult to enter the world of work, with an employment rate as low as 7% (national average). Wolverhampton has one of the lowest rates in the West Midlands at 2.7%.

Many disabled young people find that there is no clear pathway to employment once they have completed their chosen college courses, and often find themselves having to rely on the Council for provision of day activities when, given the right support, they would have chosen to pursue employment options.

A recent government trial of supported internships resulted in 36% of students with SEND gaining paid employment.

On the 12th March 2015 a Government initiative was announced allocating £5 million to be spent by local authorities to support 'more talented young people in supported internships and work placements, helping them make that first step onto the career ladder'.

AIM 14: to support 25 disabled young people into work in the next 12 months

Measuring Success

The SEND strategy has been developed in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders. It will be further informed by the independent SEND review. A performance framework is being developed in order to monitor the success of the priorities outlined below. The indicators are also reflected in the performance framework for the Children, Young Peoples, and Families Plan.

- The attainment gap between the children with Educational Health and Care plans and other pupils at key stage 2.
- The attainment gap between the children with Educational Health and Care plans and other pupils at key stage 4.
- The number of SEND pupils that are excluded from school.
- The percentage of schools and settings with a good quality published SEND information report.
- The percentage of SEND children aged 16-18 who are in education training or employment.
- The rate of EHC plans per 100,000 population.
- The number of EHC plans issued for social, emotional and mental health needs.
- The percentage of EHC plans issued within 20 weeks.
- The percentage of people who felt that involvement in their EHC plan had a positive impact.
- The percentage of the children and young people and their parent/carers with EHC plans opting for a personal budget.

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- The percentage of children and young people with continuing care plans who have timely transition into adult mental health services.

- The percentage feedback rate from the Local Offer that has resulted in a change to services.

- The number of families accessing the Wolverhampton Information, Advice and Support Service in relation to the whole SEND population.

Acknowledgements:

Changing Young Lives
Voice for Parents
Jill Wellings
Sandy Lisle
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