



Wolverhampton Safeguarding Board  
**Annual Report 2018-2019**

## Foreword from the Independent Chair



Linda Sanders, Independent Chairperson  
Wolverhampton Safeguarding Boards

As the Independent Chair of the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children and Safeguarding Adults Boards, I am pleased to present the Annual Report 2018/19 on behalf of all the partner agencies and organisations that contribute to Safeguarding in the city.

I wish to thank the frontline staff and volunteers who work tirelessly to support our vulnerable children, families and adults with care and support needs, in an effort to improve their lives and bring

about sustained change. I would like also to relay my thanks to all of the partners involved in our Safeguarding Partnership in the City who continue to play their part in building a culture where adults, children, young people, carers and families are listened to and their views influence practice. A special thanks also to B-Safe, the junior safeguarding board, who provide a strong young peoples' voice to inform our safeguarding work in the City.

One of my priorities since taking up the role of Chair across the two Boards has been to work to ensure there is greater join up of conversations and activity across Children and Adults' Safeguarding. In a challenging environment where resources are tight and there are increasing areas of common interest, such as Exploitation Domestic Abuse and Violence against Women and Girls to name but a few, we have exerted effort this year in embedding our governance structures to enable us to work more efficiently by providing a platform for cross-cutting areas of work that will foster improved communication and joint working.

In the spirit of integration, this Annual Report is our second Joint Children and Adults Safeguarding Annual Report. Within the joint format the report continues to provide distinct findings about practice and performance in each area to ensure the statutory requirements of Working Together 2015 and now 2018 and the Care Act 2014 are met. I hope it also enables the reader to understand what the Boards do "better together" and where there can be continued development of our collective responses.

The report provides clear evidence of sustained strong partnership working across the agencies that work in Wolverhampton. The Safeguarding Boards provide support and critical enquiry to ensure that organisations work together to reduce or prevent abuse and neglect of children and adults. There is much to celebrate about our achievements this year, as you will see in this report. There is always more that we can do and the Safeguarding Partners joint priorities for 2019-20 are highlighted at the end of the report.

Finally, Autumn 2019 sees the local implementation of the Working Together 2018 statutory guidance for Children's Safeguarding with new requirements to be met whilst also maintaining and developing further the Safeguarding Partnership's collaboration across children and adults' Safeguarding work in the city to further

improve and quality assure practice. The foundations established during 18/19 will I believe set the city partners in good stead to embrace the future from a position of strength across the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Partnership

I hope that you find this report informative and feedback would be welcomed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linda Sanders', with a large, stylized initial 'L'.

**Linda Sanders**

Independent Chair, Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children and Adult Boards

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## Section 1 – About the Annual report

Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adults Board (WSAB) is a statutory body set up in accordance with the Care Act 2014. Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) is a statutory body established under the Children Act 2004.

Both boards consist of senior leaders from a range of organisations, including key statutory partners, who work together to safeguard adults with care and support needs and children and young people vulnerable to abuse or neglect.

The key statutory partners are made up of West Midlands Police, Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group and Local Authority.

*Both Boards have a responsibility to co-ordinate and ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each agency in working alongside the other partner agencies, for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of Children, and Adults with care and support needs in Wolverhampton.*

We do this by:

- Developing robust policies and procedures both locally and regionally with other Adult and Children Safeguarding Boards in the West Midlands
- Undertaking Serious Case reviews, Safeguarding Adult Reviews and other multi-agency learning reviews. Disseminating learning from such reviews with our wider workforce and the public
- Facilitating and co-ordinating learning and development opportunities for staff from partner agencies including: face to face multi-agency safeguarding training and E-learning modules
- Collecting and analysing information about child deaths, through the Child Death Overview Panel, and deaths of individuals with learning disabilities through the Learning Disability Mortality Review 'LeDeR' programme

This Annual report covers 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019. Much of the report focuses on the joint work of the Boards, which is referenced as Wolverhampton Safeguarding Board (WSB). The report aims to evaluate the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements for

- children and young people which is the responsibility of the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB)
- Adults with care and support needs which is the remit of the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adult board (WSAB).

The report focuses on the 4 Priority areas outlined in WSB Strategic plan 2017-2019.

Information is drawn from a wide range of sources from across the partnership and sets out the key achievements made and the areas we need to exert additional focus and scrutiny to make improvements.

This report has been shared with all statutory partners of the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Boards, the Leader and the Chief Executive of the Council, the Lead Members for Children and Adult Services and relevant Committees, West Midlands

Police, Healthwatch, the Chair of the Safer Wolverhampton Partnership, and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

## Our priorities

The Strategic plan is underpinned by the guidance for Safeguarding Children Boards set out in Working Together 2015/18, and Safeguarding Adult Boards set out in the Care Act 2014. In compliance with statutory requirements our Strategic Plan outlines the agreed priorities for 2017-2019 and the objectives that Wolverhampton Safeguarding Boards (WSB) have delivered over this period to achieve its priorities.

The Strategic Plan sets the direction for the Board and reinforces the specific role of the Board to lead, challenge and support learning, and in doing so; it set out the priorities for WSB between 2017-2019 and works towards identifying the primary focus for the forthcoming years priorities.

WSB will provide strong and effective leadership to co-ordinate and ensure effectiveness of the work done by agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and adults with care and support needs. We aim to ensure that these groups are adequately safeguarded at all stages of their journey at whatever level of support their needs are being met universal, targeted or specialist services.

Our Strategic Plan focuses on the specific role and remit of the Board in gaining assurance that the welfare of children and adults with care and support needs are safeguarded and protected, as set out in Working Together (2015/2018) and the Care Act (2014). This where relevant, correspond with the priorities detailed within the Strategic plans of other Statutory Partners/Partnership Boards. Our priorities also reflect learning from regulatory inspections and changes to statutory guidance.

<b>Priority 1: Effective Leadership, Challenge and Change</b>	We will operate an effective WSB that focuses its work on local safeguarding priorities including support, challenge and holding multi agencies to account for their contribution to the safety and protection of children and adults living in the City of Wolverhampton.
<b>Priority 2: Quality, Performance &amp; Learning</b>	We will develop rigorous approaches to monitoring and evaluating the impact of services on safeguarding children & adults, and we will drive improvements in practice through timely and robust methods of learning and development.
<b>Priority 3: Safeguards for particularly vulnerable groups.</b>	We will ensure that everything we do promotes improved practice to help safeguard and meet the needs of those children and adults who are particularly vulnerable, or are at increased risk of abuse and harm.
<b>Priority 4: Communication and Engagement</b>	We will ensure that we engage children and families, adults and communities of all backgrounds and make up, in the work of WSB.

## Key Achievements across the partnership

### ➤ CCG-

1. The WCCG Deputy Designated Nurse developed the WeCAN assessment of neglect tool in her previous role before commencing in her post as DDN in Wolverhampton. This was adopted by Wolverhampton Safeguarding Board (WSB) and is being used by all partners across the city and will be an ongoing and evolving assessment of neglect. There are also discussions occurring in adapting the tool to be able to use to assess Adult Neglect.
2. The WCCG Designated Nurse is facilitating the coordination of the Safeguarding Sustainability Transformation Plan (STP) Working Group ensuring that all Designated and Named professionals across the Black Country are involved in influencing and supporting the significant changes occurring with the NHS. This work is fully supported by the WCCG safeguarding team who lead or participate fully in a number of work streams.
3. The successful re-commissioning of health services for our CYPiC saw our Provider service extend the health provision to all children placed within 50 miles (92%). This has already strengthened the quality and timeliness of statutory health assessments, and the general co-ordination of care for this cohort. The WCCG remain responsible for the 8% of children placed further afield, and the DNCYPiC has made contact with Designated professionals in those areas to ensure strategic oversight.
4. Success with the collaborative Empowerment of Hard to Reach Communities in the Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls Project, which was a joint venture with The Refugee and Migrant Centre and the Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum. Further funding has been provided by NHS England to extend the project within other vulnerable communities. The project has been formally evaluated and the CCG's Designated Adult Safeguarding Lead has presented outcomes to the Midlands and East Region Chief Nurses and at 3 National Conferences.
5. The Safer Provision and Caring Excellence (SPACE) programme ran in 18 care homes in Wolverhampton and 11 in Walsall between October 2016 to December 2018. The objectives of the programme were to identify if upskilling staff in Quality Improvement (QI) techniques and supporting care homes to use QI tools could be associated with reduced rates of avoidable harms (e.g. falls, pressure ulcers) and hospital admissions. SPACE also developed a culture of continuous improvement and a community of best practice and information sharing across participating care homes.

Positive changes were identified: 100% of care homes used tools such as safety crosses to monitor falls, and many care homes adapted the tools to monitor risks in other areas, for example, nutrition and hydration. Care homes reported more confidence in communicating with other providers, for example the West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS). Over 500 staff in Wolverhampton received training in QI methodology and its practical application, and there was widespread evidence that the learning from training was used directly to make improvements to multiple areas of safety. Staff also reported improved teamwork, communication and sharing of good practice.

➤ **West Midlands Fire Service (WMFS)**

WMFS sets out its priorities and objectives in 'The Plan' and this the strategy for keeping the West Midlands safer, stronger and healthier. The Plan covers how WMFS plan to reduce serious traffic accidents, help people to have safer, healthier lives and make sure emergencies are tackled assertively, effectively and safely. Risks are identified and analysed across the West Midlands and the information used to decide fire stations, firefighters and vehicles are needed. It also helps in the planning and delivery of the full range of WMFS services which we split into prevention, protection and response.

Our Prevention work focuses on reducing people's vulnerability to the type of emergencies that are responded to. Our Protection work focuses on helping businesses to thrive; making the West Midlands stronger. Our risk-based, five-minute response service is one of the best in the country.

**Complex Needs Officers**

In 2018/19 WMFS introduced a dedicated team of Complex Needs Officers (CNO) will try to engage with, and provide extra support to, the absolute most vulnerable people in our communities where their risk of fire may be heightened. CNOs are trained to a higher level with regard to vulnerability characteristics to ensure they are proficiently skilled to support that person to live more safely and healthily.

**Safeguarding Policy**

WMFS Fire Authority's Scrutiny Review of safeguarding led to an independent review of the organisation's safeguarding policy and procedures. The recommendations from this review will be gradually embedded in the coming year with the expectation that every member of staff will be applying the policy in their day to day activities and this will enable WMFS to provide safeguarding assurance to the board and partners.

**Serious Incident Review Process and Procedure**

WMFS's Serious Incident Reviews enable positive collaborative learning when a serious injury or death occurs as a result of fire. The internal process is being re-worked following a Prevention department re-structure and significant testing and analysis of the existing procedures will allow WMFS to produce a more effective and efficient procedure in ultimately trying to prevent the next serious fire incident.

## **Fire Safety Guidance for Professionals – E-learn**

WMFS produced its Fire Safety Guidance for Professionals in 2016 following two fire deaths with similar characteristics – care package in place, limited mobility, smoking and living alone. This resource has been available electronically and has been re-issued to all boards periodically since its launch. This is now supported by an E-Learn package that will be launched at events in each local authority area in September 2019. The safeguarding boards will be integral to the success of this online learning tool and its take up by those that go over the threshold into a person's home who may be at heightened risk from fire.

### ➤ **Wolverhampton Homes**

- 100 members of staff now trained in the use of Eclipse for the purpose of early intervention/assessment
- 100 members of staff now trained in the use of Safe Lives risk assessment
- 20 members of staff are now Safeguarding Champions, trained to NVQ level 2 and working in teams across the company – aim is to build confidence to identify and report safeguarding concerns and embed safeguarding culture

Royal Wolverhampton Trust

- Contributed to WSB Multi-Agency Case File Audit (MACFA) process throughout 2018
- Reviewed Safeguarding Training Delivery Plan (October 2018) to reflect national and local children and adult guidance.
- Raising awareness of MCA/DoLS within the Trust, which has resulted in an increase in DoLS applications. We have also written a new DoLS Policy.
- Roll out of CP-IS within unscheduled care settings within Trust
- Roll out of RWT LD Strategy: New LD team

### ➤ **West Midlands Police (WMP)**

The Police contribution outlined below demonstrates the Partnership working in three different ways:

West Midlands Police have demonstrated a commitment to partnership working with the Adults Safeguarding Board through attendance at the Regional Emergency Services Group. This group was created to enable representatives from Police, Fire and Ambulance Services to meet with representatives from the Safeguarding Adult Teams on a six-weekly basis.

This approach has been/is being used to do the following:

- Streamline the Annual report, Assurance report, and Audit regimes to create a consistent approach across all Safeguarding Adult Boards. This approach has

delivered efficiencies in reporting arrangements, and allowed us to share learning across the SABs to inform localised service delivery

- Reviewing the Safeguarding Adult training provision to ensure we train staff to the appropriate level, and are efficient in our training provision
- Development of a defined criteria for Emergency Services Performance Data, and
- Commence analysis in relation Adults with Care and Support Needs demand/incident types, and SARs to inform our service delivery and strategic priorities across the SAB areas

### **The key achievements of 2018-19:**

The investigation of suspicious deaths, particularly in relation to Care Homes, provided an opportunity to develop an early intervention model for investigative pathways. This approach would allow WMP, the Care Quality Commission, other Investigative and Criminal Justice Partners, and local Safeguarding Boards to make early determination of the lead agency and investigative strategy for serious and complex cases, providing opportunities for early intervention, more collaborative working arrangements, and the potential for cost savings that could be reinvested into other areas of Adults with Care and Support Needs work.

Response – The work undertaken by WMP has led to the creation of a national protocol between Policing and CQC. Initial discussions were also held with CQC to develop their Inspectors investigative capabilities and to work more closely with the Adult Care Abuse Investigation Unit, and to make early investigative determinations. This work has been paused whilst the national protocol is implemented but will form part of future discussions in support of WMP being one of the early adopters of the protocol. Discussions are also ongoing with CPS to create dedicated case workers to support the development of a consistent threshold decision making process for Adults with Care and Support Needs investigations.

WMP are undertaking a two phased analysis of Adults with Care and Support Needs demand. The first phase is to understand the demand on WMP and the demand created by WMP for SAB partners. The second phase is to then review the options in relation to how best to manage and coordinate this demand. The initial findings from the Wolverhampton Adult MASH, MASH has seen an increase in referrals to WMP, an increase in investigations by the Adults Care Abuse Investigation Unit (WMP Adults with Care and Support Needs specialist Investigation Unit), and increased opportunities for greater Partnership working. Early Intervention will be considered within this demand review.

#### **➤ Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council**

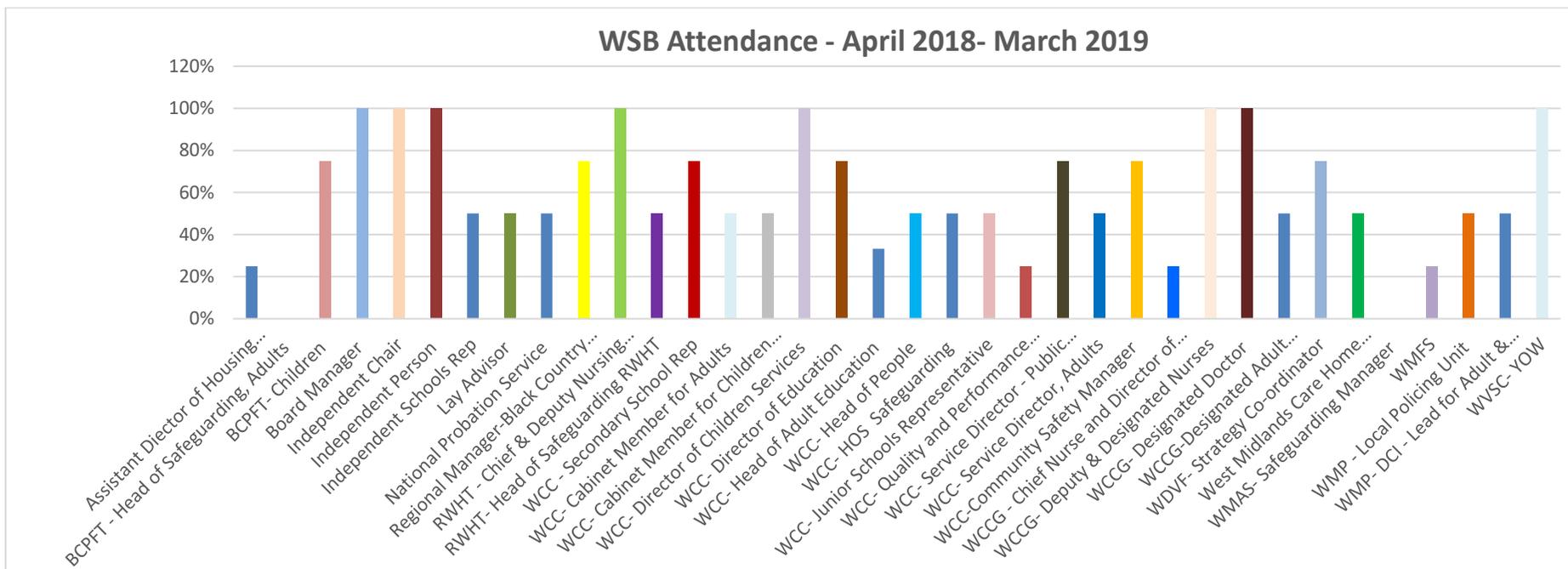
Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council represents a voluntary and community sector perspective on Wolverhampton Safeguarding Boards and is committed to promoting good practice in safeguarding amongst the city's 750+ voluntary and community organisations VCOs), which includes more than 250 faith groups.

This year WVSC has:

- Disseminated safeguarding updates and information to the more than 750+ VCOs in the city.
- Carried out more than 20 one-to-one support sessions on safeguarding with local VCOs
- Continued to employ and manage the work of the Faith Engagement Worker funded by WSB (the outputs and outcomes of this work can be found within this report.
- Provided 'Introductory safeguarding' training available to VCOs that can't afford it themselves, in order to support the development of safeguarding policy and procedure and facilitate access to the Boards' multi-agency training programme.
- Developed and piloted a new joint 'Introduction to adults and children's safeguarding' course for VCOs which was delivered to 20 participants from two organisations.
- Supported Interfaith Wolverhampton to
- (a) deliver a joint Safeguarding Together project and report to the Near Neighbours Fund which provided the grant.
- build on this by making a successful case to WSB learning and Development Committee to develop and train a pool of volunteers from faith groups to create a training pool capable of delivering adults and children's safeguarding training to faith groups across the city.

### Attendance

The board and its committees have continued to benefit from largely well attended sessions during 208/2019. We recognise the demands on some of the Regional partners is significant and there is now a well-established Adults Regional Emergency meeting which takes places quarterly to ensure engagement with such services. Please see below a list of Board members attendance at the WSAB, WSCB and Integrated Board.



## **Financial Arrangements**

Board partners provide strong financial support to the joint budget across Children's and Adults Safeguarding, WSB therefore operates on an indicative 70% children and 30% adults split.

Agency contributions totalled £344,891 for the period 2018-2019. Prudent financial management has resulted in £49,072 being carried forward into 2018-2019.

## **Income**

Total from partner agencies = £344,891

Income generated through Training/non-attendance £3,420

Total = £348,311

## **Expenditure**

Staffing including travel and independent chairs costs = £225,624

Training and conferences = £24,635

Serious case reviews and Safeguarding adult reviews = £10,456

Faith engagement = £23,598

B Safe = £6568

Website management = £2175

General office running costs (printing, services and supplies) £2034

Total = £295,390

Carried forward in 2018-2019 = £49,072

**Existing reserves****Partnership Board Reserve Update:**

• Opening balance as at 1 April 2018	£140,827.33
• Transfer to reserve as at 31 March 2019	£49,071.12
• Closing balance 2018-2019	£189,898.45

## Known Commitments 2019-2020:

• Shortfall against 2019-2020 budget	£77,420
• Board Review	£5,000
• Training – additional commitments	£13,000
• SCR/SAR – additional commitments	£10,000

Total to be funded from reserve	£105,420
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Remaining balance of reserve	£84,478.45
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**The shortfall against 2019/20 is reflective of the changes in the structure of the Safeguarding Boards from September 2019.**

### Section 3 – Progressing the board’s priorities

Wolverhampton Safeguarding Board (WSB):

The WSB is a joint Adult and Children Board, that meets on a quarterly basis. A programme of auditing activity is in place and the Board is well attended by partners, including Police, CCG and National Probation Service, Third Sector, the Care Providers Representative, Domestic Violence Forum, Safer Wolverhampton Partnership and Health providers. The Board sets standards and procedures for multi-agency practice, promotes working together with respect and trust and seeks assurance about quality of practice and positive impact.

Various committees who work on behalf of the Board have ensured the Strategic Plan and priorities for 2018-2019 has been met. The strategic priorities and outcomes for 2018-2019 have been:

1. Further develop the board’s risk register to include those risks which have the potential to have a negative impact on the ability of partner agencies to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of adults with care and support needs.

The Board’s risk register is now well embedded, and the Board is cited on significant single agency or partnership risks that could negatively impact upon adults in Wolverhampton. There is healthy debate, challenge and critical friend feedback provided across the partnership, through audit, Board and Executive meetings and through the functions of the Quality and Performance Committee. The risk register has ensured that WSCB and WSAB are high performing Boards and effectively deliver functions as defined in Working Together 2015 and the Care Act 2014.

2. Ensure that the Local Safeguarding Board has the right level of performance management information with which to challenge and hold to account partner agencies on the effectiveness of their safeguarding responsibilities. The Quality and Performance (Q&P) Committee have developed a multi-agency scorecard that went live on 1 April 2018. It incorporates data from a wider range of partners, enabling the members to form a broader view of safeguarding practice in the city. Data analysis from the scorecard is used to inform the programme of audits. There are co-leads for this Committee (one from the CCG and one from the Acute Trust) who have had a positive impact on the availability and quality of performance information and the challenge and discussion. Further work is required in order to refresh the performance data received in order to scrutinise safeguarding across the city and to link to the key priorities for both the Quality and Assurance committee for Adults and Performance Committee for Children’s.

3. Develop a coherent rolling programme of single and multi-agency audits with which to quality-assure the work of partner agencies in safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of adults and ensure that the results of the Annual Assurance Framework is moderated effectively. A programme of multi-agency audits (MACFA) have been completed throughout 2018 – 2019. Themes selected are cross cutting and have included disability, domestic abuse and mental health. The next audit will be parental substance use. The aim of audits is to improve quality, measure

consistency of approach and encourage positive risk management. The audits completed to date are:

- Domestic abuse Audit – June 2018
- Mental Health Audit – 8 January 2019
- Disability Audit - 29 January 2019

These audits have determined that Multi-agency Adult Safeguarding practice was “good” across all three areas, with Children’s practice being more variable, with more learning identified. The audits look at adult as well as children’s files and a number where the whole family is considered. The audits are full day events, robust and well attended and supported across the partnership. Findings from the audits have also identified further lines of enquiry and further auditing activity required.

Joint Targeted Area Inspections (JTAI) preparation is also underway in order to ensure a robust partnership response is in place and recommendations to ensure practice. Mock JTAI audits have been tested during 2018/2019 on the subjects of Domestic Abuse and Child Sexual exploitation, gangs, children missing from home or education in line with the themes.

Two multi agency front line practitioner events have been held with the Independent Chair and Safeguarding Board Manager in order to receive feedback from front line services around the safeguarding system. The front-line visits give practitioners a voice to raise any concerns and highlight good practice. We are also keen to hear about the quality of training the board delivers, multi-agency policy and procedures and safeguarding board website. The Independent chair, will also, as necessary undertake single agency visits.

2018/ 2019 has also seen the development of the multi agency frontline practitioner visits as referenced above whereby board members should undertake cross agency visits as part of the Boards quality assurance programme, enabling front line staff from agencies to discuss safeguarding issues and barriers to partnership working.

To achieve this, board members are supported in undertaking a visit to an agency other than then ones in which they are employed. The visit will comprise of a meeting with a small representative group (minimum 5 people max 10 participants) and the Board members will lead a discussion based on an agreed template.

It is expected that the board member records the responses and detail any additional issues. These are due to commence June 2019.

**4. Develop a robust training strategy which incorporates a system with which to evaluate the impact of training on frontline practice. A joint training strategy is now in place across the Board.** Investment has been made, and work completed to strengthen the safeguarding training offer for the adult workforce in the city, to bring it into line with what has always been a strong children’s safeguarding training offer. Joint training for both adult and children’s partners is routinely delivered with a range of topics. Adult-specific training has included Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) (55 people trained this year) and Section 42 enquiries (16 people trained so far and

nine booked on the next event). Feedback is gathered following all training events and provides assurance that training is being well received and improves the knowledge, understanding and confidence of participants.

Further information regarding training and development is outlined further on in this report.

**5. Continue to strengthen communication and engagement with vulnerable individuals, communities and organisations across our diverse city.** Wolverhampton Health and Wellbeing Together Board asked for a Forum to be established to look at how we as a city work with people who have 'No Recourse to Public Funds' (NRPF). This was as a result of the recommendations made in the Serious Case Review of Child G. The aim was to bring a range of agencies together to strengthen our approach to safeguarding the welfare of children and families with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) in our city.

The NRPF Forum consists of representatives from the voluntary sector, Housing, Education, Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group, The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, West Midlands Police, Safeguarding and Public Health. It aims to ensure that all partner agencies in Wolverhampton adopt a co-ordinated approach to working together to support people with NRPF.

The NRPF Forum highlighted the need to develop an easy to read protocol to support agencies across Wolverhampton to understand what information is needed from people with NRPF to support and signpost them to appropriate services. The Forum has overseen the development of this protocol.

It is important to remember that people with NRPF and their families can live highly precarious lives and can be subject to exploitation. Where there are immediate child protection concerns, these take priority over NRPF issues.

By developing a protocol, creating online information resources on NRPF and arranging training for partners, the city is now better equipped to support people with No Recourse to Public Funds. The NRPF Protocol can be downloaded from <https://www.wolverhamptonsafeguarding.org.uk/latest-news/no-recourse-to-public-funds-nrpf-protocol>

The Safeguarding Board continue to fund a 15 hour per week Faith Engagement Worker. The worker started in July 2017 and works closely with Interfaith Wolverhampton. The worker has forged links and relationships with other city-wide developments in relation to faith groups, including the development of a Faith Covenant through the Community Cohesion Forum.

The Faith Engagement worker, employed by Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council, has forged links and relationships with other city-wide developments in relation to faith groups, including the development of Faith Covenant through the Community Cohesion Forum.

The Faith Engagement worker has achieved the following in 2018-2019:

- Identified 18 additional faith-based organisations / groups, bringing the total City of Wolverhampton Council are now aware of to 278
- Increased the number of safeguarding surveys with faith communities to identify what mechanisms faith groups have in place for safeguarding completed to 72 from 21 in 2017
- Collated email contact details for 192 organisations
- Established regular two way contact via email, Whats App, texts with 53 faith groups from across the world faiths, focusing on those that operate independently of a national governing body. This has included mosques, Gurdwaras, churches, temples and non-worshipping faith-based organisations that have arisen out of a worshipping community and have now been set up as separate organisations to provide services to all people not just those from that faith
- Increased access to and take up of safeguarding training for a total of 222 people from 35 different faith groups
- Co-ordinated four training courses funded by WSB attended by 123 people from 14 different faith groups
- Supported Interfaith Wolverhampton to apply successfully for Near Neighbours funding to co-ordinate, recruit to and deliver 12 'Introduction to Safeguarding Children' training courses to participants from different faiths 108 people from 19 different organisations, plus a celebration event in June 2018 attended by 42 people from 22 different faith groups
- Held three 'Safeguarding in Faith' networking events between December 2018 and April 2019 attended by 35 participants attend from 26 faith groups.
- Held a Safeguarding Policy Workshop and provided one to one support to help 11 faith groups to review or develop their safeguarding policy and procedure
- Developed a Safeguarding resource pack for faith groups which includes:
  - Safeguarding Adults and Safeguarding Children policy and procedures templates
  - A safeguarding poster outlining commitment (to adapt and display at place of worship)
  - Checklist for accreditation with Wolverhampton Safeguarding
  - Overview of safeguarding training: who needs to do what level of training
  - Contact / membership details for Interfaith Wolverhampton
  - WVSC's Voluntary and Community Sector support leaflet

A copy of the Wolverhampton Faith Covenant with details of how faith groups can sign up to this

- Safeguarding information posters
- Useful links and contacts for: Local Authority Designated Officer, Wolverhampton Safeguarding Boards training offer; NSPCC's Safe Network resources; Safeguarding lead role description
- Supported Interfaith Wolverhampton to secure agreement for and funding from Wolverhampton Safeguarding Boards to run a Train the Trainer programme and then set up a Faith Group Training Pool to deliver

safeguarding adults and children training free to any local faith group. The aim is to have a pool of 15-20 volunteer trainers from local faith groups to deliver this training in multi-faith pairs.

Feedback on the audit for the Safeguarding Adults Board's Assurance Framework, which requires Board partners to submit an annual assurance statement detailing their organisation's response to the six key principles and standards governing safeguarding. A single assurance framework has now been agreed across the seven Metropolitan West Midlands Boards. The aim of this new framework is to avoid duplication for those partners who undertake such assurance exercises for multiple Boards such as our colleagues in West Midlands Ambulance Service, West Midlands Police and West Midlands Fire Service. The return is more streamlined and has been welcomed by our emergency service colleagues in particular.

Wolverhampton Safeguarding Board case file audits have judged Adult Social Care (ASC) to be good in all areas.

Feedback was provided at the March 2019 Wolverhampton Safeguarding Board from the Care Provider Representative, who reported that the quality and timeliness of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) assessments from City of Wolverhampton Council are robust. The worker said '*a recent referral for a DoLS was acknowledged, completed and the copy signed, authorised and returned within 4 weeks*'.

In September 2018 the owner of a residential home made the decision to close due to serious safeguarding concerns and proposed action by CQC. This involved support from and co-operation between a number of services, including the Adult safeguarding team (MASH), Family members who had relatives residing at the home were happy to be contacted to share their experiences. This provided valuable feedback for the safeguarding team (MASH). Families reported that what worked well was the "compassion" of the social workers and how quickly things progressed. They found that communication was good, and workers kept them updated during the process. What they felt did not work as well was the limited communication about the ongoing police investigation once their relative had been moved and in the months / weeks since. The MASH Safeguarding manager has sought regular updates from West Midlands Police, but this has been a lengthy investigation which has only recently been concluded. Some of the relatives will be contacted by the Safeguarding Manager and be asked to contribute further to a table top review.

In 2016-2017 WSB commissioned Healthwatch Wolverhampton to facilitate a "Service User Reference Group" with the aim of bringing together service users who have been through the safeguarding process to share their experiences so that frontline practice of WSB partners could be improved. The intention was to obtain qualitative feedback on the safeguarding experience from a person's perspective and to seek assurance about whether the desired outcomes of adults with care and support needs are being met. Healthwatch had been commissioned to undertake this work, which started in April 2017. However, this work has been slow to progress. The Domestic Violence Forum feedback to the Q&P Committee was that individuals find it too difficult to discuss their experiences. Following a review of this,

Healthwatch and the Safeguarding Board agreed to create a leaflet to obtain this feedback. Unfortunately, the work commissioned by Healthwatch has not achieved what was expected due to a very low return rate and another meeting has been arranged for May 2019 to explore other options.

## **B- Safe Team**

The B-Safe Team is Wolverhampton's Junior Safeguarding Children Board, made up of local young people who get involved with safeguarding activities and decisions across the city.

The B-Safe Team enables the voices of Wolverhampton's young people to be heard and reflected in safeguarding business and activities. This empowers young people to contribute to shaping the processes, tools and resources intended to keep them safe from abuse and neglect, and to increase awareness of young people's views of safeguarding amongst parents and professionals.

## **B-Safe Team Outcomes:**

- Improved skills and knowledge of young people, such as speaking in and to groups, negotiation, event planning, listening and communication, writing and preparing reports, presentation skills and public speaking.
- Improved peer relationships through problems solving, team working and feeling valued to friends and peers, to act as a role model by valuing positive impact on the lives of others.
- Greater awareness on key issues and priorities, children and young people's rights, participation and decision making
- Raise awareness amongst young people and practitioners by leading on campaigns in partnership with strategic groups i.e. City of Wolverhampton Youth Council, and the Children in Care Council. The B-Safe Team continue to champion co-production with other young people in their schools and communities to help spread awareness on key issues.

## **SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY: April 2018 - March 2019**

### **Website Consultation**

During the Summer the young people carried out website consultation with the Boards website manager to review the website and advise of any changes or materials they would like to add to the website. A B Safe representative attends the Communication Engagement Committee meetings to ensure that B-Safe are represented and contribute to the committee's action plan for The City.

### **Knife Crime Campaign –September 2018 – January 2019**

The B-Safe Team have always focused on raising awareness and developing campaigns on key priorities affecting young people across The City. The rise of knife crime is now a national issue and reports of stabbings in the news increases fear and worry in young people and communities. The B-Safe Team responded to public concern by launching a campaign to raise awareness of knife crime and to help deter individuals from carrying knives. The campaign began when a young boy was killed in June 2018 after being stabbed by youths outside his home. The B-Safe team contacted the young person's officer in Wolverhampton Police partnership's team, who then supported the young people to developing their campaign. They went on a foot patrol across the City to identify a location for a new knife bin and picked the Pennfields area, close to where a young person was killed. Following on from this the B-Safe Team created a knife crime video called Rewind and distributed it to all the secondary schools across Wolverhampton to show to their KS3/KS4 students. It is important that young people are able and confident to identify the risks associated with carrying a knife and feel empowered to live knife free.

### **Anti-Bullying Charter – September – February 2019**

Anti-Bullying Workshops were held during November 2018 on Anti bullying week with 200 young people attending from primary and secondary schools. The workshops were provided by The Switch project, Central Youth Theatre, HeadStart, and the Learning Technologies Team as part of the Anti-Bullying Alliance's national Anti-Bullying Week.

Schools were asked to submit evidence (including their Anti-Bullying policy) to support an application for the A charter award based on statements in the charter, which was then examined by the B-Safe team who selected the schools which deserved to be awarded charter status.

Anti-Bullying status was awarded to nine Wolverhampton schools (Moreton School, Bushbury Hill Primary School, St Martin's Primary School, Grove Primary School, Field View Primary School, Oak Meadow Primary School, SS Peter and Paul Catholic Primary Academy and SS Mary and John's Catholic Primary Academy.) all of which demonstrated their commitment to preventing and dealing with bullying among young people at a prestigious event in the Mayoral Suite at the Civic Centre on 12th June 2019.

Nine schools in Wolverhampton were awarded anti-bullying charter status by the B-Safe team the charter on 12th June 2019. Anti-Bullying status was given to schools who demonstrate their commitment to preventing and dealing with bullying among young people, was presented to schools at a prestigious event in the Mayoral Suite at the Civic Centre yesterday.

## Section 4 – Learning and improvement activity

### Case reviews

Safeguarding Children Boards and Safeguarding Adult Boards are required to undertake a review of all cases when abuse or neglect of a child or adult with care and support needs is known or suspected and either the child/adult has been seriously harmed and there is cause for concern as to the way in which the Local Authority, their Board partners or relevant persons have worked together to safeguard the individuals concerned.

The purpose of Serious Case Reviews (for Children) and Safeguarding Adult Reviews is to establish whether there are lessons to be learned from the case about the way agencies worked, individually and together, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults with care and support needs; to identify clearly what those lessons are, how they will be acted upon and what is expected to change as a result.

### Serious Case Reviews- Children

No Serious Case Reviews have been published during the period of April 2018 and March 2019, however two Serious Case Reviews were commissioned and it is expected that these will conclude and be published in May and August 2019.

One referral to the Learning Review Committee in 2018-2019 resulted in the commissioning of a wider piece of work in relation to the contextual safeguarding of young people at risk from exploitation through their exposure to gangs, youth violence including child criminal and sexual exploitation, and county lines. This was commissioned in collaboration with the Safer Wolverhampton Partnership and the Wolverhampton Gangs Steering groups in order to maximise the opportunity for learning on a much wider scale. A joint approach will ensure learning can be disseminated quickly and any improvements recommended can be made to a range of support services.

<https://www.wolverhamptonsafeguarding.org.uk/safeguarding-children-and-young-people/i-work-with-children-young-people-families/serious-case-reviews-and-other-learning-reviews>

In addition to the statutory reviews one multi-agency learning review has been underway during this period but remains open at the time of writing.

As a result of learning from the Serious Case review publications and multi-agency Learning Reviews IN 2017-2018, a joint conference was held in June 2018 as part of Wolverhampton Safeguarding Week in collaboration with Safer Wolverhampton Partnership. The focus of this event was Domestic Abuse, Suicide and Neglect which were all key issues highlighted from our Children and Adult Reviews.

### Safeguarding Adult Reviews

The Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) into the death of Adult C was published on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019. The full report can be found at-

<https://www.wolverhamptonsafeguarding.org.uk/safeguarding-adults/safeguarding-adults-board/serious-case-committee-dhrs-sars>

A further SAR was also commissioned during this period and is anticipated to conclude and be published during August 2019.

Alongside the SAR's that were commissioned, three multi-agency Learning Lesson Reviews were commenced and will be concluded in 2019.

### Section 11 and Section 157 / 175 Audits

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a duty on key agencies and bodies to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The WSCB seeks assurance that safeguarding standards are robust through section 11 Audits, which enables partners to demonstrate the effectiveness of their safeguarding arrangements.

In the West Midlands a number of partner agencies cover more than one Local Safeguarding Children Board. As a result, the West Midlands Children's Board's introduced a consistent set of questions for the Section 11 returns so that one completion could be shared across the regional boards. Wolverhampton have endorsed and adopted this approach with the first Section 11 audit being completed in Summer 2019.

For schools and colleges, the annual audit is referred to as a Section 157 or section 175 audit. All schools (including independent schools, Academies and free schools) have duties in relation to safeguarding children and are required to carry out an annual review of their school's safeguarding practice and provide information to WSCB about how the duties set out in the DfE guidance ('Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016) have been discharged.

The section 157/175 audit was issued to 117 schools in the City, including Independent schools of which 95 responded. In addition to the audit tool a dip sample of returns were asked to provide the evidence to support audit.

The findings from the audit are due to be shared with Board and the Head Teachers Safeguarding group in September 2019. Following this the findings will be communicated out to all schools via the established network meetings.

### Adults Annual Assurance Audit

The West Midlands adults safeguarding regional network developed the Annual Assurance document and this was adopted by Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adult Board (WSAB).

The Statutory guidance issues to support the Care Act 2014 states 'Each Safeguarding adult board should determine its arrangements for peer review and self-audit.

The aim of this audit is to help members of Safeguarding Adult Boards audit their safeguarding arrangements using a common framework which has been developed

to improve and strengthen arrangements for safeguarding adults with care and support needs.

Findings from this audit identified that overall all agencies rated as good to outstanding in most areas. It appears for the agencies who have taken part in this audit that Safeguarding is a priority for all agencies and their wider workforce.

For those areas where areas of development have been identified, no immediate remedial action is required.

In conclusion there appears to be good to outstanding mechanisms in place to ensure Strong leadership, Governance and organisations culture demonstrated and where there are some weaknesses action is in place to address these.

Recommendations identified to further strengthen the arrangement were as follows -

- Assurance from Emergency services is required to demonstrate areas of strength and areas for development relating to Adult Safeguarding practice
- Annual single agencies audit findings to be shared by agencies with the Quality and performance committee in order to shape workstreams and priorities for the board
- Annual multi-agency lessons learning briefings to be developed to ensure that learning is shared effectively from SAR's, DHR's and table top Learning Lessons Reviews.

## **Local Authority Designated Officer**

### **Progress of priorities for 2018/19:**

1. Wolverhampton LADO to provide early alerts to colleagues in Corporate Assurance where there are allegations that could lead to claims being made against the local authority.

**Progress:** Regular conversations are held, and reports provided as and when necessary.

2. To continue to develop and strengthen links with faith-based organisations and raise awareness of expectations in relation to the management of allegations. Further workshops are planned, and Wolverhampton LADO will be presenting at these.

**Progress:** Positive links have been made through Pavitter Mann, Faith Organisations Liaison Officer, and this is assisting in raising the awareness of the management of allegations across faith-based organisations.

3. To maintain the effectiveness of the current approach to the management of allegations. To do this, the LADO will:

- Maintain excellent communication with local police (especially with the child abuse unit), education and health colleagues
- Continue to provide specific training through the Safeguarding Board
- Continue to support the Board training delivered on 'Shared Responsibilities' and 'Safer Recruitment'
- Continue to engage with education providers to deliver awareness raising sessions to Senior Leadership Teams and to whole staff teams
- Continue to engage with residential providers and to deliver awareness raising sessions
- Continue to engage with social work teams and practitioners across the city
- To act as single point of contact for the management of allegations (with support from trained colleagues as required)

**Progress:** All the above points have been maintained. Specifically, Wolverhampton LADO has delivered 31 awareness raising sessions to providers and three training sessions through the Board. This means that more than 500 members of staff within various organisations have been reached directly.

4. To continue to provide monthly statistical analysis to colleagues in Quality Assurance (QACO) and Corporate Assurance

**Progress:** This has continued every month.

5. Wolverhampton LADO to continue as an active member of the Regional LADO forum and to support the National LADO Network where appropriate

**Progress:** This has been maintained with Wolverhampton LADO attending 3 out of 4 scheduled regional meetings.

6. Wolverhampton LADO to continue to line manage and support the Child Employment Officer

**Progress:** A new Child Employment Officer came into post from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 and has continued the hard work of her predecessor. She has developed some positive relationships with organisations and streamlined the systems in use.

7. Wolverhampton LADO to continue to develop the management of allegations made against those people working with adults with care and support needs as defined in the Care Act 2014

**Progress:** This continues to develop, and systems are better understood by partner organisations.

8. Board training sessions delivered by Wolverhampton LADO to be increased to 3 in 2018/19 due to demand.

**Progress:** Three formal sessions were delivered, and feedback has been positive.

### **Priorities for 2019 / 2020**

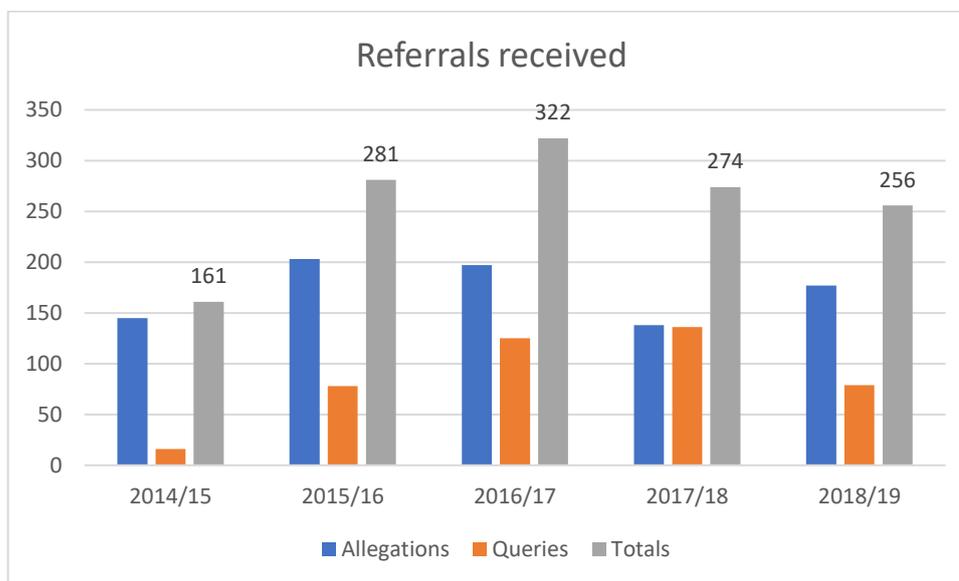
1. Wolverhampton LADO to continue to provide early alerts to colleagues in Corporate Assurance where there are allegations that could lead to claims being made against the local authority.
2. To build on the progress already made with Faith Based Organisations.
3. To maintain the effectiveness of the current approach to the management of allegations. To do this, the LADO will:
  - Maintain excellent communication with local police (especially with the child abuse unit), education and health colleagues
  - Continue to provide specific training through the Safeguarding Board
  - Continue to support the Board training delivered on 'Shared Responsibilities' and 'Safer Recruitment' where possible
  - Continue to engage with education providers to deliver awareness raising sessions to Senior Leadership Teams and to whole staff teams
  - Continue to engage with residential providers and to deliver awareness raising sessions
  - Continue to engage with social work teams and practitioners across the city
  - To act as single point of contact for the management of allegations (with support from trained colleagues as required)
4. To continue to provide monthly statistical analysis to colleagues in Quality Assurance (QACO) and Corporate Assurance
5. Continue as an active member of the Regional LADO forum and to support the National LADO Network where appropriate
6. Continue to line manage and support the Child Employment Officer
7. Continue to develop the management of allegations made against those people working with adults with care and support needs as defined in the Care Act 2014

### **Performance data – Children's update**

The following data tables and respective graphs provide some statistical analysis of allegations management throughout the year and offer comparisons to previous years.

It should be noted that the annual data totals may not always reflect the monthly totals that are reported on separately. There is some fluidity in cases being completed and this reflects more accurate recording.

## 1. Referrals received

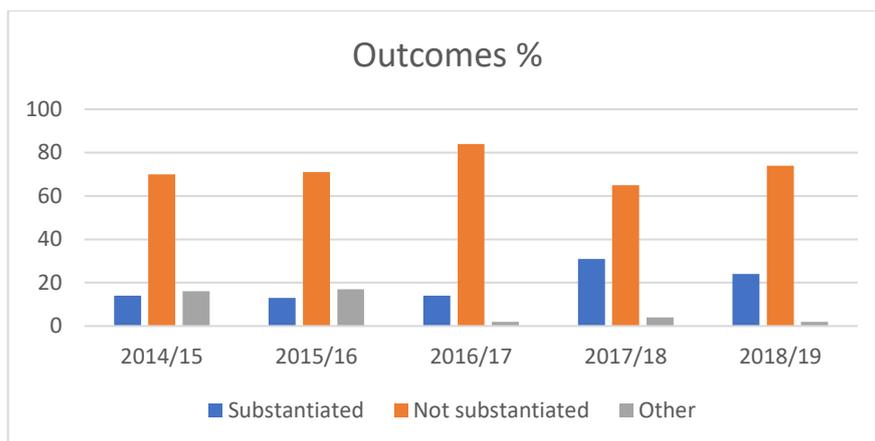


The number of referrals received has reduced by 7% in 2018/19 compared to the previous full year. This may be in part due to the number of awareness raising sessions and direct training provided by Wolverhampton LADO within the City. There is a much improved knowledge and understanding of the management of allegations threshold criteria across organisations and this has had a positive impact.

## 2. Outcomes

(i) All cases

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Substantiated	14	13	14	31	24
Not substantiated	70	71	84	65	74
Other	16	17	2	4	2



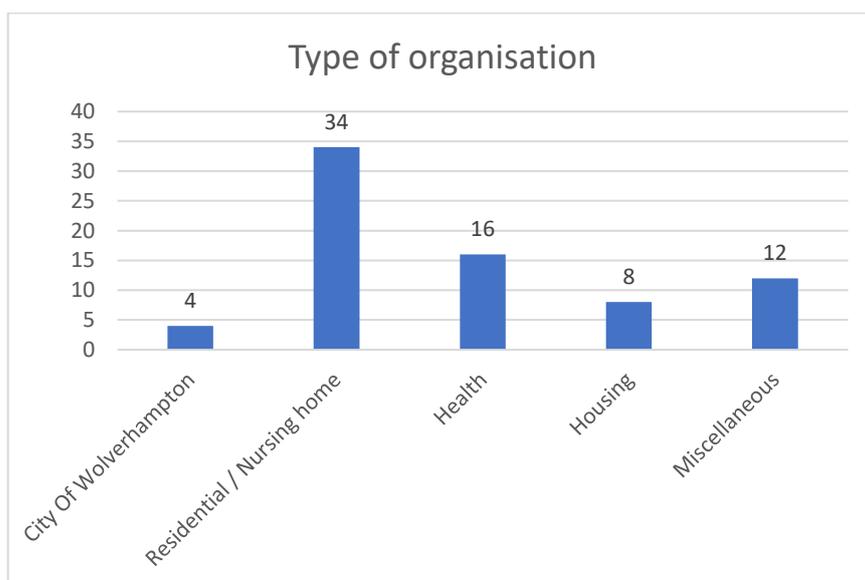
The above table and graph show that there has been a decrease in the number of substantiated cases being addressed through the management of allegations process. In turn, this means that more cases have been recorded as not substantiated.

### Adults update

#### 3. Referrals received

Between April 201 and March 2019, a total of 74 referrals were received in relation to allegations made about people working with adults with care and support needs. Five of these referrals have required position of trust meetings.

#### 4. Organisation subject of referral



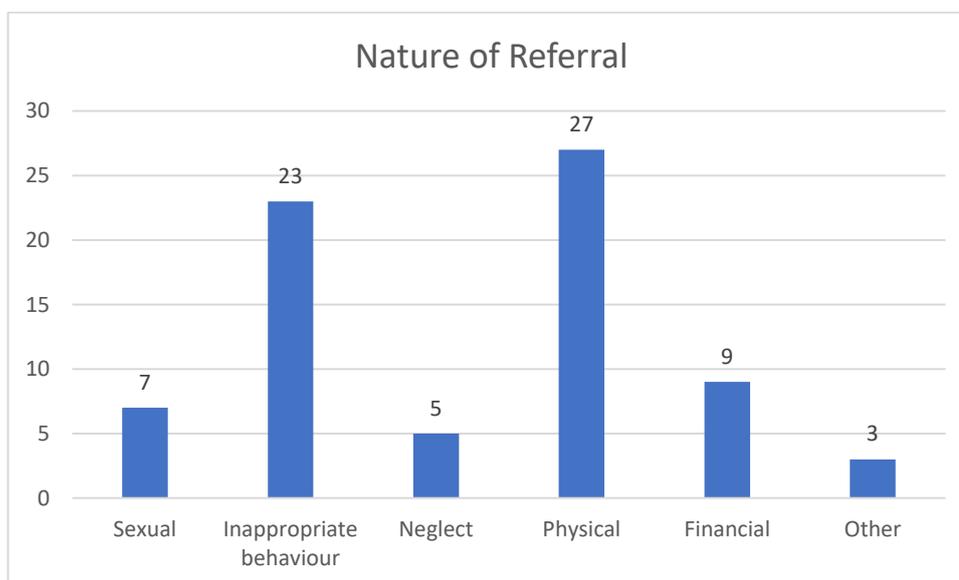
The table above shows that, of the 74 referrals received between April and March, 46% were to do with residential / nursing home providers and 22% were about health based providers.

## 5. Duty to monitor agencies

The LADO will usually only take referrals from those agencies regarding employees of the Local Authority or employees from services that the Local Authority has commissioned the services of. Other organisations should already have in place their own processes for dealing with the management of allegations. The Local Authority is responsible for oversight of the activity of the Management of Allegations Officers in key WSAB member agencies. To achieve this, the LADO seeks to meet with such leads on a 6 monthly basis.

***Note: Although the LADO will not usually be actively involved in the management of allegations for key WSAB member agencies, advice and guidance can be provided.***

## 6. Nature of referrals received



The data in the above chart shows that referrals regarding physical abuse and inappropriate behaviour account for two thirds (68%) of all referrals received.

## 7. Position of Trust (POT) meetings

A total of 5 meetings were facilitated by Wolverhampton LADO regarding people who work with adults with care and support needs. No review meetings were required.

## 8. Outcomes

A total of 78 referrals were completed during the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

Of those completed cases, 30 (38%) were substantiated and 48 (62%) were not substantiated. Of the substantiated cases, 13 members of staff were dismissed and referred to DBS and one was convicted.

## 9. Priorities for 2019/20

9. Wolverhampton LADO to continue providing early alerts to colleagues in Corporate Assurance where there are allegations that could lead to claims being made against the local authority.
10. To maintain the effectiveness of the current approach to the management of allegations. In order to do this, the LADO will:
  - Maintain excellent communication with local police and colleagues in MASH
  - Continue to provide specific training through the Safeguarding Board to those involved in the management of allegations
  - Continue to support the Board training delivered on 'Shared Responsibilities' and 'Safer Recruitment'
  - To provide awareness raising to social work teams working with adult service users
  - To act as single point of contact for the management of allegations (with support from trained colleagues as required)
11. To continue to provide monthly statistical analysis to colleagues in Quality Assurance and Corporate Assurance
12. Wolverhampton LADO to continue to develop the management of allegations made against those people working with adults with care and support needs as defined in the Care Act 2014
13. To consider how improved engagement can be achieved with key WSAB members with responsibility for the management of allegations

## Training

Wolverhampton Safeguarding Boards have responsibility to ensure that appropriate safeguarding training is available to the workforce across the City of Wolverhampton. This work is led by the Learning and Development Committee with support for the WSB Training Co-Ordinator.

The 2018-19 training programme saw 56 courses delivered directly by the boards. The Board is no longer working cross regionally to deliver courses, however better use of local partnerships has enabled the reduction of duplication and broaden the training offer. Bookings for courses and subsequent attendance has improved since last year. A more robust approach to charging for non-attendance has seen attendance rates improve.

Wolverhampton Safeguarding Board reviewed the range of e-learning courses offered and how this is facilitated. The new guest area on the Council's Learning Hub make the process simpler and is at no cost to the WSB. As well as modules covering Basic Adults' and Children's Safeguarding Awareness the e learning offer includes Mental Capacity Act, Modern Slavery, Child Sexual Exploitation, Female Genital Mutilation, Forced Marriage and PREVENT. There is an option to add further modules as required. This has created an opportunity to reach a wider and more diverse audience.

Safer Wolverhampton Partnership, Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum and Public Health have all worked alongside the board to offer training in PREVENT, Modern Slavery, Female Genital Mutilation, Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence, and in understanding No Recourse to Public Funds. In addition, the Board has supported delivery of Basic Safeguarding Awareness for Faith Groups, Harmful Sexualised Behaviour (multi-agency) and Restorative Practice (Multi-agency). The training pool continue to support the delivery of training for the Board, with the focus mainly on the Designated Safeguarding Lead courses as this is where there is highest demand for places. The Safeguarding Service also provide trainers for Managing Allegations, Making Safeguarding Personal, Adult Safeguarding Enquiries, Contributing to Multi-Agency Case Conferences and Child Sexual Exploitation. The two independent board approved trainers deliver many courses and also work alongside the members of the training pool and Safeguarding service.

Lunch and Learn sessions were offered focusing on learning from local case reviews and audits. Take up and interest in these short sessions has been limited and the Learning and Development Committee are exploring other options.

Agency/Organisation attendance is still variable. However there has been a slight increase in attendance from smaller organisations and attendance from the police. Attendance on Designated Safeguarding Lead courses although still dominated by schools is more representative of other agencies. The Learning and Development

Committee will continue to monitor attendance to see if action taken to date improves attendance.

Post-course evaluation forms to evaluate the learning from events moved to electronic format in October 2018 and quality of feedback has been good, there is greater detail than the paper format completed on the day. Examples of some of the feedback is given below. Post course surveys carried out three months after each course also commenced in the autumn and are providing examples of how professionals have put learning into practice after their training. See Below.

### Post Course Feedback

“This training was fantastic and gave me all the information needed. It was great to see so many professionals at the meeting and allowed views from all professional to be shared.” (Thresholds training)

“The training content and presentation was excellent. The calm style in which the training was presented I can imagine is transferred to the Case Conferences. Very Knowledgeable, experienced and skilled IRO's/trainers Thank you “(Multi-agency Case Conferences)

“The course was excellent. Having gone through the process of LADO referrals a few times yesterday helped further cement my knowledge and I am confident as a result of this training will better practice here at school.” (Managing Allegations)

### Three Month Post course evaluations

Q. As a result of attending the learning event have you gained or updated your knowledge or skills in safeguarding children from sexual exploitation

A. I am actually doing more research and understanding how to recognise CSE within the community and voluntary sector.

Q. Has attending the learning event improved or changed your practice and made a difference to safeguarding children/adults

A. I'm more vigilant as I personally underestimated the extent of which safeguarding is talked about but now it has highlighted the fact that others must be educated. For example, parents, children and young people, and persons who work with children especially in clubs. DBS isn't enough assurance that staff are safe to work with children with or without disabilities.

## **Child Death Overview Panel**

The WSCB is responsible for ensuring that a review of each death of a child normally resident in Wolverhampton is undertaken by CDOP.

The functions of the CDOP involve reviewing all child deaths, excluding those babies who are stillborn and planned terminations of pregnancy carried out within the law; in order to determine whether the death was deemed preventable.

Preventable deaths are those in which modifiable factors may have contributed to the death. Modifiable factors are those things which, if changed, could avoid a future death.

The CDOP publishes its own annual report which is considered by the WSB. The report for 2018-2019 can be accessed via the Safeguarding Board website.

To summarise, modifiable factors that were identified within some cases included:

- Vitamin D
- Co-sleeping
- Smoking (by parents)

Walsall and Wolverhampton Local Safeguarding Children Boards have provided a joint CDOP for many years to oversee the review of local child deaths and report back to the DfE annually.

In each LSCB area there is a CCG Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children and the services of a Designated Doctor for CDOP (Walsall) and unexpected Child Deaths (Wolverhampton). In addition to the LSCBs the process is supported by the Police and both Public Health Departments.

For the response to the sudden and unexpected death of a child 0-18 years (Rapid Response) in both areas the CDOP administrators will aim to convene a meeting within 72 hours.

## Next steps and priorities for 2019/2020

2018 saw the publication of the revised Working Together 2018 guidance which sets out the requirements for Safeguarding Children partnerships. Designated core partners (LA, Police, CCG) have commissioned an independent consultant to review the current board arrangements and to make recommendations in line with the new requirements of Working Together 2018.

Wolverhampton's new arrangements which will take effect from September 2019. To find out more about the new arrangements these can be found at -

<https://www.wolverhamptonsafeguarding.org.uk/safeguarding-children-and-young-people/safeguarding-children-board>

A Wolverhampton Safeguarding Board development day is planned for June 2019 to engage partners in planning for the new arrangements and priority setting for 2019-2021.

Further changes from Working Together 2018 and The Children and Social Work Act 2017 has meant that Local Authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups and Police forces have had to revise their current arrangements. As part of these changes they have also been required to establish Child Death Overview Panels (CDOP) as a distinct set of arrangements rather than as a subgroup of the LSCB. This split has been reinforced by the introduction of separate CDOP statutory guidance outside of the revised Working Together 2018 Statutory guidance.

Under the revised guidance the new Child Death Review (CDR) partners, the Local Authority (LA) and the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) in an area, have statutory responsibilities to:

- i. Make arrangements to review all deaths of children normally resident in the local area and, if they consider it appropriate, for any non-resident child who has died in their area.
- ii. Make arrangements for the analysis of information from all deaths reviewed
- iii. Prepare and publish reports on what they have done and effectiveness of arrangements

The CDR partners have been given freedom to agree the structure within their area to meet these statutory duties which includes continuing with the current arrangements provided a minimum of 60 child deaths are reviewed and the learning is conducted in a way that can be shared nationally. This includes supporting the plans for a national database and utilising revised forms for the collation and analysis of data. Safeguarding Boards need to retain responsibility for the Child Death Review Processes (including CDOP), until new measures are in place, and appropriate handover arrangements arranged.