



## Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel

<b>Report title</b>	Safeguarding Children's Board Annual: Report and Executive Summary 2014 - 2015	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Val Gibson Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Linda Sanders, Community	
<b>Originating service</b>	Safeguarding Children	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Gillian Ming	Board Manager – 01902 550640 Gillian.Ming@wolverhampton.gov.uk
	Dawn Williams	Head of Service - 01902 555043
	Tel	Dawn.Williams@wolverhampton.gov.uk
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board	16 September 2015
	Strategic Executive Board	October 2015
	Health & Well-Being Board	07 October 2015

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### 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