

Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel

1 November 2017

Report title	Wolverhampton Safeguarding children Board (WSCB) Report 2016-17	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Val Gibson	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Mark Taylor People Directorate	
Originating service	Safeguarding Board Business Unit. Sian Jones Safeguarding Board Manager Tel: 01902 550604 E-mail: sian.jones@wolverhampton.gov.uk	
Accountable Officer (s)	Dawn Williams Tel Email	Head of Safeguarding 01902 550655 Dawn.williams@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	WSAB Health and Wellbeing Board PLT	14 September 2017 20 September 2017 16 September 2017

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Panel is recommended to:

1. For the Children Scrutiny Panel to receive and note the content of the Children Board (WSCB) Annual Report

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Scrutiny Panel with a copy of the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) Annual Report to inform Scrutiny of the safeguarding activity 2016/2017 and to present the progress made against the priorities for that period.
- 1.2 The Annual Report is agreed by the WSCB and provides an overview of how partners have discharged their safeguarding responsibilities over the preceding year.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) is a statutory body set up in accordance with the Children Act 2004, and Care Act 2015, respectively. The Board is a partnership of enthusiastic members, dedicated to the improvement of practice and services that safeguard children in Wolverhampton.
- 2.2 They work closely with other strategic boards including the Health and Wellbeing Board, and the Safer Wolverhampton Partnership.
- 2.3 The Annual Report is a summary of WSCB work during 2016-17.

Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB)

- 2.4 This report is formally the responsibility of the independent Chair, Alan Coe. Its contents have been accepted by the WSCB. In line with statutory guidance in Working Together 2015, it will be submitted to the Managing Director of the Council, the Leader of the Council, the local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Well-being Board.
- 2.5 Overall, the WSCB believes that arrangements for safeguarding children in Wolverhampton during this period were effective; that there is a strong commitment to safeguarding children across the Wolverhampton partnership; and that frontline practice continues to improve.

In reaching this conclusion, we have:

- **Acknowledged** the findings of the Ofsted Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers and the Review of the effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board that concluded that **Children's Services in Wolverhampton are 'good'**¹. Chapter 1 tells you more about this;
 - Continued to invest in the B-Safe Team to strengthen our **engagement with children and young people**. Chapter 2 tells you what the team have been doing during the year;
 - **Monitored** data and information on a regular basis. Chapter 3 tells you about this;
 - **Created** a new **Quality Assurance Committee** to enhance our capacity to scrutinise front line practice;
 - **Invited** our partners to contribute accounts of the work they have carried out over the last year to safeguard children. These are summarised in Chapter 4;
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- **Conducted** an audit (a "**Section 11**" audit process [Children Act 2004]) of our safeguarding arrangements;
- **Undertaken** a series of **MACFAs** (multi-agency case file audits) of frontline practice which have included themes such as: Implementation of WSCB Pre-birth checklist, Child Sexual Exploitation, Children whose parents have mental ill-health;
- We **published** two **Serious Case Reviews** in 2016 – 17 and promoted the learning that came from them.
- **Updated** our guidance in relation to: What is the Wolverhampton Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), Inter-agency Protocol for Unborn Children and Young Children, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Screening Tool, CSE Pathway and associated guidance, Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF), Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children's Board Dispute Resolution Policy, and information for staff facing allegations.
- **Overseen** the implementation of the Wolverhampton combined **MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub)**. Wolverhampton Children's MASH was created in January 2016 and the introduction of the Adult MASH followed in late August 2016 to start to create a Whole Family MASH approach to Safeguarding both adults and children.
- **Initiated and carried out successful communication and engagement activity** with the public and the workforce by: developing our new website; making engagement with faith groups a priority; undertaking a city-wide campaign 'Orange Wolverhampton' to raise awareness of violence against women and girls; and establishing a multi-agency forum for front-line staff to influence operational and strategic developments;
- **Provided training**. Our training programmes are described in Chapter 6;

3.0 Financial implications

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The Boards are funded from contributions from partner agencies. [AS/19092017/E]

4.0 Legal implications

- 4.1 The Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) and Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adults Board (WSAB) are statutory bodies set up in accordance with the Children Act 2004, and Care Act 2015, respectively. RB/19092017/S

5.0 Equalities implications

- 5.1 The annual reports serve to demonstrate that Safeguarding impacts across race, gender, culture and ability.

6.0 Environmental implications

6.1 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 the Inspection report.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

10.1 Care Act 2014