

**WOLVERHAMPTON
SAFEGUARDING
CHILDREN BOARD**

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2013 -
2014**





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WSCB Value

Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board is committed to the following values and expects all staff and volunteer to share the same commitment.

1. All people of Wolverhampton have the right to:
 - ❖ dignity, choice and respect
 - ❖ protection from abuse and/or neglect
 - ❖ effective and co-ordinated work by all agencies to ensure an holistic child/person centred response
 - ❖ support to achieve the best possible outcomes, regardless of their age, sex, ability, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and circumstances
 - ❖ high quality service provision
2. Safeguarding the wellbeing of children, young people and adults is a shared responsibility held by all agencies represented on the Board.
3. Openness, transparency and sustainability will underpin the work of the Board.
4. Participation by children, young people is essential to inform services, policies, procedures and practices.
5. Services to meet the individual needs of children, young people and families aspire to reach the highest standards.
6. Constructive shared learning to protect children and young people will be integral to the Board's business.
7. Celebration of strengths and positive achievements is important to the Board, as is the commitment to a process of continuous development and improvement.

Acknowledgments

A special 'Thank you' to all colleagues, young people involved in the Be-Safe Team who have contributed to the work of the Board, including the art work illustrated throughout this report, and finally special appreciation to Jane O'Daly. I hope you find the report of interest.

Foreword from the Independent Chair: Alan Coe.

We respond with horror and incredulity when we hear reports of children being abused neglected, sometimes murdered. We rightly ask: 'How did this happen?' When we hear the phrases 'More could have been done,' or 'We have learnt the lessons' we are both sceptical and angry. Each year there are cases that hit the



headlines nationally and names such as Rochdale, Rotherham or Coventry become associated with horrendous failings of professionals to protect children. In the past year Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children has published the findings of two Serious Case Reviews. They did not show continuous and systematic failings but they did identify things that professionals could have done better. A safeguarding

board has a responsibility to assure the public that we are driving improvements in practice and prevention that will increase the safety and wellbeing of the children of this City. Much is done already to train and support staff in identifying and intervening where abuse is happening as well as promoting a better awareness among the local community of what they can do to better protect children. Increasingly we ask children how they think we can help keep them safe. You can read about it in the report.

We constantly challenge one another to be open about how we can do better and identify the weaknesses of local systems and practice that could place children at risk. We both review our risks and take action to reduce them. I wish to mention briefly three of them and what we are doing about them:

- Schools often feel isolated in their efforts to protect and support the children in their care. We are taking action to improve the help available to schools to spot the early signs of distress and encourage early help. A child who suddenly is frequently absent or appears withdrawn requires us to ask questions and seek support. We want greater assurance that schools are intervening early and with the support of health and social care staff.
- Family doctors can also feel isolated and not wholly aware how best to intervene in circumstances where they have concerns about the care of children. Through Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group we are working to better equip GPs to recognise the signs of neglect and abuse and contribute more to our shared information about a child who may be at risk.
- We don't know enough about how many children are at risk of organised sexual abuse and maybe at risk of being trafficked. With the Police and other safeguarding Boards in the West Midlands we are determined to do more to preventing this happening, protecting those most at risk and pursuing and prosecuting the perpetrators.

We will be in a position by the next report to assure residents of the City that the risks identified above will have reduced. What we will never say is that we are satisfied that we have done all we can.



Introduction

Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) advocates that 'Safeguarding Children is everyone's responsibility'. It is crucial that partners from all agencies who work with children, young people and families across Wolverhampton work together to ensure that they are safeguarded and are given the opportunity and appropriate level of support to achieve the best possible outcomes.

WSCB has a statutory duty to co-ordinate how agencies work together to safeguard and promote the well-being of children and young people in Wolverhampton and to ensure the effectiveness of local partnership safeguarding arrangements.

WSCB has had a very busy year, with a new Independent Chair, a recently appointed Business Manager, a new Head of Safeguarding Service for the Local Authority and a number of new representatives to replace the resignation of some of the boards long standing members.

The outcome from a review of the board and all sub-groups very early in to this reporting year, resulted in a number of significant changes which were undertaken at difference stages and realistic pace throughout the year.

2013, we also saw the revised publication of the government guidance on safeguarding within Working Together 2013. This retained the emphasis on safeguarding being everyone's responsibility and the essential requirement for agencies providing services to both children and adults to work together to

safeguard children and promote their welfare. The guidance re-affirms the role of LSCBs for ensuring that all agencies work effectively together.

For the role of the Chair, Working Together 2013 requires the Chair of LSCB publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements which should clearly outline how well agencies work together to promote the welfare of children in the local area. This report aims to provide an overview of the performance and effectiveness of local services. It identifies areas for improvements, and what actions are being implemented to address these areas as well as other areas for developments. The report will be presented to the Chief Executive of Wolverhampton City Council, the Lead Member, Chair of the Health and Well-Being Board and the Police and Crime Commissioner. It is intended for a wide audience including the professional workforce and local communities

Wolverhampton is fortunate as it benefits from strong partnership commitment to safeguarding, and there is good understanding of the benefits and importance of early intervention and prevention in relation to safeguarding. These are key to effective practice and WSCB will continue to strive to strengthen the importance of this aspect as it is developed further.

Each agency has been asked to provide an evaluation of its own performance; these are summarised in the Report, along with the contributions from WSCB Committees, the individual groups who undertake

the much valued work on behalf of the Board.

This report provides a mixed picture, as many of the member agencies including the Local Authority are facing reduced funding resulting in many having to implement new structures to accommodate for loss of key posts and experienced post

holders. New commissioning arrangements are in place in many service areas and the Board is aware that any period of major organisational change presents additional risks. There is however the continuing commitment among all agencies to prioritise safeguarding and to ensure WSCB is an effective board.



Background.

This report provides an insight in to the work of Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) from 1st April 2013 through to 31st March 2014. It highlights the main achievements in safeguarding Wolverhampton's children and young people, and identifies the priority areas for improvement for the following year and beyond.

This is the 6th Annual report for WSCB. However, the format, layout and branding throughout has changed in part with many other changes that were deemed necessary following the evaluation of the effectiveness of the board at the end of the previous year and continues throughout this reporting year. Under a new leadership, multiple changes in membership, reaching the end of the 2010 – 2013 Business Plan, feedback from a Peer Review, and the publication by DfE of the revised statutory guidance, Working Together (March 2013), dictated the need for WSCB to take a new direction and to ensure a clear and transparent focus is maintained on the safeguarding arrangements across the City.

In Working Together 2013, the Government made a commitment to strengthen the role of LSCBs to monitor and scrutinise the effectiveness of all safeguarding arrangements in their local area. It has also changed much of the framework in which we work, and has given more authority to LSCBs in monitoring both child protection and early help services. A Review of WSCB was undertaken during development day (April 2013); this identified the need to strengthen some of the existing arrangements to ensure that the board can deliver

against the requirements as outlined in Working Together 13. This led to:

- ❖ A revision in the governance and membership arrangements.
- ❖ The introduction of an Executive Committee with members of the main board nominated as leads to oversee each area of the priorities
- ❖ A revised Constitution requiring signature of each board member.
- ❖ An agreed set of priorities with designated leads for each priority who are the members of the newly form executive committee.
- ❖ A business plan

WSCB is supported by a range of sub-groups that enables it's functioning, a review of each group led to the formation of:

- ❖ An change in terminology in line with Working Together 2013, from sub-group to 'Committees
- ❖ The introduction of an additional Communication & Engagement Committee
- ❖ The former 'Missing and Compromised sub-group was retitled to; Sexually Exploited, Missing and Trafficked (SEMT) Strategic Committee.
- ❖ Revised Terms of reference
- ❖ An overhaul of the memberships of each group.

This report provides details of the range of work undertake during a year, including what is done to ensure that the children and young people of Wolverhampton are appropriately safeguarded, their welfare is promoted through services delivered locally and how partner agencies are held to account on the effectiveness of their safeguarding arrangements.

Throughout this report we have captured many areas of good practice and there is a sense of the many strength across the WSCB partnership, there is also evidence that WSCB is not a stagnant but a developing board, and while we can celebrate what we do well, we are fully sighted on the areas where arrangements need to be more robust, therefore, where further developmental work is necessary to enable an effective and fully functioning board.

Within this report, we can see some evidence of children being central in the works and activity of the board, if we keep the same focus on keeping children safe in the coming year and ensure the infrastructure and resources are adequate to deliver against the ever evolving and challenging agenda, we can expect to provide better services for all children and young people, whilst ensuring too that

the most vulnerable children can be seen and have their voices heard.

It has been a challenging year for all agencies with the result of a huge cut in public sector funding leading to major reorganisation and cuts in services, and a continuing squeeze on resources which is felt by all agencies; this all impacts on staff and equally on children and families who are also facing increased pressure from the downturn in the economy. Despite all of this, WSCB will continue to strive to improve and develop its role in challenging and supporting the work of agencies involved in safeguarding children and in monitoring and coordinating the response to child abuse and neglect. The recent Business Plan for 2013-6 introduced at the end of the last reporting year, outlines the four strategic priorities and the desired outcomes as we move forward, aiming to go from strength to strength.



Wolverhampton in Context

With a population of 250,970, Wolverhampton is one of the largest cities in England and one of the most compact, covering just 27 square miles.

The number of Wolverhampton's Layer Super Output Areas (LSOA's) is in the 20% most deprived nationally is 82 (out of 158). This equates to 52% of Wolverhampton LSOAs now in the 20% most deprived in England, a rise of 3 percentage points from 2007.

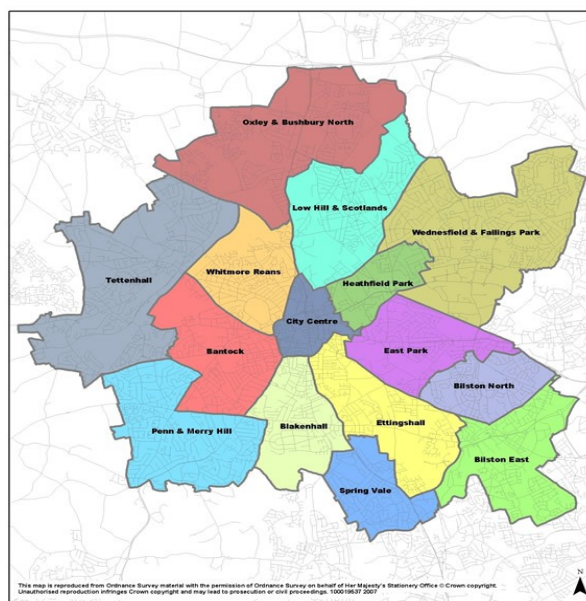
There were 12,127 people aged 16-74 who said they were unemployed, which represents 7.8% of the total 16-74 cohort. This compares to 4.4% unemployed in England for the same age group.

The number of persons in the city aged 0 – 18 inclusive is 59,789 against a population of 250,970. Of these, 30,648 (51.3%) are male and 29,141 (48.7%) are female. This represents 23.8% of the total population. The highest individual age of children between 0 – 18 is <1 year (3,646 persons).

In total 39,199 children are currently being education in Wolverhampton state maintained schools (Nursery, Primary, Secondary, Special Schools). An additional 32 children are currently enrolled in a Pupil Referral Unit and 1751 by independent schools in Wolverhampton.

The total number of children deemed to be living in poverty is 17,920. 87% of these children are under the age of 16 (15,635 children). In total, 14,810

The latest Indices of Deprivation (2010) indicates that Wolverhampton is more deprived than it was in 2007. This represents a relative decline, from the 28th most deprived to the 20th most deprived (out of 326 local authorities) and moves Wolverhampton from being in the 8% most deprived authorities to the 6% most deprived. Compared to that of the other Black Country authorities, only one being more deprived than Wolverhampton (9th most deprived).



children are in families who claim IS or JSA; 1,000 are in families who claim WTC and CTC, and 2,110 are in families who claim only CTC. Of the 17920 children, 11870 belong to a 'lone-parent' family, whilst 6050 belong to a 'couple' family.

The percentage breakdown all children by ethnicity in Primary, Secondary and Special Schools are:

- White 57.5%
 - Mixed 10.1%
 - Asian 22.0%
 - Black 8.7%
 - Chinese 0.2%
 - Any Other Ethnic Group 1.0%
- (0.5% ethnicity information refused or



What are Safeguarding Children Boards?

Safeguarding Children Boards are the key statutory mechanisms for agreeing how the relevant organisations in each local area work together and co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in that locality,

and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do.

The Children Act 2004 required each local authority to establish a local Safeguarding Children Board by 1 April 2006.

What are the statutory objectives of Local Safeguarding Children Boards?

The functions of Local Safeguarding Children Boards are set out in primary legislation (Section 14 and 14A of the Children Act 2004), and Regulation 5 of Local Safeguarding Children Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/90), and was reproduced in (2010), and more recently in April 2013. This statutory guidance outlines the core objectives of the Board as follows:

- ❖ To co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority; and
- ❖ To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for that purpose.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined for the purposes of this annual report (as detailed in appendix A in Working Together Guidance 2013) as:

- ❖ Protecting children from maltreatment;

- ❖ Preventing impairment of children's health or development;
- ❖ Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- ❖ Undertaking that role so as to enable those children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully.

Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board will therefore ensure that the duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children is carried out in such a way as to contribute to improving the outcomes for every child.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children includes protecting children from harm. Ensuring that work to protect children is properly co-ordinated, effective and remains a primary focus of Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board.



What is the remit of Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board?

The remit of Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) includes safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in three broad areas of activity:

- ❖ Activity that affects all children and aims to identify and prevent maltreatment, or impairment of health or development, and ensure children are growing up in circumstances consistent with safe and effective care.
- ❖ Proactive work that aims to safeguard and promote the welfare of groups of children who are potentially more vulnerable than the general population (eg. Children living away from home, children who are missing from home, school or care, children in the youth justice system, including custody, disabled children, children being, or at risk of

sexual exploitation, trafficked children, children who may be forced into marriage or are possible to Female genital mutilation, and children and young people affected by gangs).

- ❖ Responsive work to protect children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer significant harm

Where particular children are the subject of involvement with the agencies represented on the Board, then safeguarding work should aim to help them to achieve the planned developmental outcomes and to have optimum life chances. It is within the remit of the local safeguarding children board to check the extent to which this has been achieved as part of its monitoring and evaluation work.

What are the functions of Local Safeguarding Children Boards?

The core functions of a local Safeguarding Children Board are set out in primary legislation and regulations. They are:

- ❖ developing policies and procedures for safeguarding in the area of the authority, including policies and procedures in relation to:
 - ✓ the action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare, including thresholds for intervention;
 - ✓ training of persons who work with children or in services

affecting the safety and welfare of children;

- ✓ recruitment and supervision of persons who work with children;
- ✓ investigation of allegations concerning persons who work with children;
- ✓ safety and welfare of children who are privately fostered;
- ✓ cooperation with neighbouring children's services authorities and their Board partners;
- ❖ communicating to persons and bodies in the area of the authority the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising their awareness of how this

- ❖ can best be done and encouraging them to do so;
- ❖ monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advising them on ways to improve;
- ❖ participating in the planning of services for children in the area of the authority; and
- ❖ undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learned.

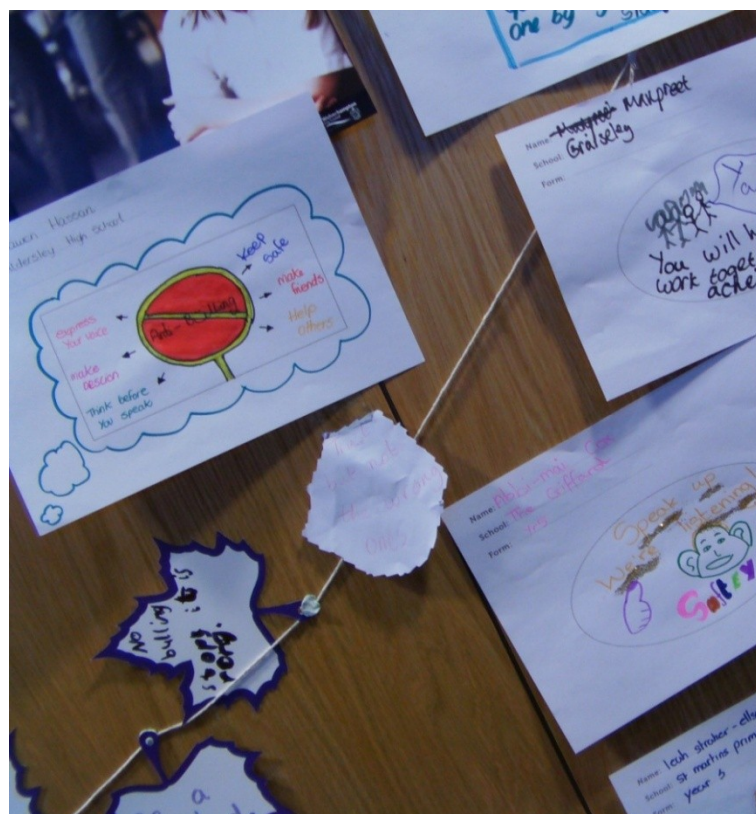
As stated in Working Together 2013, in order to fulfil its statutory function under regulation 5 an LSCB should as a minimum:

- ❖ assess the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families, including early help;

- ❖ assess whether LSCB partners are fulfilling their statutory obligations set out in chapter 2 of this guidance;
- ❖ quality assure practice, including through joint audits of case files involving practitioners and identifying lessons to be learned; and
- ❖ monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of training, including multi-agency training, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

WSCB does not have a power to direct other organisations.

The roles and responsibilities of local Safeguarding Children Boards and the agencies that are represented on them are set out in the government guidance "Working Together to Safeguard Children" (2013).



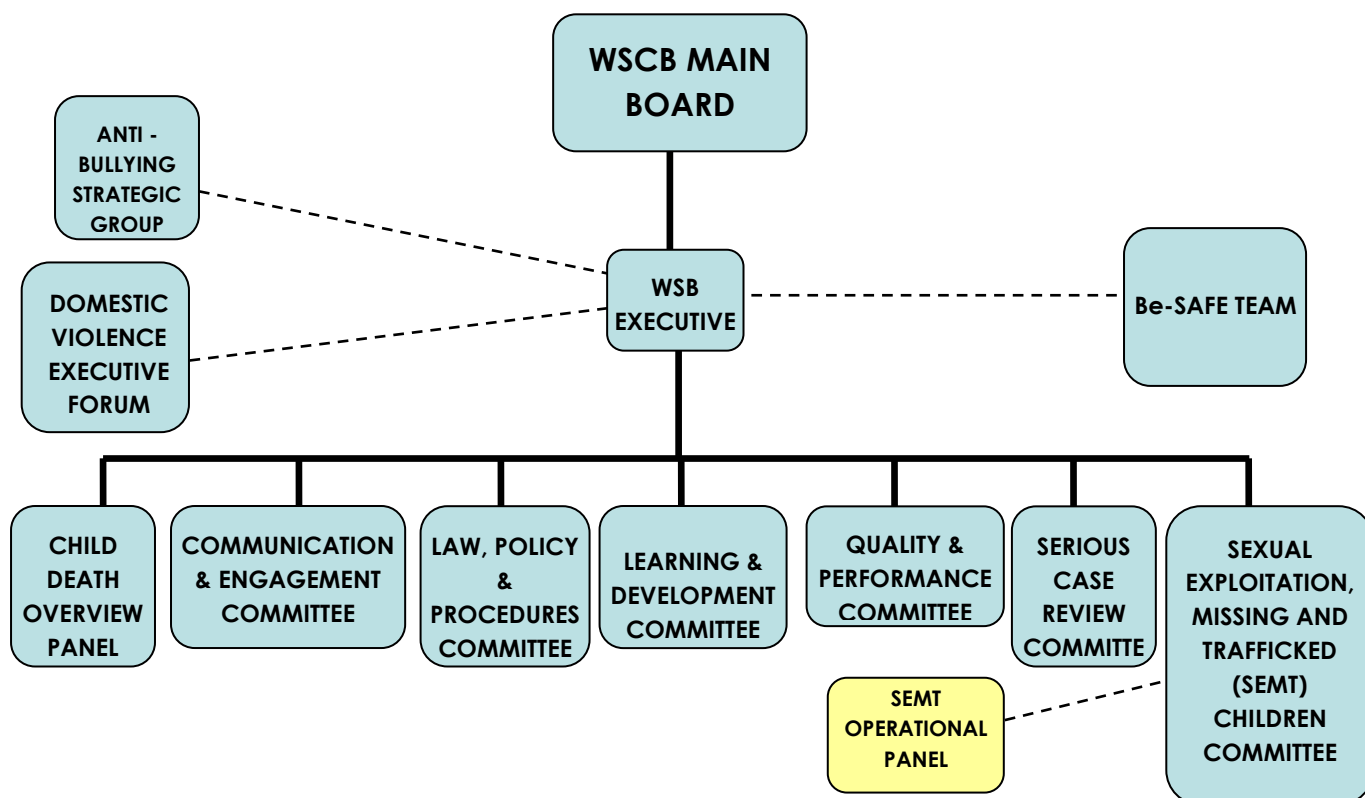
Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board structure

WSCB is composed of senior representatives nominated by each of its member agencies. The board is independently chaired by Alan Coe, and with the exception of an extraordinary meeting and the annual development day, the board met five times during the reporting year.

To enable it to fulfil its responsibilities, the main Board is supported by a

range of committees. Within the review of the governance and membership arrangements in April 2013 led to the formation of an executive committee, whose purpose is to effectively manage the business and operation of the Board, in addition, a further committee was established to address the communication and engagement aspect of work on behalf for the board.

WOLVERHAMPTON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD STRUCTURE CHART



A review of the former 'Missing and Compromised sub-group identified the need to strengthen the arrangement and processes of this group, to ensure better understanding and response to vulnerable groups of young people. The creation of the SEMT strategic

Committee, with a subsidiary Operational Panel reporting directly to it ensures that Wolverhampton has a robust process for safeguarding particular vulnerable young as illustrated below.

Each committee has redefined its membership, terms of reference, and have provided a summary of the activities for this period which are featured further on in this report.

The executive committee is responsible for overseeing the activities under each area of the board's priorities, as well as, work undertaken by the following three distinctive groups;

- ❖ The work and remit of Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Executive Committee, overlaps across both adults and children safeguarding agendas, the task for the executive committee is to ensure that the local strategy pertaining to 'Violence Against Women and Girls' is not lost, but remain firmly rooted in to the business of the board.
- ❖ Listening to the children & young people of Wolverhampton, bullying, including via technology is their greatest concern. For many years Wolverhampton, within the area of its social inclusion services have an Anti-bullying Strategic Group; WSCB through the executive committee will be closely monitoring the arrangements, effectiveness and activities of this group.
- ❖ Towards the end of the last reporting year, WSCB established a Junior Safeguarding Board. The day to day management of this group is commissioned out to the Peer Network Group to ensure a sustainable and fully functioning initiative for the City. The Executive group along with its other duties holds the responsibility for overseeing and monitoring the pace of this area of the business.

Each of the above group have provided a commentary of the years' activities which features further on in this report.



Who are the representatives of WSCB April 2013 – March 2014?

WSCB Members

Independent Chair - Alan Coe

N Appleby	Probation - Vice Chair
J Ashby-Ellis	WM Ambulance Service
E Bennett	WCC- ADCS
J Blakeman	WM Fire Service
A Brown	WCC - Secondary School
H Crampton	CAFCASS
L Cross	Wolverhampton College
V Darby	Independent Schools
K Deeny	NHS – England
A Dill-Russell	Wolverhampton College
S Dodd	Wolverhampton VS
L Fieldhouse	Health
M Garcha	Health
S Hay	Primary, Schools Rep
M Heywood	Independent Schools
J Leadbeater	CAFCASS
S Marshall	Health
S Nash	YOT
S Norman	DSC WCC
J Parry	WMP – PPU
J Skyrme	WMP- PPU
J Thomas- West	WMP - Local
J Welsby	WCC - C&F
R Willoughby	WCC- ADCS

Professional Advisors

A Campbell	WCC - CiN/CP
T Christies	WCC – Legal
K Cole-Evans	WDVF – VS
L Millard	Health – CCG
R Robbins	Connexions
K Samuels	WCC – SWP
M Viggers	Health
C Thomas	Named Dr -
D Williams	WCC – Safeguarding
K Martin	WCC – SSL
A Wolverson	WCC - Early Years

Lay Members

R Bhagat
A Salmon

Observers

Councillor S Constable
Councillor V Gibson

WSCB Business Support

Gillian Ming Business & Training
Beverley McCalla Administrator



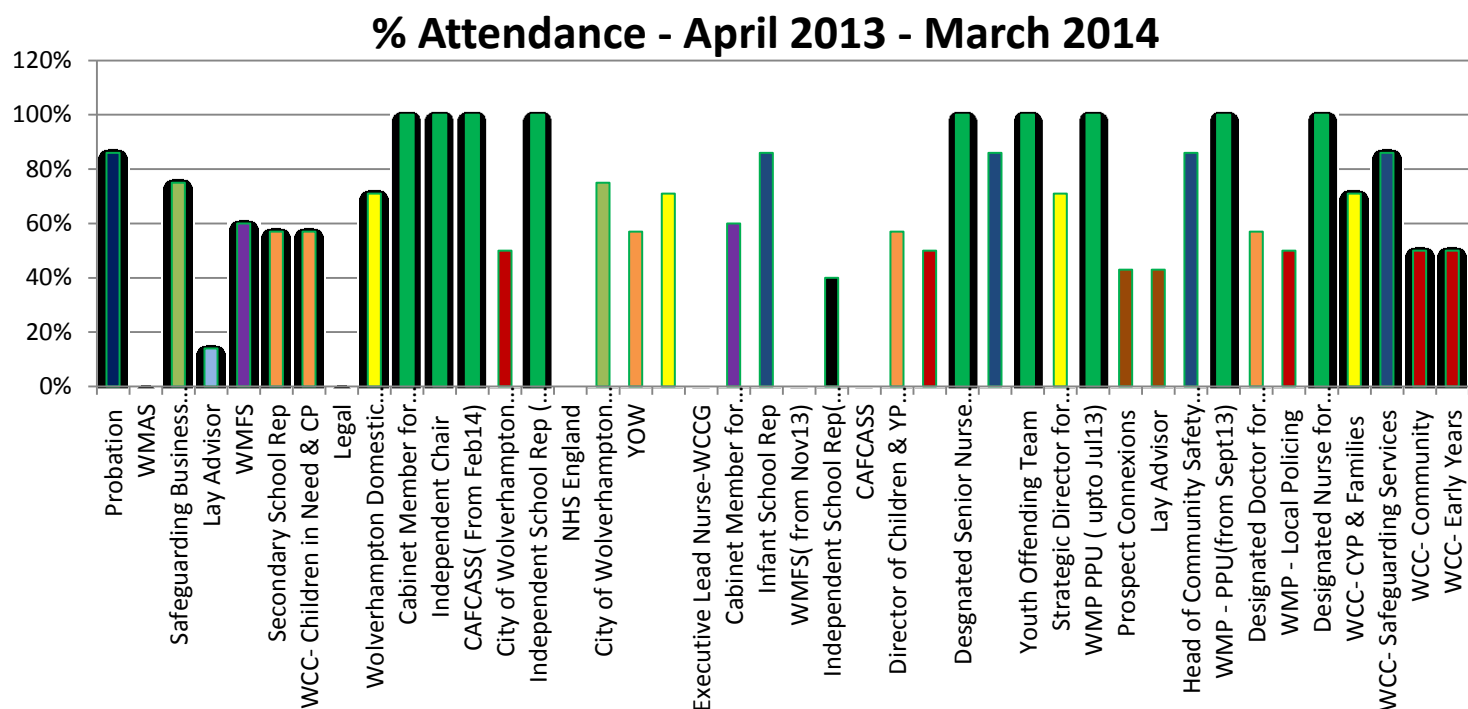


There have been a number of membership changes over the past year. Strenuous efforts have been made to ensure appropriate representation and continuity.

WSCB members have a responsibility to attend all meetings and

disseminate relevant information within their agency. Membership records are monitored to ensure attendance is regular and at an appropriate level. These records are monitored on an annual basis as part of the boards quality assurance process.

The table below represent the attendance figures by agency, based on five meetings held from April 2013–March 2014.

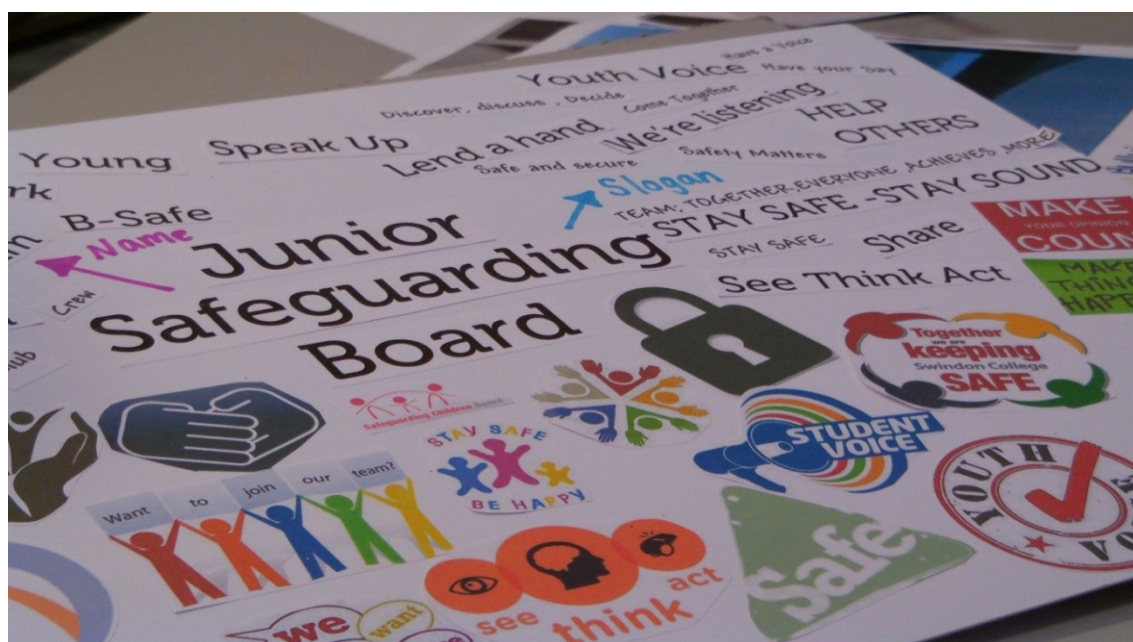


Achieving what was set out in the Business Plan and Priorities

The three year Business Plan 2013-2016 was agreed at the Board development day (April 2013), it outlines the following priorities to be implemented and addressed during this year and represents work from most board partners.

	PRIORITY AREA	WSCB LEAD	ACTIVITY
1	EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE	J.WELSBY WCC. AD – CHILDREN AND FAMILIES	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	J. PARRY WM POLICE 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.

A copy of the Business Plan is available on the WSCB website: www.wolvesscb.org.uk



HOW DID WE DO AGAINST THE 2013/14 KEY PRIORITIES?

Priority Area	The priorities set for 2013/14	Performance against the agreed priorities
1	Review of the governance arrangements	WSCB has revised the governance arrangements for the board and all its associated committees.
2	Through the provision of training and development opportunities, ensure that staff have the requisite skills and experience to intervene effectively to safeguard children.	WSCB has maintained a an multi-agency training programme
3	Improved provision of the range of services for particular young people: 11 – 18 year olds to safeguard and promote the welfare of young people.	The revised responsibilities of the SEMT Committee, includes oversight and management of its subsidiary Operational Panel which monitors services for particular vulnerable young people.
2	Further improve the quality, and consistency, of interventions, assessment, planning and interagency working to safeguard children and young people.	Monitoring of continuous progress in interagency activity across the partnership is on-going through the Quality and Performance Committee.
4	Engage the wider community in safeguarding children.	WSCB has raised the profile of safeguarding within the community through its 'Promoting Safeguarding Week occurs on an annual basis',
1	Utilise the combined resources of WSCB member agencies to underpin preventative strategies and services in challenging budgetary conditions.	This area of work is in its infancy and is intended to be developed further in the coming year and beyond
2	Establish a transparent line of communication with schools and GPs in safeguarding children – including Academies.	Work to establish a Safeguarding Education group has commenced. The CCG has been challenged to strengthen the understanding, commitment and involvement of GPs in safeguarding activity.
4	Raise the profile of WSCB and its safeguarding agenda through effective communication and media strategies.	WSCB has raised the profile of safeguarding within the community through its 'Promoting Safeguarding Week occurs on an annual basis', This area of work is developing
1	Ensure that the potential impact on safeguarding and outcomes for children arising from service changes due to challenging budgetary conditions are closely monitored by WSCB, and that agencies share information and cooperate to minimise the short and long term impact of changes in safeguarding children.	The board receives reports on the impact of reduced services and constantly seeks reassurance from service areas in respect of
2	Ensure that messages from the Serious Case Review processes informs local practice and	During the year, a series of sharing the learning from local, regional and

	service development.	national SCR's briefings has been disseminated via the SCRC committee.
4	Raise the profile of WSCB and its safeguarding agenda through effective communication and media strategies.	This area of work is developing



Activities of WSCB Committees

Committee Title	Learning and Development Committee
Chair	Lorraine Millard
Agency	Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group
Agencies represented on this Committee:	WCCG WSCB Education (Student Services) BCPFT (Named Nurse Safeguarding Children) RWT (Named Nurse Safeguarding Children) Youth Organisations Wolverhampton Co-ordinator Project Co-ordinator- Base 25 Children Social Care

Brief Terms of Reference

- ❖ To support the identification of training needs of the service users.
- ❖ To prioritise those needs when planning and commissioning the safeguarding inter-agency training programme and the development of the training strategy, ensure that where possible, training can be influenced and/or directed by service users.
- ❖ Develop the annual Safeguarding & Child Protection training programme according to the local needs ensuring it is informed by current research, lessons from local and national serious case reviews, and local and national developments, while work within the budgetary requirements of the Board.
- ❖ Identify and agree a robust evaluation process for each training programme to ensure the standard, quality, and delivery is at a high level and meets agreed learning outcomes
- ❖ Provide an annual report to WSCB.

Objectives for 2013/14

PRIORITY	OBJECTIVES	PROGRESS
1	➤ To support WSCB's business priorities and to ensure that the committee has the infrastructure to effectively address the specific elements of work that relate to the learning and development of the children's workforce.	A re-formed committee met for the first time in November 2013 following a time lapse in face-to-face meetings. The committee has new Terms of Reference, the format for the agenda and has devised a template for the other committees to referral into the L&D Committee.
2	➤ To ensure the representatives on the committee contribute to the learning, development and education of a multi-	The Committee has effectively contributed to the development of a streamlined training programme that reflects the priorities of WSCB

	agency work-plan for Safeguarding Children that reflects the identified priorities.	
4	➤ To liaise with the community & engagement committee on the overlapping areas of work ensuring that a strategy is devised to manage each area of competing tasks.	In order to improve communication between WSCB and its partners the L&D committee have develop multiple ways of disseminating information. Work going forward includes; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ a quarterly WSCB news- letter ❖ a series of posters developed by the Be-Safe Team to be distributed and displayed in both professional and public arenas to increase public awareness of the existence and work of the board; and ❖ plans to update the current WSCB leaflets.
1	➤ To ensure there are clear communication route between the Learning and Development Committee and other committees to furnish the programme of activities.	The L&DC has devised a template for the other committees to referral areas identified for learning into the L&D committee.
2	➤ To ensure the learning from the findings of local and outside-of-area case reviews are disseminated to the workforce to enhance city-wide practices.	WSCB have developed, and delivered a series of 'Learning from SCR's briefing sessions during 2013/4. This has been transferred to the L&DC to be added to the training programme of 2014/5 and beyond.
4	➤ To develop a robust relationship with Adults Safeguarding in terms of aligning learning event which crosses over both areas of work	A joint approach between WSCB and WSAB has been developed in the associated areas of the safeguarding agendas. This includes some areas of training; eg. the joint Force Marriage Roadshow in 2013 is one example
2	➤ To continue to monitor the impact of multi-agency training through a series of pre and post course evaluation process to ensure both value for money and there is an identifiable impact on practice.	A review of the feedback forms completed by attendees following previous courses over a twelve month period has taken place, including a review of the current method of evaluation was led to some recommendations which will be implemented during the next 12 months.

Additional evidence of progress made during 2013/14

- ❖ The L&D Committee, on behalf of the Specialist Midwife for Vulnerable Women, requested the Law, Policies and Procedure Committee considered the development of a Pre -birth plan to ensure clarity of arrangements. This has now been developed and disseminated for use. This highlights good collaborative working between committees.
- ❖ In order to ensure the face-to-face training offered by WSCB meets the needs of the workforce a review of the feedback forms completed by attendees following previous courses over a twelve month period has taken place. At the same time the current method of evaluation was reviewed leading to recommendations to develop the current process, with the expectation that future methods would evaluate both the quality of the training and the impact the training has had on practice.
- ❖ The L&D committee supported the development of Local Safeguarding Children Board's Learning and Improvement Framework, and will support its implementation planned for 2014/15.

Evidence of the Voice/Contribution of Children and Young People

- ❖ The Be-safe team developed the WSCB Raising Awareness of WSCB posters.

Impact for Children and Young People

- ❖ There is currently no data available which demonstrates the impact of current training currently being delivered by WSCB.
- ❖ Transfer-related outcomes-relating to skills, knowledge, attitudes and behaviours that have contributed to improve practice is difficult to measure, but is recognised as important and meaningful. The L&D committee have prioritised further development in this area of the Evaluation Framework for 2014-2015.

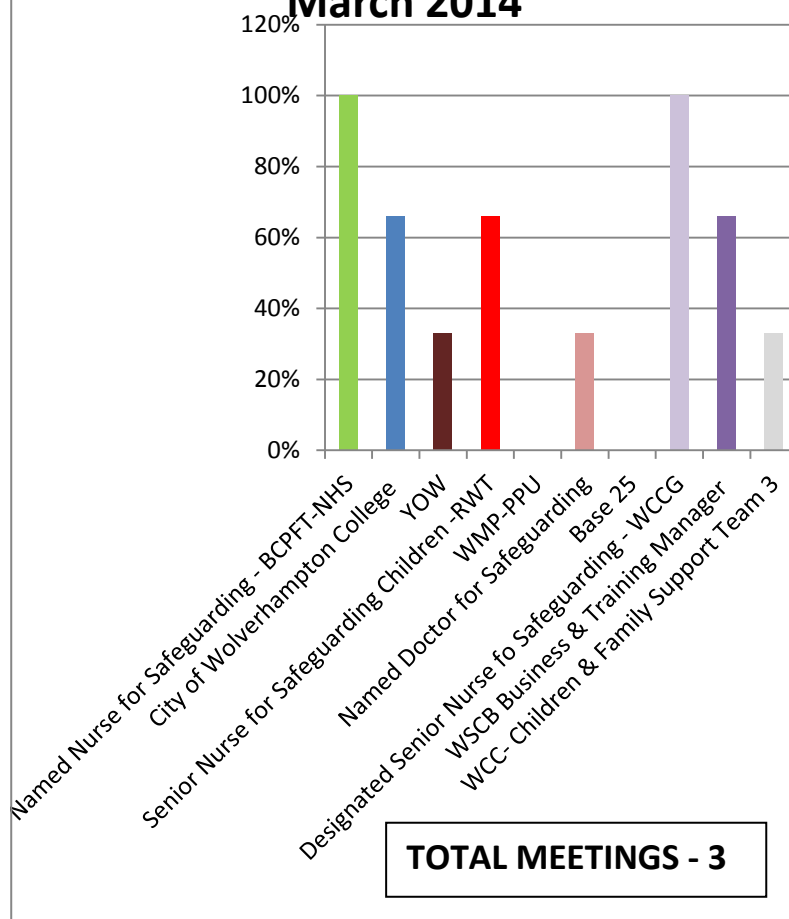
Looking forward brief overview of work anticipated for 2014/15

- ❖ A number of key WSCB Business Plan priorities relate directly to the L&D Committee. Front line services and workers, including non-statutory organisations, in particular independent schools, must have access to better information on safeguarding delivered in ways that enables them to keep abreast of new developments. This will require the implementation of an auditing and monitoring process of both single and multi-agency training, and development of a number of different ways of disseminating information. In addition, WSCB multi-agency training programme must be redesigned continuously assessed to ensure it is of the highest quality,

and increases the awareness of individuals who are particularly vulnerable, or are at increased risk of harm.

- ❖ In order to ensure WSCB can continue to deliver an effective training programme with a limited and reducing budget there are plans to develop a training pool. This will ensure local expertise and experiences are fully utilised to improve local practices. However for this to be effective and consistent, partners will need to identify appropriate personnel to have protected time to attend the initial train the trainers course, and then to commit to delivering a number of sessions throughout the year.
- ❖ A number of training courses are relevant to both adult and child practitioners and it is envisaged that the Learning and Development committee of both the Adult and Children Safeguarding Boards are aligned.

% Attendance - April 2013- March 2014



Committee Title	Communication and Engagement Committee
Chair	Stephen Dodd
Agency	Youth Organisations Wolverhampton
Agencies represented on Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Age UK ▪ Children's Society (Black Country Advocacy Service) ▪ Wolverhampton College ▪ HealthWatch ▪ Wolverhampton Interfaith and Regeneration Network ▪ Staffordshire and West Midlands Community Rehabilitation Company ▪ Links to WSCB's B-Safe Team ▪ WSCB Business & Training Manager ▪ WSAB Business Manager

Brief Terms of Reference

- ❖ Identify and share key messages around safeguarding adults and / or children including:
 - How to recognise different forms of abuse
 - What help and support is available
 - How to raise a concern
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Undertake targeted engagement – evidence-led, on request, by theme, by community (based on geography or shared interest / characteristic/s)
- ❖ Liaise and collaborate with WSCB and WSAB, relevant committees, partnership forums and service users in the above activities

PRIORITY	OBJECTIVES set for 2013/14	PROGRESS made in 2013/14
1	Establish this committee	Joint WSCB & WSAB Communication and Engagement Committee established. Terms of Reference, work-plan devised and quarterly meeting schedule agreed.
4	Identify and promote key messages	Key messages from WSCB & WSAB meetings compiled in a monthly newsletter and disseminated to voluntary and community groups.
4	Develop shared branding	Work in this area is underway in partnership with Wolverhampton

		College who is a member of WSCB and is represented on the committee.
4	Develop shared adults' and children's safeguarding website	Work begun on shared 'Safeguarding Across the Generations' website
4	Strengthen links with faith groups	Representation expanding Links made with Wolverhampton Interfaith and Regeneration Network (WIFRN)
1 & 4	Identify partners resources to support this area of work	Marketing and promotion resources (skills and time identified)
4	Build on good practice from other areas	Links made; and some joined up activities and events undertaken with neighbouring LSCB's

Additional evidence of progress

- ❖ Safeguarding in Faith event held 20-04-13
- ❖ Promoting Safeguarding 2013 included a week of activities and engagement with the general public and community groups, raising the profile and awareness of Safeguarding.
- ❖ DBS event held for voluntary and Community groups
- ❖ A bespoke event; addressing and implementing Safeguarding Standards for small groups

Evidence of the Voice and Contribution of Children and Young People

- ❖ Links initiated with the B-Safe team

Impact for Children and Young People

- ❖ Due to the fact that this group is newly established, it is too soon to comment on measure its impact on children and young people.

Looking forward - brief overview of work anticipated for 2014/15

- ❖ Decide on joint branding for WSCB and WSAB
- ❖ Shared website launch in autumn 2014
- ❖ Links to be formalised with WIFRN
- ❖ 4 x engagement activity with public and community groups

- ❖ Key messages identified from data and community engagement
- ❖ Public safeguarding campaigns x 2
- ❖ Communication & Engagement committee and Learning & Development committee to agree specific responsibilities and areas of joint working in regard to communication and engagement with public and community groups on the one hand, and the children's / adults' workforce on the other



Committee Title	Quality and Performance Committee
Chair	Heidi Crampton
Agency	Cafcass
Agencies represented on Working Group	Cafcass Service Manager DI WM Police: Public Protection Unit Third Sector: Youth Organisations, Wolverhampton Name Nurse for Safeguarding - BCPFT Name Nurse for Safeguarding - RWT Name Nurse for Safeguarding - CCG WCC Head of CiN/CP Probation – Safeguarding Lead WCC Head of Safeguarding WCC Senior Information Officer WSCB Business & Training Manager

Brief Terms of Reference

The Committee is a multi-agency forum which exists to develop a clear understanding of the safeguarding profile of the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) and how the respective partners are performing to meet those needs.

The Quality and Performance Committee (Q&PC) is responsible for reviewing data, trends, safeguarding key performance indicators and the results of audits that have been carried out. To quality assure practice, including through joint audits of case files and practitioners and identifying lessons to be learned.

To achieve its purpose the committee will:

- ❖ Develop and maintain a performance management dataset for WSCB
- ❖ Review performance management information, identifying themes and areas requiring action and reporting these to the Board
- ❖ Ensure key messages includes areas to recognise and celebrate good practices as well as areas identified for further development are distributed to WSCB members with a specific requirement of disseminating to the wider workforce/frontline practitioners
- ❖ The Q&PC will have a particular focus on ensuring that partners with a duty to co-operate under s11 of the Children Act 2004, or s175 of the Education Act 2002, are fulfilling their statutory obligations for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
- ❖ Ensure ownership and accountability for performance and quality standards at the highest level.
- ❖ Provide challenge to Board members, holding them to account for the quality of practice to ensure agreed standards are met
- ❖ Consider the outcomes from relevant audits undertaken by partners, to ensure findings are disseminated across the partnership and to assess impact and implications for improving practice
- ❖ Monitor members' feedback and attendance across all Committees.

PRIORITY	Objectives for 2013/14	Achievements for 2013/14
1	On-going development of a WSCB multi-agency safeguarding dataset and pursuit of lines of enquiry based on the data presented.	Identified and agree a multi-disciplinary data set that is user friendly and is inclusive of key indicators for all partners. To review and analyse data for the Board to ensure that any patterns are identified and acted upon.
1	Introduce and embed a quarterly series of a multi-agency case file audit process.	✓ Multi-Agency Case file Audits undertaken during 13/14 and lessons learnt cascaded in relation to the following themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children with Disabilities Hidden harm
1	Oversight of section 11 review for all constituent agencies, designed to audit and then improve their safeguarding capabilities.	A new model has been identified by the Q&PC and presented and approved by WSCB members during development day 2014. The cross agency audit will be distributed to members in July 2014

Impact for Children and Young People

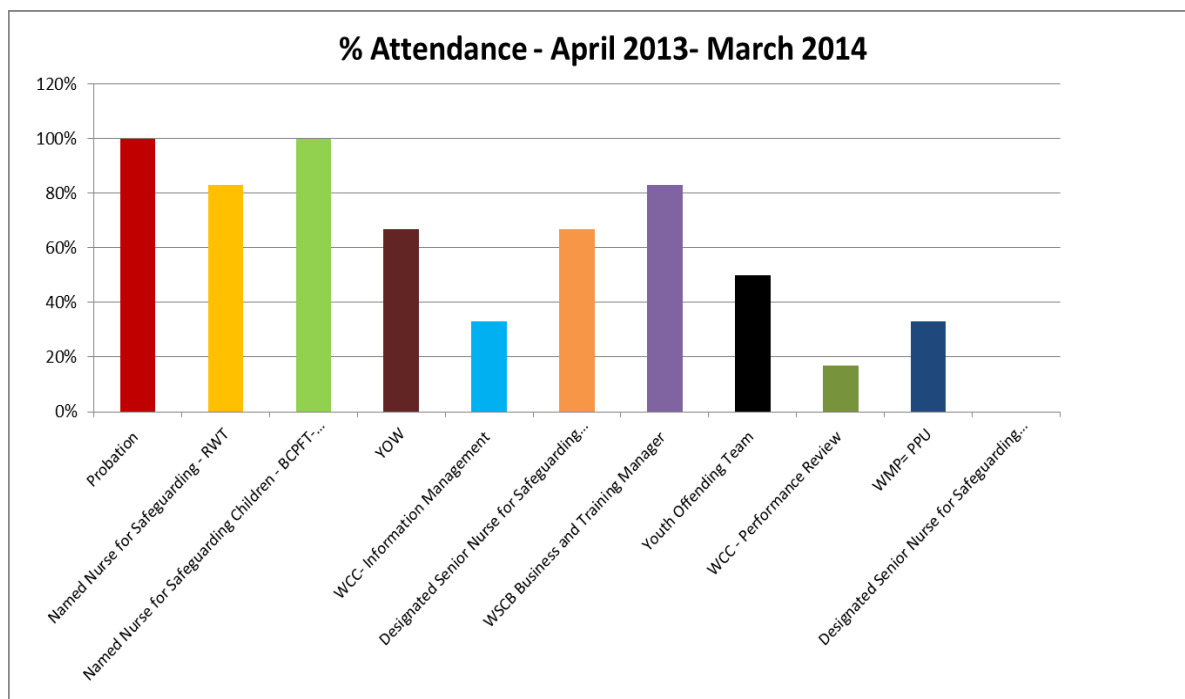
- ❖ Greater focus on missing children, reasons for them being missing and a focus on return interviews.
- ❖ Children with Child Protection Plans have an up-to-date plan and regular statutory visits are recorded and monitored.
- ❖ The need for improved understanding and information

gathering in respect of ensuring the child's voice is heard in all safeguarding work.

Looking forward brief overview of work anticipated for 2014/15

- ❖ To have a quarterly Multi-agency Case file audit. Themes to include: Children on the edge of Care, Teenage Suicide and Self-Harm, Missing children, Children at risk of child sexual exploitation, children and young people at risk of involvement in gangs and pre-birth assessments.
- ❖ To ensure that lessons learnt from Multi-agency case file audits, including good practice are disseminated and acted upon.
- ❖ To continue to scrutinise the Section 11 audit and monitor the safeguarding duties of all partners.

- ❖ To continue to provide appropriate challenge and be
- ❖ the critical friend to the board and its members.



Number of Meetings 6

Committee Title	Law, Policy & Procedure Committee
Chair	Dawn Williams
Agency	Wolverhampton City Council (WCC)
Agencies represented on Working Group	WCC Head of Safeguarding – Adult & Children Third Sector: Base 25 Service Manager Name Nurse for Safeguarding - RWT WCC Early Help 0 – 5 Provision Manager WSCB Business & Training Manager

Brief Terms of Reference

The Committee is a multi-agency forum which supports the statutory function of WSCB's role to develop policies and procedures to support safeguarding work, with this, the group manages and oversee the multi-agency Child Protection Policies and Procedures, undertake revisions as and when necessary and ensures that each respective partner member is consulted on any proposed changes / developments.

Within its core functions, the group reviews, amends and develops safeguarding procedures in response to lessons learned from Serious Case Reviews, it also monitors the publication and circulation of national, regional and local practice guidance to ensure knowledge is kept abreast of regulatory changes for best practice in relation to frontline delivery and performance, as well as local and national issues, changes in legislation and any gaps emerging from practice.

The Head of Safeguarding (Children & Adults) took over the chairing of this group from February 2013.

The group reviewed of the Boards Child Protection Procedures to ensure that the latest guidance and procedures were included; this resulted in successfully agreeing a work-plan, with some of the following results:

To achieve its purpose the committee will:

- ❖ Scrutinise each section of the existing Policy and Procedural website
- ❖ Review the threshold guidance to ensure it fits with the introduction and shift to early help.
- ❖ Ensure that policy and procedures exist to support the workforce to operate both appropriately and confidently with the business priorities of the board
- ❖ Liaised with all other committees and strategic groups to support in the development of local policy and procedures in line with their core business and activities.
- ❖ Connected with Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adults Board (WSAB) on areas of joint concerns where, including when policies reflect a 'whole' family agenda.
- ❖ Ensure the information produced by this committee it that which the workforce can rely upon, trust and be confident in applying, whilst it maintains a high standard.

PRIORITY	Objectives for 2013/14	Achievements for 2013/14
1	Review relevant policy and procedures in line with local and national influences; including the release of Working Together 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Produced/revised and the website practice guidance for the following: ✓ The changes from <i>Working Together 2013</i> was agreed, and the Procedures updated ✓ Supporting Children and Young People Vulnerable to Violent Extremism ✓ Cross Border Child Protection Cases under the 'Hague Convention' ✓ Safeguarding Children & Young People who may be affected by Gang activity ✓ There were agreed updates to the management of allegations, which involved working with the Local Authority Designated Officer.
1	Overhaul all current policies, identify priorities, revise, publish and promote updates in policy guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Wolverhampton Threshold policy ✓ Neglect – addendum ✓ Addition added to introduce ✓ 'New Operating Model (Early Help) information. ✓ Escalation Policy ✓ Hidden Harm Practice guidance ✓ Forced Marriage practice guidance.
1	Ensure the work of this committee is aligned with other committees and strategic groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Devise and disseminate a referral template for other committees and groups to utilise for referring any multi-agency policy/procedure for attention. ✓ Ratify multi-agency safeguarding policies devised by other committees and groups
	Identify where work should be pooled together to support a 'whole family agenda'.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Work with (WSAB) to ensure policies reflect family approach ✓ Consider where policies can operate across borders.

Impact for Children and Young People

- ❖ All revised local policies are constructed with children and young people at the centre of actions to be taken.
- ❖ Greater focus is on both seeing and hearing the child and

taking the child's view in to consideration. In this way, children will be more inclusive in decisions made for/about them which in turn should result in



improved outcome and impact.

Looking forward brief overview of work anticipated for 2014/15

- ❖ To continue to scrutinise and localise all WSCB 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.
- ❖ The ensure policy updates 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 is has set a work-plan with timescales to review key areas, some of which include: Children on the edge of Care, Teenage Suicide and Self-Harm, Missing children, Children at risk of child sexual exploitation, safeguarding practice and arrangement for Children with Disabilities and pre-birth assessments.

Committee Title	Serious Case Review Committee
Chair	Claire Thomas /Dawn Williams
Agency	Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
Agencies represented on Working Group	CCG Designated Dr; Safeguarding WCC Head of Safeguarding – Adult & Children Third Sector: YOW Project Coordinator Head of Service – CiN/CP WCC Head of Service - Early Help 0 – 5 Provision WSCB Business & Training Manager Senior Officer – Probation YOT – Head of Service BCPFT RWT

Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) - rationale

Working Together 2013 states that when a child dies (including death by suspected suicide), and abuse or neglect is known or suspected to be a factor in the death, then local organisations must consider whether there are any lessons to be learned about the ways in which they worked together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Additionally, LSCBs should always consider whether a SCR should be conducted whenever a child has been seriously harmed and the case gives rise to concerns about interagency working to protect children from harm.

Brief Terms of Reference

- To function within the framework set out in 'Working Together';
- To examine serious cases of child abuse, neglect or death where a formal Serious Case Review may be appropriate, with a view to commissioning such a review if the criteria are met;
- To undertake the management of any Serious Case Reviews that are commissioned according to the agreed protocol, and to scrutinise the quality of the content and recommendations of single agency reports;
- To organise or commission other forms of case or management review where the criteria for a Serious Case Review are not met, but where in the opinion of the Committee such a case review would have benefits;
- To review its own processes, practices and terms of reference, thereby ensuring continuous quality improvement;
- To provide assurance to the board, that recommendations arising from Serious Case Reviews have been actioned.
- To identify issues of policy, training or quality that will be passed on to the appropriate WSCB committee.

To achieve its purpose the committee will:

PRIORITY	Objectives for 2013/14	Achievements for 2013/14
2	To examine child abuse, neglect or death where a formal Serious Case Review may be appropriate. Commission reviews where the criteria are met	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Commissioned and published a single serious case review during this reporting year, ✓ Publicised the executive summary from a serious case review undertaken in the previous reporting year.
1	Keep the board informed and assured of all issues including the monitoring of recommendations /actions arising from Serious Case Reviews.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Extraordinary meeting of WSCB members held to inform on new information which delayed the timescale for publication. ✓ WSCB receive a written report from this committee on an annual basis. ✓ Recommendations made as a result of SCR's have been monitored by the SCR committee and the action plan which included all partner agencies has been signed off by the board.
2	Organise or commission other forms of case or management review where the criteria for a Serious Case Review are not met	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Undertook a SCIE review on a case that did not meet the threshold for a full review. ✓ 8 cases investigated by SCR committee during the reporting year including 2 SCR which met the criteria for a full review, 2 case reviews undertaken by YOT and a further 4 being investigated critiqued further through the committee. ✓
2	Review its own processes, practices and terms of reference, thereby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The committee had a full review and revised its terms of reference to ensure

	ensuring continuous quality improvement	<p>a clear focus is maintained</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Serious Case Review Toolkit developed September 2013 which includes overarching explanation of the SCR process and how to notify the SCR subgroup of a case for consideration, series of tools for administration of SCR's, including those for business unit, SCR committee, SCR panel, IMR authors, families and young people and staff. ✓ The SCR toolkit also includes a quality assurance module and audit tool and information around learning lessons.
2 /4	<p>Consider whether there are lessons to be learned about the ways in which partners worked together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.</p> <p>Ensure there a range of avenues used to share learning arising from SCR's, this should be applicable to the various cohort of audience including children and parents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Multiagency "SCR Lessons Learned" Training sessions arranged for 2013 and will continue in 2014 on a rolling schedule to ensure local and national lessons from SCR's are embedded in local practice ✓ Lessons learned papers developed for all below the threshold investigations to be disseminated to the work force by the members of the WSCB and included in SCR training ✓

Impact for Children and Young People

Learning from SCR's are used to shape and improve practice, 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.

A great deal of specific learning from locally commissioned SCR, together with the broader findings of research undertaken has been



shared through a series of presentations and workshops. The audiences have covered an extensive range of professional groups, senior leadership and management teams in a range of agencies and strategic partnerships

including the Safeguarding Adults Board.

Looking forward brief overview of work anticipated for 2014/15

There was a need to commission a SCR at the beginning of 2014. The board has required that in addition to the sharing the learning from this review, agencies will be tasked to demonstrate how the broader aspects of activities identified will be reflected up on within the agencies staff professional development. This area of work will be monitored jointly with the quality and performance committee.

This committee will also:

- ❖ Reinforce the messages of safeguarding being everybody's responsibility, by providing advice to parents/carers in regard to responding to safeguarding concerns which ultimately can contribute to the prevention of significant harm.
- ❖ 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 2014/15 and beyond.



Wolverhampton's Be-Safe Team

Brief Terms of Reference

- ❖ To establish a sustainable, fully representative Junior Safeguarding initiative for the City
- ❖ To provide opportunities for children and young people to engage with safeguarding related activities to increase awareness and understanding
- ❖ To provide opportunities for young people who have been subject to a Child Protection Order to contribute to discussion about the 'system' and influence the Board
- ❖ To ensure that safeguarding is included within a joined-up approach to the engagement and education of children and young people across the City

Objectives for 2013/14

- ❖ To re-launch Peer Zone to include new Crime, Anti-bullying and Safety teams.
- ❖ To consult with groups of young people to establish and brand and identity for a Junior Safeguarding Board (renamed as 'B-Safe Team') as the vehicle for engagement with wider groups of young people to raise awareness and understanding of safeguarding.
- ❖ To begin the process of establishing a standing group of B-Safe ambassadors, able to directly feed into WSCB and its activities.
- ❖ To raise awareness with voluntary sector partners, and the B-Safe initiative amongst the City's young people through social and other media.
- ❖ To pilot safeguarding related workshops in schools, PRUs, youth/community sectors, linked to existing peer mentoring and peer support training.

Achievements for 2013/14

- ❖ The new structure for Peer Zone to incorporate the Be-Safe Team was launched in October 2013. The event attracted 80 young people. A diary booth captured their thoughts on being safe, anti-bullying and other issues that affect them.
- ❖ Since the launch event, a group of young people have continued to meet with the Peer Support Coordinator at the Youth Café and have contributed to discussions around activities and a work plan for the B-Safe Team.
- ❖ During Anti-bullying week, in November 2013, two days of Anti-bullying conferences were held; one day for primary and one day for secondary and special schools. The invitation only conferences attracted over 170 young people and 40 staff. Conference workshops included Bullying, Crime and Gangs, Confidence and Resilience and activities

designed to establish data on the use of the internet by young people to develop a Cyber Safe strategy for the City.

- ❖ A video booth gave young people and staff an opportunity to discuss issues that concern the safety of young people.
- ❖ In March 2014, a 'B Safe' Event consisted of two half-day sessions, the morning for primary schools and the afternoon for secondary's, and included a number of practical workshops for the young people to engage in, including radio broadcasting, digital music, drama, graphic design and art. The workshops all focused around safeguarding themes including bullying, cyber-safety, crime, resilience and messages for adults about staying safe. 180 young people took part in the event.
- ❖ During the B-Safe Event, a graphic designer worked with groups of young people to design a brand for the B-Safe Team which was unveiled at

the WSCB development day in April, when a group of young people delivered a presentation based on their 'hopes and fears'.

- ❖ Delivery of peer mentoring and peer support training to 560 young people across the City now includes additional safeguarding-related content and has included some pilot activities which will lead to increased roll out during 2014/15.
- ❖ A specific safeguarding emphasis was given over to training delivered to pupils at the Orchard Centre, and some of the programmes delivered to community groups.
- ❖ Meetings has commenced with the Independent Review Officers to discuss a mechanism for accessing, consulting with, and recruiting young people who have or are the subject of a safeguarding intervention or support.

Evidence of the Voice/Contribution of Children and Young People

- ❖ The engagement and co-production with the City's young people is a key driver for the B-Safe initiative. Young people have named and branded the B-Safe Team and designed the logo and strap line. The direction of travel for the team has been consulted widely with schools and professionals.



Impact for Children and Young People

- ❖ Over 1,000 young people have been directly impacted by the B-Safe initiative, through the Peer Zone, B-Safe and Anti-bullying events and through the peer mentoring and peer support training. As well as

raising awareness of safeguarding issues, the events and activities had provided young people with opportunities to contribute to the direction of travel for the B-Safe team.

Looking forward brief overview of work anticipated for 2014/15

- ❖ To progress the establishment of B-Safe ambassadors, representative of Wolverhampton's young people, able to directly feed into the Safeguarding Board and its plans and activities.
- ❖ To calendar a number of events and activities to continue to raise awareness of safeguarding and the B-Safe initiative amongst the City's young people, including through social and other media.
- ❖ To continue to pilot safeguarding related workshops in schools, PRUs and the youth/community sectors, linked to existing peer

mentoring and peer support training, and school curriculum activities.

- ❖ To complete the production of a questionnaire for young people on or completing a child protection order, and with the Independent Reviewing Officers, target a group of young people who have been subject to a child protection order to secure their views and provide them with opportunities to inform the Safeguarding Board.
- ❖ Complete the collection, analysis and reporting of safeguarding-related evidence and report to the Board.



WSCB 2013 – 2014 Income & Expenditure

Income 2013/14		Expenditure 2013/14	
CCG	26,812	Staffing	99,127
West Midlands Police	14,775	Independent Chair	19,372
Probation Service	3,000	SCR's	3,809
CAFCASS	550	Training	30,061
Prospects Connexions	750	Website	5,551
Courses	660	Room Hire	2,230
Wolverhampton CC Contribution	126,723	Subscriptions	5,200
Partnership Fund Brought Forward from 2012/13	52,395	Refreshments	1,672
		Serious Case Review	14,689
		Travel & Parking	2,692
		Printing & Stationary	3,577
		Junior Safeguard Board	11,000
		Healthy Schools	1,000
		Hidden Harm Officer	24,395
		Practitioners Guide	1,000
		Other	290
	225,665		225,665
	15,550		

2014 – 2015

Income 2014/15		Expenditure 2014/15	
CCG	32,470	Staffing	109,210
West Midlands Police	14,770	Training	31,600
Probation Service	3,000	Hire of Facilities	2,000
CAFCASS	550	Car Allowance	2,160
Prospects Connexions	750	Refreshments	2,000
Wolverhampton CC Contribution	153,090	Printing & Stationary	4,640
		Computer Software	4,800
		Consultants	24,000
		Insurance	220
		Child Death Review	24,000
Total	204,630		204,630
Partnership Funding Brought Forward from 2013/14	15,550		

Member agency contribution:

Name	Dawn Williams
Position	Head of Service – Safeguarding Adult & Children
Agency	Wolverhampton City Council

Local Authority, including Child protection activity

Contacts and Referrals – At 31 March 2014:

- ❖ 7134 contacts were received.
- ❖ 3492 (49%) of contacts were closed no further action; or were signposted/referred to another organisation.
- ❖ 3642 (51%) of contacts resulted in referrals being opened.
- ❖ Approximately 68% of open referrals are converted to assessment (against a regional average of 71% and a national average of 75%).

Child Protection - At 31 March 2014:

- ❖ 2249 children had been identified through assessment as being formally in need of a specialist children's service. This is an increase from 1982 at March 2013.
- ❖ 236 children and young people were the subject of a Child Protection Plan. This is a decrease from 244 at 31 March 2013.
- ❖ 8 children lived in a privately arranged foster placement. This is decrease from 11 at 31 March 2013.

Children Looked After - At 31 March 2014:

- ❖ 769 children are being looked after by the Local Authority (a rate of 137 per 10,000 children). This is an increase from 661 (118 per 10,000 children) at 31 March 2013; equivalent to a 16.3% increase. It is acknowledged that these numbers are too high and this is being addressed through the Families r First Programme; which is discussed in detail later in this document.
- ❖ Approximately 55.3% of children live out of the authority area, with 84.3% of children placed within 20 miles of their home address.
- ❖ 57 (7.4%) live in residential children's homes, secure units or hostels, and 1 child lives in a residential special school.
- ❖ 598 (77.8%) live with foster families including friends and family placements, 53 children live with parents or persons with parental responsibility.
- ❖ 3 children are unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

- ❖ 122 (15.9%) of looked after children have a decision that they should be adopted; 89 had a placement order granted and with 33 (37%) of those children currently being placed with their adoptive parents.
- ❖ 14 (7%) children out of 201 school age children placed with the fostering service changed educational placement because of a foster placement change; as compared to 49 children (21.2%) out of 231 school age children in 2012/13.
 - In 2013/14:
- ❖ 224 children have ceased to be looked after.
- ❖ There have been 50 adoptions.
- ❖ 24 children became subject of Special Guardianship Orders and ceased to be looked after.
- ❖ 32 children and young people have moved on to independent living.
- ❖ 331 children became looked after; of whom 39 (11.8%) had been previously looked after.
- ❖ In the period 2013-14 Wolverhampton made 24.7 care applications per 10,000 children; significantly higher than the national figure of 9.2 care applications per 10,000 children. Wolverhampton has the highest rate of care applications nationally.

What were the agreed safeguarding objectives for 2013/14?	Achievements against the above Objectives :-
Families approach to safeguarding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of Head of Safeguarding for both adults and children has meant closer collaborative work with WSAB • There is also joint working with Adult Social Care, this has particularly strengthened relationships and improved areas of work including; undertaking household assessments • There has also been an much better relationship with addiction Services
Implementation of Munro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created Community Hub Social Work approach in CSC • Improved working with health partners and children social care across the board to improve early help offer to families of Wolverhampton • Creation of Single assessment to replace Initial/Core • Extended Social Development will refocus an outcomes for children
To continue to enhance number of timely adoptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wolverhampton success in adoption of siblings groups and BME placements, as a result the targeted approach, the number of adoptions has slowed due to this specialist focus
To reduce the number of LAC	2013/14 saw continuing increase in LAC due to National and local drivers. 2014/15 will see further drives to reduce numbers

Name	Lynne Fieldhouse on behalf of Jayne Hopewell Named Nurse
Position	Head of Safeguarding
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 receive an annual child safeguarding report.
- ❖ The Trust Board members receive an annual child safeguarding educational update
- ❖ A Quality Governance Assurance Group receives assurance reports quarterly.
- ❖ A Commissioning Quality Assurance Group receives assurance reports quarterly.
- ❖ The RWT Safeguarding Children's team comprise of a Senior Named Nurse, two Named Nurses, a Named Nurse for Domestic Abuse and a Named Nurse for Looked After Children. There is a named Doctor for RWT.
- ❖ The Trust's Joint Safeguarding Children Group [JSCG] exist to develop and monitor the safeguarding arrangements of the Trust with the aim of increasing awareness of safeguarding and implementing processes to ensure adherence with the safeguarding policies of the City and to reflect national legislative strategic direction. The group has an annual work schedule to monitor compliance to actions required by audit findings, peer reviews, CQC, NHSLA, OFSTED, DoH & Home Office standards, and priorities for the organisation agreed with the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Board.

What were the agreed safeguarding objectives for 2013/14?	Achievements against the above Objectives :-
Admission flagging system to be rolled out to other emergency admission or treatment centres	1. This has been delayed due to technical I.T. issues however 'Flagging' system of children on child protection plans continues to be utilised by the Emergency Department (ED) which ensures timely communication with social care. The Phoenix Walk in centre and all acute areas have access to this information on the Portal computer system and by September 2014 the System One computer system will be populated and utilised. The JSCG monitors the ED system and the progress of the Walk-in centre initiative.
2. To develop and implement a system[s] to consult with children and	2. The Policy for the 'Management of Deliberate Self-Harm in Young People' was authored in partnership with the local mental health Trust (BCPFT). It is now

<p>young people parents and carers about their needs and opinions in relation to safeguarding and act on those findings.</p>	<p>utilised by RWT staff and is available on the Trust's website. The validity and reliability of this policy will be determined by audit in July 2014. The pathway for referral to community school nurses and CAMHS is clearly identified utilising the Health Visitor Liaison service which is based in ED. Discharge planning meetings are convened when there has been intentional self-harm and a discharge check list is available to ward staff to ensure a comprehensive assessment is completed before discharge home. The implementation of this policy and audit will be monitored by the JSCG</p>
<p>3. To act on any CQC and serious case reviews action plans</p>	<p>3. Young people's experience of their health assessment was determined by a questionnaire that was distributed to young people aged from 5-18 years. The format of the questions was young people focused and a 40% (47 young people) return rate was ascertained. 38% of the children surveyed said that the experience of having a health medical was excellent, followed closely by a further 23% who said it had been a 'very good' experience. A further 5% said that it was 'ok'. The medicals were completed by a wide range of RWT staff including School Nurses, the LAC Nurse, Advanced Nurse Practitioners and Paediatricians and took place in a variety of settings including The Gem Centre and School premises.</p>
	<p>4. Action plans from reviews are actively monitored via JSCC.</p>

Improvement Plans where barriers have existed.

- ❖ Work undertaken to minimise IT technical issues for multi-site working.
- ❖ Safeguarding Training is monitored monthly by the Trust training team. The current levels are as follows:
 - ✓ Safeguarding Children Level 1 - eligible 6431, trained 6292 = 97.8%
 - ✓ Safeguarding Children Level 2 – eligible 3066, trained 2717 = 88.6%
- ✓ Safeguarding Children Level 3 - eligible 751, trained 639 = 85.1%
- ❖ Level 1 and 2 percentage of uptake has improved significantly from last year's figures,
 - ❖ Level 3 training is currently delivered as part of the RWT training program but in the future the Level 3 training provided by the Safeguarding

Board multi-agency training resource.

- ❖ The commitments of ward staff and the need for 24 hour health services make training a complex issue. Safeguarding Children Training is delivered flexibly to ensure that ward areas have access to all levels of training. The E-Learning Level 1 package reflects the Working Together to Safeguard Children (2013) guidance and is interactive.
- ❖ Health Visiting teams are now based in Children's Centres
- ❖ which ensures the opportunity for enhanced communication with local authority colleagues. This will ultimately lead to an enhanced seamless service for children and their parents. Regular Early Intervention meetings are convened to ensure that information is shared.
- ❖ In January 2014 a Health / Social care event was held at The Medical Institute New Cross Hospital. Staff from the acute hospital: children's, ED and maternity services met with social workers for a case study discussion which increased understanding of roles between both groups. This event was valued by both groups of staff and will enhance perceptions, understanding and respect of each other professions roles.



Name	Fay Baillie
Position	Director of Nursing and Quality
Agency	NHS England, Birmingham, Solihull and The Black Country Area Team

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

The NHS England guidance Safeguarding Vulnerable People in the Reformed NHS: Assurance and Accountability Framework was published in March 2013. This framework clearly sets out the responsibilities of each of the health partners for safeguarding in the future NHS. It articulates how the performance of the wider NHS with respect to the duties and priorities defined elsewhere will be assured. The framework aims to:

- Promote partnership working to safeguard children, young people and adults at risk of abuse, at both strategic and operational levels
- Clarify NHS roles and responsibilities for safeguarding, including in relation to education and training
- Provide a shared understanding of how the new system will operate and, in particular, how it will be held to account both locally and nationally
- Ensure professional leadership and expertise are retained in the NHS, including the continuing key role of designated and named professionals for safeguarding children
- Outline a series of principles and ways of working that are equally applicable to the safeguarding of children and young people and of adults in vulnerable situations, recognising that safeguarding is everybody's business.

NHS England, as a single organisation, has developed a national Safeguarding Policy – formal sign off is anticipated by 16 July 2014.

NHS England, via its area teams, is responsible for the co-coordinating and funding of safeguarding training for GPs and potentially other primary care professionals.

Local Arrangements for NHS England membership of Safeguarding Boards has been agreed with Safeguarding Board Chairs; this reflects the approach suggested in correspondence between CQC and the Chief Nursing Officer.

What were the agreed safeguarding objectives for 2013/14?

The Mandate from the Government to the NHS England for the period April 2013 to March 2015 (published in November 2012) set NHS England a specific objective of continuing to improve safeguarding practice in the NHS. Both CCGs and NHS England are statutorily responsible for ensuring that the organisations from which they commission services provide a safe system that safeguards children and adults at risk of abuse or neglect.

Although the structure of the NHS has changed, it remains the responsibility of every NHS funded organisation and healthcare professional to ensure that people in vulnerable circumstances are not only safe but also receive the highest possible standard of care.

Both CCGs and the NHS England have a statutory duty to be members of Local Safeguarding Children Boards and are expected to be fully engaged with local Safeguarding Adults Boards working in partnership with local authorities to fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities.

During 2013-14 it was established that NHS England, via its area teams, is responsible for the co-coordinating and funding of safeguarding training for GPs and potentially other primary care professionals.

Achievements against the above Objectives :-

The Birmingham, Solihull and The Black Country Area Team has established a Joint Safeguarding Forum. A key focus of the forum is to explore opportunities for commissioners to share resources across CCGs to develop consistency of specification in contracts and consistency in training. The membership of the Area Team joint safeguarding forum includes leads for safeguarding children and adults, domestic violence and Prevent. This system level approach is designed to promote a 'think family' and collaborative system level perspective to shared learning and improvement.

The CQC and NHS England Chief Nursing Officer have agreed that Area Teams should agree with their Safeguarding Board Chairs the best way for the Area Teams to establish and maintain an effective connection with respective Safeguarding Boards. For the Birmingham, Solihull and the Black Country, the Area Team Director of Nursing has agreed with Safeguarding Board Chairs a system of delegated responsibility to provide effective assurance of safeguarding and attendance at all twelve local Safeguarding Children and Safeguarding Adults Boards. As part of this arrangement Fay Baillie, Director of Nursing and Quality is a member of the Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Walsall Safeguarding Children and Safeguarding Adult Boards.

It has been noted through the Birmingham, Solihull and the Black Country Area Team Safeguarding Forum that there is wide variation in the delivery of safeguarding training across the area. The intention is to maximise the impact of limited resources through stream lining training with a view to delivering levels 1 -3 safeguarding children training through e-learning with a focus on scenario based learning to enhance this from level 3 onwards. A task and finish group to take this forward was

established at the June meeting of the Area Team Safeguarding Forum; this group includes membership from all CCGs.

The Child Protection – Information Sharing (CP-IS) project is gathering momentum; CP-IS is an NHS England sponsored work programme dedicated to developing an information sharing solution that will deliver a higher level of protection to children who visit NHS unscheduled care settings. All Safeguarding Children Board Chairs have been asked to support and encourage local health and social care partners to engage with this important work programme. By connecting local authorities' child protection social care IT systems with those used by staff in NHS unscheduled care settings, CP-IS will enable local authorities to share child protection information with the NHS. This will improve the safeguarding of children subject to a Child Protection Plan (including unborn babies) as well as children supported through looked after services. Health and social care teams responsible for the treatment and care of these groups of children will benefit from access to better supporting information; this is designed to ultimately lead to improved interventions and to prevent the on-going abuse or neglect of a child.

NHS England has procured an Executive Safeguarding Leaders Programme and a Designated Professionals Programme. Publication of the programmes is anticipated shortly.

The NHS England National Safeguarding Steering Group has established sub-groups to progress and lead on national priorities across NHS England. The Child Sexual Exploitation sub-group held its initial meeting on 03 June 2014. It is made up of representatives from across CCGs; providers and NHS England area teams. The group is tasked with reviewing and implementing the relevant recommendations contained within the DH Child Sexual Exploitation report.

A National NHS National England Looked After Children (LAC) and missing families subgroup has also been established.

The Royal Colleges have signed off a set of competencies to ensure the NHS fulfils its responsibilities in tackling Female Genital Mutilation in the UK. The report has been presented at the National Steering Group in February 2014, and a sub-group will be established in the near future.

A national analysis of named GP capacity has been undertaken by NHS England centrally, and the findings were presented to the NHS England Executive Management Team in January 2014. A decision was made for Area Teams to fund the function of a Named GP.

The Safeguarding Vulnerable People in the Reformed NHS: Assurance and Accountability Framework (2013) acknowledges the critical role performed by the Named GP in local leadership and early family engagement. It recommends that all Clinical Commissioning Groups within England secure the services of a Named GP at a minimum of 2 sessions per 220,000 population. Where these areas include higher levels of deprivation, significant geographical challenge and a great number of

local providers, CCGs have been encouraged to consider whether additional capacity is required to effectively manage these additional complexities.

Within Birmingham, Solihull and the Black Country, it has been agreed that named GPs will be employed by CCGs and funded by NHS England. A model job description has been endorsed centrally, has been adopted locally and is in the process of being implemented across CCGs.

It is acknowledged that in some areas across the country, recruitment of named GPs has been difficult. A model job description for a named professional has, therefore, been developed where a skill-mixed approach to managing the named GP role is considered to be more deliverable, sustainable and effective. The current named capacity for each CCG has also been established and CCGs asked to review this and identify local approaches to addressing any shortfall.

The Area Team has established a Quality Surveillance group for health services across Birmingham, Solihull and The Black Country. The Quality Surveillance Group acts as a virtual team across the health and care economy, bringing together organisations and their respective information and intelligence gathered through performance management, commissioning and regulatory activities, to identify potential and actual quality problems at an early stage. Information and intelligence about safeguarding is an integral part of this. In addition to the QSG, the Area Team has established a Quality and Safety group where CCGs and Area Team Commissioners routinely share a wide range of

Improvement Plans where barriers have existed.

It is acknowledged that during the process of the new NHS organisations taking on their statutory duties from April 2013, detailed operational systems and recruitment of some key staff have taken time to be embedded locally, regionally and nationally. During this period of transition it has been critical for all staff to remain vigilant and raise any concerns regarding risks appropriately.

Although the NHS is changing, it remains the responsibility of every NHS funded organisation and healthcare professional to ensure that people in vulnerable circumstances are not only safe but also receive the highest possible standard of care. Clarifying the roles and relationships of NHS provider and commissioning organisations has been a key priority for our work with Safeguarding Boards.

Impact for Children, Young People and Families

The Child Protection – Information Sharing (CP-IS) project is designed to ultimately lead to improved interventions and to prevent the on-going abuse or neglect of a child.

The membership of the Area Team joint safeguarding forum includes leads for safeguarding children and adults, domestic violence and Prevent. This system level approach is designed to promote a 'think family' and collaborative system level perspective to shared learning and improvement.

Named GPs take a professional lead to support General Practice (including Unscheduled Care services and Out of Hours Services), to meet their responsibilities

to safeguard children. Named GPs work closely with the Designated Safeguarding Professionals and the strategic leads for safeguarding children across the area they serve.

In relation to safeguarding children, what are your priorities/objectives for 2014/15

The refreshed NHS England mandate for 2014 - 15 was published in November 2013; and sets out specific priorities for Safeguarding as follows:

- Safeguarding
- Looked after Children
- Adoption
- Full participation in local safeguarding arrangements
- Children and young peoples' views of services
- Working in partnership for children with disabilities and special educational needs.
- Care planning and personalised budgets.
- Community safety
- Immediate Access to Psychological Therapies

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

The Birmingham, Solihull and The Black Country Area Team of NHS England has established, in agreement with Safeguarding Board Chairs how it will deliver its responsibility for membership of Safeguarding Boards. In support of delivery against the NHS England specific objective of continuing to improve safeguarding practice in the NHS, the Area Team has established a Local Joint Safeguarding Forum. The membership of the Area Team joint safeguarding forum includes leads for safeguarding children and adults, domestic violence and Prevent. This system level approach is designed to promote a 'think family' and collaborative system level perspective to shared learning and improvement.

The Area Team is represented on the NHS England National Safeguarding Steering Group and will continue to ensure that the priorities, risks and initiatives discussed around agreed through this group inform and respond to local priorities and risks.

Name	Jamie Ann Edwards
Position	Head of Probation NPS – Walsall & Wolverhampton
Agency	National Probation Service (formerly SWMPT)

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

SWMPT has been an active member of the WSCB. Both strategically and operationally there is a presence at local safeguarding forums.

SWM has a commitment to ensuring that all staff work to keep children safe, make assessments around risk of harm to children and work with families and partners in the City to ensure communication about and for families is effective and timely.

What were the agreed safeguarding objectives for 2013/14?

- Local Management team are confident that all staff are familiar with the agency safeguarding policy and how this links with local authority processes. That all staff know HOW to refer when needed.
- Local management are confident that safeguarding training is available for all operational staff.
- Local systems are in place for making referrals and checks to the police where there is evidence of domestic abuse and there are children in the household.

In relation to safeguarding children, what are your priorities/objectives for 2014/15

To ensure a continuing focus on the delivery of excellent practice to achieve our core objectives - protection of the public, reductions in reoffending and rehabilitation of offenders.

- To continue to deliver 'Green' Performance against all Service levels To continue to ensure the protection of the public through defensible decision-making in the assessment and management of risk.
- To continue to work to reduce crime and improve re-offending rates in LDUs
- To continue to develop and embed Effective Practice across the Trust/CRC, including placing the delivery of interventions at the heart of offender supervision
- To continue to work with strategic partners at a Trust (CRC) and District/County level to reduce crime and improve public confidence in the criminal justice system
- To ensure initial risk assessments pre- and post-sentence are accurate and appropriate
- To improve the quality of risk management plans and their implementation in the conduct of supervision
- To improve the quality of inter-agency work in Child Safeguarding

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

Local management sit on both the Board and Serious Case Review Committee regularly throughout the year. The previous Head of Probation for SWM Trust Chaired the Quality and Assurance Committee.



Name	Stephen Dodd
Position	Co-ordinator
Agency	Youth Organisations Wolverhampton

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

YOW prioritises a role for its Co-ordinator around children's safeguarding by providing a lead on safeguarding for the voluntary and community sector in the city. This has been demonstrated by: regular attendance at and contribution to WSCB board meetings; chairing the Communication and Engagement Committee; active involvement in developing and 'Learning from Serious Case Review' training; and active participation in the following committees: Quality and Performance, Learning and Development, Law Policy and Procedures, Serious Case Review.

YOW also provides safeguarding training for voluntary and community groups; informs the VCS about safeguarding developments and promotes messages from WSCB; and represents views from the sector in safeguarding decision-making forums.

What were the agreed safeguarding objectives for 2013/14?

1. Lead on communication and engagement for WSCB
 - a) Make links with, and provide support to, a wider range of faith groups
 - b) Develop VCS safeguarding forum
 - c) Develop broader involvement of VCOs in safeguarding
2. Continue to promote Safe Network Standards and support VCOs to work towards them
3. Provide safeguarding information across the VCS
 - a) DBS briefing events
 - b) Regular safeguarding updates
 - c) VCO responsibilities under Working Together 2013

Achievements against the above Objectives :-

- 1. Lead on communication and engagement for WSCB**
 - See Communication & Engagement Committee report
- 2. Make links with, and provide support to, a wider range of faith groups**
 - Safeguarding in Faith event held on 20th April 2013 attended by representatives of 13 different faith groups although only 2 different faiths (Christian and Hindu)
 - Links initiated with Wolverhampton Interfaith and Regeneration Network
- 3. Develop VCS safeguarding forum**
 - No progress on this to date, although there is interest from YOW member

groups to progress this in 2014-15.

4. Develop broader involvement of VCOs in safeguarding

- Work on links with Faith Groups and around Safe Network Standards has broadened engagement with safeguarding agenda
- New reps on WSCB committees from voluntary sector

5. Continue to promote Safe Network Standards and support VCOs to work towards them

- Promoted at Safeguarding In Faith, and DBS briefing events. At latter, 43% said they would definitely use the Safe Network Standards to support their work around safeguarding
- Development of template for Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures and training session to promote this
- One-to-one work with a number of groups including: training around e-safety; introduction to safeguarding; and revising safeguarding policy and procedures
- Continued contact with regional Safe Network forum

6. Provide safeguarding information across the VCS

a) DBS briefing events

- 5th and 6th November 2013 to 43 participants. Information shared to all YOW members and wider VCS

b) Regular safeguarding updates

- Monthly updates from June 2013

c) VCO responsibilities under Working Together 2013

- Circulation of Working Together 2013
- Reference to Working Together in all training delivered to the VCS
- Updates on, and links to Ofsted Inspection of safeguarding

Improvement Plans where barriers have existed

Capacity has been the main barrier, improvement plan is to:

- prioritise the development of VCS Safeguarding Forum from Oct 2014
- Use links with WIFRN to begin to establish links with individual Faith groups

Impact for Children, Young People and Families

- No evidence of direct positive impact for children, young people and families
- However, voluntary and community organisations are better informed, more confident in their safeguarding roles and responsibilities, better able to provide a safe environment for their work with children and young people.

In relation to safeguarding children, what are your priorities/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

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

YOW has brought a breadth of perspective to the Board and Committee discussions. This from the perspective that safeguarding is an important element of the work of voluntary and community organisations (not the focus for their work). The Co-ordinator has also played an active role in all committees he is a member of.

The effectiveness of this contribution can be measured by: the measurements from the 'Learning from Serious Case Reviews' training; the quality of the policies and procedures contributed to; the increased engagement of VCOs with safeguarding agenda; and improved policies and procedures within VCOs.



Name	Rosemary Robbins
Position	Operations Manager
Agency	Prospects Services [Connexions]

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

Prospects Corporate safeguarding Management group meets quarterly to review safeguarding practice and policy. Chaired by Managing Director and attended by non-executive Director of Prospects main board. The company have also contracted with a Senior Consultant from the NSPCC appointed to provide support and act as a critical friend on the organisations work on

Locally the Operations Manager sits on the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board and attends the SEMT strategic group with a team leader attending the SEMT operational group.

Staff locally attend a range of Safeguarding training events and courses.

We are committed to engaging with audits and serious case reviews.

What were the agreed safeguarding objectives for 2013/14?

- Ensure safeguarding continues to be a priority focus in all work with young people and respond effectively to any disclosures and concerns.
- Ensure all cases and concerns are regularly reviewed with staff members in supervision and that good practice is disseminated.
- Ensure that appropriate links are established with the new Social Care Operating Model in particular for young adolescents
- Ensure that the delivery of the Connexions early intervention service delivery model, using the RONI tool, embraces safeguarding as a central theme.
- Ensure that safeguarding is central to our developing work with Families in Focus and to address issues/concerns through supervision and internal training as appropriate.
- Ensure that our PAs, working with young people in Transition who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities, are clear about their safeguarding responsibilities and the role they play in ensuring the best interests of their clients..
- Revision of all corporate documentation to reflect latest guidance on vetting and barring requirement and update service from the DBS – September 2013
- Development of corporate risk management processes to manage high risk clients/customers – always in conjunction with local partners – by Spring 2014
- Development of corporate safe recruitment e learning and training opportunities – Spring 2014
- Launch of new corporate site to track referrals – by December 2013

Achievements against the above Objectives :-

- Policy on DBS launched and supplemented by a programme of road shows for managers across the company delivered by Head of Quality and Corporate HR Business Partner
- Related documents and forms all revised
- On-going monitoring of DBS checks and rechecks with report to the Prospects Safeguarding Management Board
- New systems to monitor corporate referrals launched Jan – March 2014. Trial has led to modification and new approach in 2014/2015
- Attendance at local briefing sessions on the new Operating Model and service delivery model has been developed to reflect changing local structures.
- RONI tool has been embedded and safeguarding issues raised where appropriate
- Extensive work has been undertaken with Families in Focus work and case workers have been made aware through training and supervision of the wider safeguarding issues in working with the whole family.
- Staff attended the Meeting Family Need conference in February 2014, Threshold training, Adolescents training and Subs and alcohol support and risk training.
- Person Centre planning has been embedded within the work carried out with young people who have SEN. Issues raised and discussed through supervision as appropriate.
- Operations Manager attended the LSCB development day and attended 60% of the Safeguarding board meetings.

Improvement Plans where barriers have existed.

All staff have been prepared for the introduction of the new Early Help assessment. Targets have been agreed to support this.

All staff have been involved in a service review to raise awareness of the “Family” and the need to be taking a holistic approach to family issues and concerns in particular any safeguarding concerns.

Impact for Children, Young People and Families

Personal Advisers are better able to deal with family issues and concerns and to make appropriate referrals.

In relation to safeguarding children, what are your priorities/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.

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

The Operations Manager attended 60% of the Safeguarding Board meetings in 2013/14 and 66% of the strategic SEMT meetings.

Prospects continues to support the local safeguarding board and to ensure that local strategies and policies and procedures are embedded within the locally delivered service.



Name	Andrea Dill-Russell
Position	Director of Student Services
Agency	City of Wolverhampton College
<p>How does your agency demonstrate its commitment to safeguarding children and the work of the Board?</p> <p>The College is highly committed to safeguarding children and the work of the Board, it has taken huge strides this year in order to develop processes and engage key stakeholders both internally and externally. The College can demonstrate its commitment through the work it has undertaken to have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Safeguarding policy in place for reporting concerns, suspicions and allegations • A dedicated safeguarding team at the college with a presence on all three campuses • Named senior designated safeguarding person • Named safeguarding Governor • Termly reports and monitoring at Executive Management Team (EMT) meetings • Safer recruitment and selection process in place • Revised DBS policy and procedure • Single central register in place • Safeguarding training for all staff • Safeguarding linked to personal appraisal • Close working relationships with statutory and voluntary organisations that support children, young people and adults at risk (i.e. Social Services, Police, YOT and LAC) 	
<p>What were the agreed safeguarding objectives for 2013/14?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review all policies and procedures within the College in order to ensure they are fit for purpose • Restructure the safeguarding team to ensure flexibility and delivery on all college campuses • Revise and implement Human Resources policies on safer recruitment • Deliver 11 safer recruitment training sessions • Update DBS policies and procedures for whole college • Provide online training material for all teachers in order to embed safeguarding in tutorial/stretch and challenge activities • Review protocols with Youth Offending Team (YOT) • Review protocols with Looked After Children's Team (LAC) • Update marketing material to ensure whole college approach to safeguarding 	

Achievements against the above Objectives :-

- Safeguarding policies and procedures reviewed, completed and due to go to Governors 7th July for Resource Committee
- Increased referrals to the Safeguarding Team following a revised referral process and awareness training
- Safeguarding Awareness training to all staff will be completed by July 2014
- Bespoke training developed and implemented for specialised central teams (Additional Learning Support, Advice and Guidance and Attendance Monitors)
- Safer recruitment training is in progress (4 of the 11 completed)
- YOT protocols are now in place, we have received written positive feedback on our new processes
- LAC protocols are now in place
- New marketing materials have been developed and are in use

Improvement Plans where barriers have existed.

The College undertakes an annual self-assessment process. Areas for improvement are integrated into an improvement plan (QIP). The QIP is monitored and evaluated termly.

Impact for Children, Young People and Families

Students, parent and carers have a named person (Safeguarding Officer) in College who they can contact for support and advice. Safeguarding Officers attend and support students in external agency meetings and/or reviews (i.e. Child in Need, PEP or housing). An improved referral service has seen an increase in referrals to the team; this is due to a more effective process and awareness of all staff.

In relation to safeguarding children, what are your priorities/objectives for 2014/15

Development of bespoke training for the remainder of cross college and curriculum teams for September 2014, matching cross college and curriculum specialism's to safeguarding requirements

- Safer recruitment training to be completed
- All new staff to receive Safeguarding Awareness training as part of induction
- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of policies and procedures
- Monitoring the impact of the new Safeguarding Team.

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

City of Wolverhampton College acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard the welfare of students and staff and is fully committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities and government guidance.

The Director of Student Services has been a Board member since September 2013.

The college now has named representatives on all Boards within the City; information from the Boards is triangulated by the Safeguarding Management team within the College to inform our strategic planning. The Director of Student Services is an active

member of two sub committees;

Learning and Development Committee – worked on the audit of training delivered within the City over the last twelve months, supported the identification of outcomes of the training and areas for development for future training. I have attended all but one of the meetings and provide knowledge of training; delivery and evaluation.

Joint Communication and Engagement Committee –recently invited to attend, attended first meeting and agreed to develop a new marketing logo for the joint boards website, marketing support from within the college (to be in attendance at the next meeting) to develop a campaign for the launch of the website.

ENGAGING WITH THE PUBLIC 'SAFEGUARDING WEEK 2013'



Name	Michaela Kerr
Position	Detective Chief Inspector: Public Protection Unit (PPU)
Agency	West Midlands Police
<p>How does your agency demonstrate its commitment to safeguarding children and the work of the Board?</p> <p>Dedicated Senior Officer lead for Safeguarding Children identified (Assistant Chief Constable) with senior operational lead (Detective Superintendent)</p> <p>Delivery Plan developed for Child Safeguarding across West Midlands Police (WMP). (Voice of the Child being key consideration in every aspect of agreed plan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WMP Child Abuse Investigation policy reviewed in line with Working Together • Recent restructure of WMP PPU and investigative functions (STT project, delivered June 2014) included additional resources being allocated to child investigation teams based at Wolverhampton (including additional supervisor) • Problem Profile delivered across all local authorities identifying Child Sexual Exploitation threats, risks and issues • Dedicated staff member allocated to support and attend joint screening meetings across all Local Authorities (including Wolverhampton) • Dedicated 'vulnerabilities' team created including Female Genital Mutilation, Forced Marriage and CSE experts • Internal audit completed in April 2014 of a wide range of child matters: including non – crime reports, Domestic Abuse incidents where children were present, on – line offences against children, sexual offences against children assessment criteria based on 'voice of the child' and 'working together' document • Dedicated member of the West Midlands Police (WMP) Senior Leadership team attends Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board • Local Senior officer for child protection at Wolverhampton chairs Wolverhampton CSE steering group • Detective Inspector from Wolverhampton Child Abuse Team chairs monthly CSE operational group • WMP have invested in and delivered Regional CSE pathways work • Daily Management meetings held within both the PPU and Local Policing Command Unit where incidents (crimes and non-crimes) involving children are reviewed, discussed and actions agreed • Central Referral Unit created to receive, assess and support all referrals regarding children at risk daily, conduct immediate review of risk, commence strategy discussions and refer to operational investigators within the PPU based at Wolverhampton for necessary strategy meetings and joint visits • Monthly Tactical Tasking meeting for PPU includes data regarding offences against children, perpetrators of harm against children and intelligence concerning children at risk. • New role of Police Staff Case Conference Attendee created, 2 full time staff based at Wolverhampton and dedicated to attending all case conferences 	

- Regular review of training needs of police officers and staff engaged in **Child** safeguarding
- Lessons learnt from DHR and SCRs captured and cascaded to ensure improved future practices in safeguarding families

Improvement Plans where barriers have existed.

- Specific improvement plan generated regarding CSE (regional task and finish group set up)
- Barriers regarding resourcing numbers allocated to safeguarding roles addressed via STT project (including new posts created for professional case conference attendees)

Impact for Children, Young People and Families

- 'Voice of Child' priority consideration leading to better understanding of needs of individual children and impact on them and their families in both single and joint agency response / decision making
- Improved processes for identifying CSE, supporting victims and bringing offenders to justice (including increased number of referrals for CSE)
- Increased sharing of information regarding children / young people at risk leading to more appropriate, comprehensive , timely and effective plans to reduce harm and support families
- Better support for children, young people and families throughout criminal justice process (from report to court)
- Improved understanding, processes and pathways around most vulnerable child/ young person victims (especially around DA, CSE, FGM, Forced Marriage)

In relation to safeguarding children, what are your priorities/objectives for 2014/15

- WMP are currently completing a strategic assessment document which will identify force priorities and specific objectives around safeguarding children. Pending the outcomes of this assessment process, the delivery plan attached details our current priorities and objectives.

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

WMP is a key contributor to the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children board as detailed above. Not only does the organisation provide the chair for the CSE committee and for the CSE Operational group, the PPU Chief Inspector based at Wolverhampton also leads on priority area 3 (Safeguards for particularly vulnerable children and young people).

The WMP representation on the LSCB has changed over the last 12 months and it is recognised that consistency is an issue which the organisation needs to address: not just in ensuring a thorough understanding of the board's priorities but also in building effective relationships with other members and delivering the board's objectives.

The CSE agenda has been heavily influenced by the regional work, in which WMP has been a key contributor. The regional pathways agreed have been reviewed for Wolverhampton and we have changed practice locally to reflect those standards

The CSE delivery plan for Wolverhampton is being amended to reflect the regional delivery plan, this work is still in progress and a priority for the next year will be to ensure that this delivery plan translates into effective action in Wolverhampton.

ENGAGING WITH THE PUBLIC 'SAFEGUARDING WEEK 2013'



Name	Sally Nash
Position	Head of Service
Agency	Youth Offending Team
How does your agency demonstrate its commitment to safeguarding children and the work of the Board? <p>Safeguarding is a key requirement of YJB practice and integral to all our work. All service users are assessed in relation to risk including public protection, offending, safeguarding and vulnerability and their intervention plans reflect this assessment.</p> <p>The YOT is strongly committed to the work of the board attending WSCB and various sub groups.</p>	
What were the agreed safeguarding objectives for 2013/14? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing first time entrants to the YJ system(FTE) • Reducing reoffending • Reducing custody • Reducing remand episodes • Increasing educational engagement 	
Achievements against the above Objectives :- <p>The YOT continues to perform at a high level in respect of the three national indicators of FTE, reoffending, and use of custody.</p> <p>There is continued work to mitigate the need for remand outcomes and the lack of suitable accommodation/placements remains a key feature</p> <p>Educational engagement for young offenders remains stubbornly low in Wolverhampton, and these issues are on the WSCB agenda</p>	
Improvement Plans where barriers have existed. <p>The YOT has an ETE improvement plan which is regularly reported into the Management Board</p>	
Impact for Children, Young People and Families <p>CYP in Wolverhampton benefit from a very strong 'Intensive Surveillance and Supervision' programme (ISS) which provides a robust alternative to custody and is heavily utilised by the courts.</p> <p>The engagement of children in meaningful education is a significant safeguarding challenge as it is their key point of universal engagement, and those who are not engaged/attending are vulnerable to a variety of risks during core school hours.</p>	

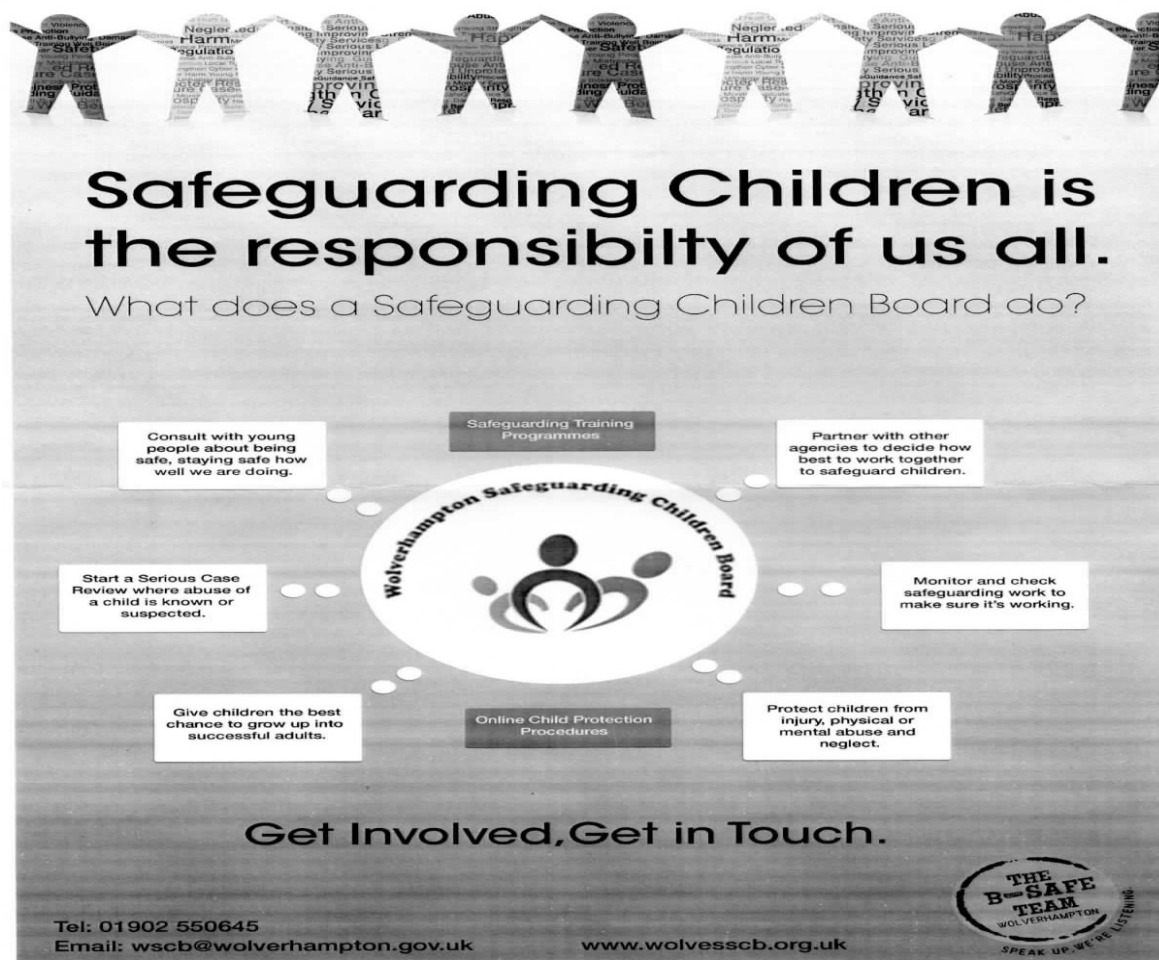
In relation to safeguarding children, what are your priorities/objectives for 2014/15

- FTE
- Custody
- Reoffending
- Remand rates
- ETE engagement
- CSE issues – we are aware of an increasing number of young (particularly) women who are being exploited
- Gangs
- The 'Prevent' agenda

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

The YOT is a reliable attender and fulfils its obligations at WSCB. Q & P , SEMT

We have a current section 11 audit and action plan



Safeguarding Children is the responsibility of us all.

What does a Safeguarding Children Board do?

- Consult with young people about being safe, staying safe how well we are doing.
- Safeguarding Training Programmes
- Partner with other agencies to decide how best to work together to safeguard children.
- Monitor and check safeguarding work to make sure it's working.
- Protect children from injury, physical or mental abuse and neglect.
- Online Child Protection Procedures
- Give children the best chance to grow up into successful adults.
- Start a Serious Case Review where abuse of a child is known or suspected.

Get Involved, Get in Touch.

Tel: 01902 550645
Email: wscb@wolverhampton.gov.uk
www.wolvesscb.org.uk

THE B-SAFE TEAM
WOLVERHAMPTON
SPEAK UP, WE'RE LISTENING

Name	Heidi Crampton
Position	Service Manager
Agency	CAFCASS A12
<p>How does your agency demonstrate its commitment to safeguarding children and the work of the Board?</p> <p>Specific to the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board, a designated service manager sits on the board and makes an active contribution in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair of the Quality and Performance Committee from 16th May 2014. I have updated the terms of reference, set dates and themes for multi-agency case file audits, the committee is developing a bespoke set of standards against the regional key performance indicators and I have participated in the latest MACFA. • Attendance at and contribution to SEMT. • Cafcass has escalated a number of children via the Chair to ensure that lessons are learnt. • I provided a report to the Board to clarify Cafcass' safeguarding role and bring to the Board's attention any difficulties Cafcass' experience in fulfilling its safeguarding role. • Learning from MACFA and SCRs are disseminated to all staff. • Cafcass' has offered staff to assist in facilitating LSCB training. • All Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board training is cascaded and I am aware that representatives of Cafcass attend. 	
<p>What were the agreed safeguarding objectives for 2013/14?</p> <p>Cafcass is a non-departmental public body, sponsored as of April 2014 by the Ministry of Justice. Its <u>principal functions are to safeguard and promote the welfare of children</u> who are subject to family proceedings, and to provide advice to the family courts. It employs about 1870 staff, over 90% of whom are frontline.</p> <p>In 13/14 a total of 9,680 care applications (public law) were received, which is a decrease of 12% compared with the number received in 12/13. Similarly there has also been a decrease in private law cases where a total of 42,888 applications were received in 2013/14 - a 7% decrease compared to 12/13. Shorter case durations (within s31 cases), together with proportionate working and more efficient working practices have led to the stock of open cases reducing in both private and public law.</p>	

Achievements against the above Objectives :-

The following are examples of activities undertaken by Cafcass in 13/14 to improve practice, better safeguard children and make a positive contribution to family justice reform:

- ✓ Working with partners in family justice e.g. the Family Justice Board, Local Family Justice Boards (11 of which are chaired by Cafcass), judges; the Family Justice Young People's Board; and the ADCS, to promote family justice reform in preparation for the implementation of the Children and Families Act (April 2014).
- Contributing to the development of the Public Law Outline and Child Arrangements Programme (Practice Directions 12A and 12B respectively); and working with partners to reduce the duration of care cases (35 weeks as of quarter 3).
- Setting up demonstration projects designed to accelerate family justice reform e.g. a telephone helpline service in the North-East to divert from court cases where there are no safeguarding issues.
- Strengthening the workforce through a number of measures including: the talent management strategy; 'My Work' (a mechanism by which staff can understand and regulate their own performance); development of a health and wellbeing strategy.
- Revising the Child Protection Policy, Operating Framework and Complaints and Compliments Policy.
- Drafting service user minimum standards which will be joined with our work-stream on child outcomes.
- Undertaking a number of pieces of research into the work of Cafcass and family justice including research into: expert witnesses in s31 cases; the work of the Children's Guardian; learning derived from Cafcass submissions to serious case reviews (Cafcass having contributed to 30 such reviews in 13/14).

Improvement Plans where barriers have existed.

In 2013/2014, Cafcass nationally and locally developed Achieving Good plans, in line with Ofsted guidelines and expectations.

Cafcass undertakes an annual review of IMRs where Cafcass were involved.

- The review sets out learning about the case dynamics derived from 35 Individual Management Reviews (IMRs) undertaken between 2009 and 2013 and data provided by serious incident notifications, specifically in respect of incidents of child and parental suicides from 2009 to 2013.
- The term '**Toxic Trio**' is used to describe the issues of domestic abuse, mental ill-health and substance misuse which have been identified as common features of families where harm to children has occurred.

In order to address these, Cafcass launched a set of tools, e-learning and classroom training.

Impact for Children, Young People and Families

Ofsted found that:

- Cafcass is good at identifying any risks to children and young people and writes good quality letters to the court before the first court hearing
- Children and young people are successfully helped to express their wishes and feelings and Cafcass makes sure the court understands them.
- Family court advisers have good tools to help their work understanding children's wishes and feelings and assess families' strengths and this assists them to write good reports which help the courts make the right decisions for children.
- When a child needs to come into care Cafcass quickly appoints a Children's Guardian who quickly gets to know the child and their family and gives good quality advice to the court. This is helping to avoid delay in children's lives.
- Children's Guardians are good at helping local authorities understand what is best for children.
- Cafcass has supported young people who have been involved in family courts to form the Family Justice Young People's Board. This Board has been very effective in making sure Cafcass, judges and government listen to what young people think is most important.

In relation to safeguarding children, what are your priorities/objectives for 2014/15

As set out in the Children Act and the Children and Families Bill 2014, Cafcass' principal functions are to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who are subject to family proceedings, and to provide advice to the family courts

Cafcass is piloting a number of projects to:

- Ensure a more efficient, child focused service to children and their families.
- Work more effectively in reducing the time children are subject of private and public law proceedings.
- Prevent delay in outcomes for children.
- Prevent unnecessary involvement in family law proceedings.
- Making parental responsibility work.

The Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board could assist by:

- Including a business objective specific to children subject of Private Law Proceedings i.e. Ensuring that children subject of private law proceedings are protected by improved communication between the Local authority and Cafcass.
- Including a business objective specific to children subject to Public Law proceedings i.e. Ensuring effective working between the IRO (as set out in national guidance), Children's Services and Cafcass.

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

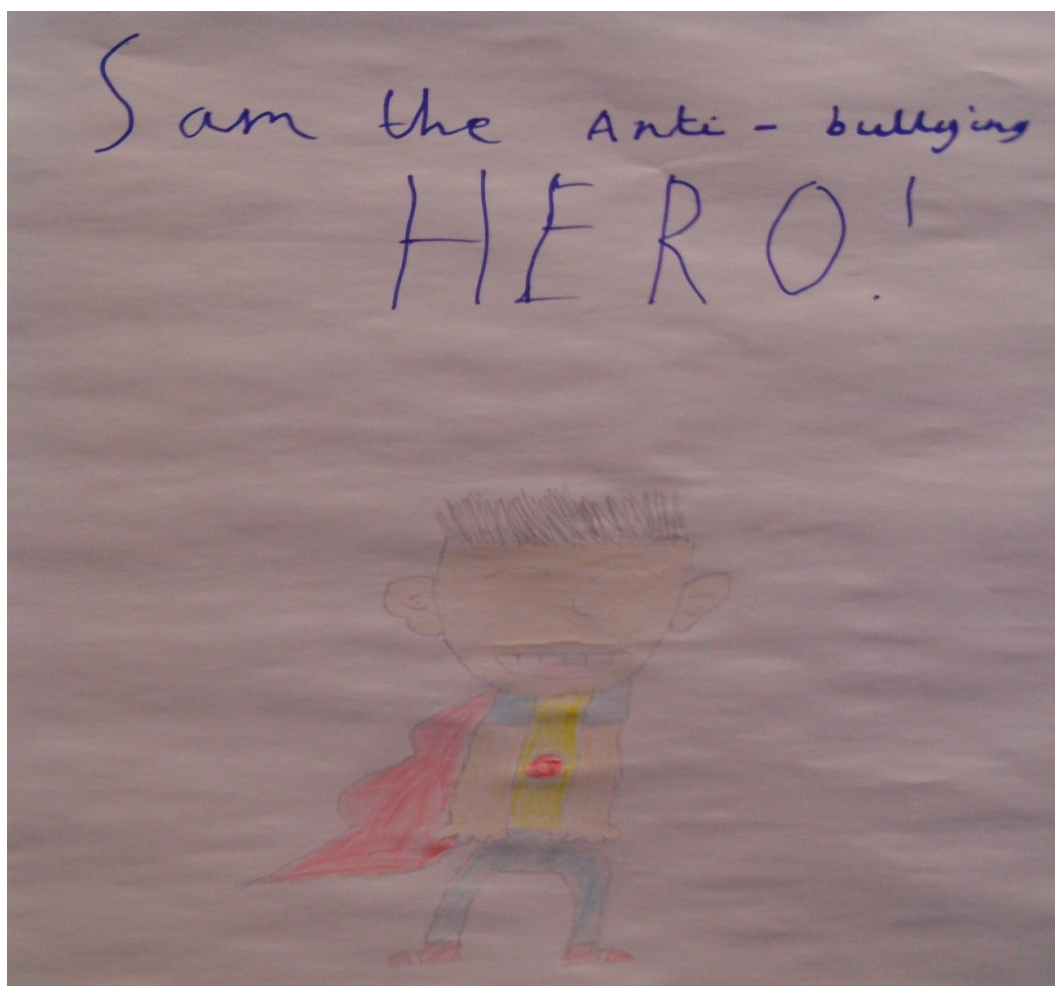
All of the Key Performance indicators, relating to the allocation of work and filing of reports, have been met.

The National Ofsted inspection took place in February and March 2014. Both private law and public law practice were judged to be good as was the management of local services. National leadership was judged to be outstanding.

The four judgements of the Ofsted inspection were as follows:

- The quality and effectiveness of Cafcass private law practice with families: **Good**
- The quality and effectiveness of Cafcass public law practice with families: **Good**
- The leadership and governance of the national organisation: **Outstanding**
- The leadership and management of local services: **Good**

Cafcass has evidenced its commitment to the board and sub-committees through regular attendance, sharing expertise and knowledge and actively contributing to the Quality and Performance Committee, SEMT, Policy and Procedure sub group and consistent communication with partners.



Name	Jennie Watton, Jason Dudley
Position	Empower Co-ordinator (Safeguarding lead), Young Person & Volunteer Development Co-ordinator
Agency	Base 25
How does your agency demonstrate its commitment to safeguarding children and the work of the Board? <p>Base 25 offers early intervention projects (e.g. Empower, Inspire, SAFE) that enable the identification of children and young people at risk. Base 25 demonstrates its commitment to safeguarding through implementing safer recruitment processes, safeguarding policy, multi agency working and contributing to strategic and operational SEMT.</p>	
What were the agreed safeguarding objectives for 2013/14? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve the early identification of young people at risk. • To increase self-esteem of young people. • To increase self-confidence and emotional resilience • To improve young people's ability to make informed decisions ❖ To increase self-awareness and sense of identity ❖ To minimise harm to self and others. 	
Achievements against the above Objectives :- <p>To improve the early identification of young people at risk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>To increase self-esteem of young people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilising a range of assessment tools, there has been an increase demonstrated in self-esteem with young people accessing the projects. Percentage increases ranging between 20% and 30%. <p>To increase self-confidence and emotional resilience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>To improve young people's ability to make informed decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	

❖ **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 was around de-constructing concepts around negative beliefs and values. Young people have demonstrated an understanding of the realities of their negative lifestyle and have identified alternative perspectives on positive change.

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

Improvement Plans where barriers have existed.

- There has been an increase in referrals as a consequence of local funding cuts and a need to generate future funding for projects.

Impact for Children, Young People and Families

- Positive feedback from young people, parents and professionals
- Positive feedback from schools regarding behaviour and attendance
- Children and young people achieving the objectives of the various projects
- More accessible information to enable referrals for children and young people

Case Study 1 - Lucy aged 17 came to Base 25 with concerns around displaying violent and controlling behaviours towards mum, Lucy had previously witnessed domestic violence from dad to mum. Lucy had anxieties around how she managed conflict and would become angry at herself for demonstrating behaviours of violence. She would isolate herself in her bedroom to avoid any conflict. Through intervention with Base 25 she was able to identify safer ways to manage conflict which led to her feeling less anxious, this resulted in her having a better relationship with mum and spending less time in her bedroom. By the end of the work, Lucy increased her well-being score from 22% to 36% and her risk factors decreased from 39% to 28%.

Case Study 2 - Andrew is 22, has special educational needs, estranged from his parents and living in a hostel. He was being negatively targeted by a criminal gang who were influencing him to smoke drugs. The Base 25 worker spent time developing trust with Andrew and was able to identify with the difficulties that he was experiencing. The worker liaised with his hostel to put strategies in place to keep him safe there. A supported referral was also made for him to see a drugs worker. The Base 25 worker meet with Andrew on a regular basis to work with him around his decision making and

risk taking behaviours in a way that Andrew could understand. As Andrew looked up to the worker as a 'role model' the worker was able to use his influence to encourage Andrew away from the negative choices he was making around his friendships and supported him to access a local training provider and to volunteer for a community radio station. Andrew now lives in different supported accommodation and has a new, more positive friendship group. He is doing a level 2 qualification and has his own radio debate show.

Case Study 3 - Robert, currently at school had been exposed to sexual activities through being manipulated into performing a sexual act on a girl of a similar age, by the girl's brother after watching pornography on the internet. The worker developed a programme of work around relationship building, emotional resilience, safer relationships and protective behaviours. After engaging with the programme the young person was able to identify with

healthy relationships and expressed an increased awareness around the negative influence of pornography and unhealthy sexual relationships. He is now at secondary school and has a positive network of friends.

In relation to safeguarding children, what are your priorities/objectives for 2014/15

- To develop new early intervention programmes in school
- 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.

Joint Adult and Children Safeguarding Board's Forced Marriage Conference 2013



Name	Daphne Atkinson
Position	Senior Consultant Social Worker
Agency	Wolverhampton City Council

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

"all our children and young people should be successful, healthy, safe and contributing to the communities in which they live, work and play" Children and Young People Plan (2011-14)

Wolverhampton City Council Child and Families Services ensures that it works within the Children Act 1989, Private Fostering Regulations 2005, and the National Minimum standards 2005, which sets out how the welfare of privately fostered children is to be safeguarded and promoted. The duties of Local Safeguarding Children Boards were also extended in an attempt to ensure that the interests of children who live within a Private Fostering arrangement are protected.

- The local authority Fostering service has a written Statement of Purpose which sets out the role and function regarding Private Fostering (PF).
- Relevant staff are suitably qualified and experienced to respond effectively to the local authority duties and functions in relation to private fostering
- The Fostering service promotes awareness of the notification requirements and ensures that professionals who may come into contact with privately fostered children understand their role in notification and can respond effectively to notifications; and deals with situations where an arrangement comes to their attention.
- The Fostering team carries out full screening of the private fostering situation to effectively determine the suitability of all aspects of the private fostering arrangement.
- Private foster carers and parents of privately fostered children receive advice and support to assist them to meet the needs of privately fostered children.
- Privately fostered children are able to access information and support when required so that their welfare is safeguarded and promoted.

What were the agreed safeguarding objectives for 2013/14?

- The targeting of professionals to assist in identifying children who may be in a private fostering arrangement continues to be the focus of the Fostering service.
- To include private fostering information/presentation as part of the Induction training for new workers to the city.
- Progress the marketing strategy and action plan for 2013-15
- Continue the multi-agency briefing sessions throughout the year. This could involve linking in with nearby authorities and the Private Fostering Special Interest Group (PFSIG).
- Progress the work required to ensure compatibility of all the Private Fostering processes with Care First.
- Further work required to ensure that the timescale for completing the suitability assessment is not hindered by delay in obtaining all the

required statutory checks within the 42 days statutory timeframe.

- The Fostering Service to continue to negotiate with Education to try and obtain the information they collate on the admissions forms relating to private fostering, and also to try to amend the schools admissions process at 4 and 11 to enable them to refer any arrangements that come to light.
- To actively recruit or involve individuals to become 'Champions' for Private fostering, receiving and disseminating information within their specific service areas and with partner agencies

Achievements against the above Objectives :-

There were 13 referrals to Children Services during 2013-14. However a number of these were not converted to a private fostering arrangement for the following reasons:

- Young people reaching the age of 16 years.
- Young People returning to other family members.
- Disqualification of the arrangement due to the criteria for Private Fostering being compromised.
- The placement did not meet Fostering Regulations.
- One carer obtained Special Guardianship for the young person
- The Foster Carers had a number of issues that caused concern for both the Fostering Social Worker and also the Child's Social Worker
- Foster Carer was the great-grandmother of her 15 year old great granddaughter, who lived with her. A neighbouring Local Authority placed the grand-daughter's boyfriend in the home.

We currently have 3 Approved Private Fostering households and 2 Prospective Private Fostering arrangements in the process of assessment. They are at varying stages of the process.

There continues to be an online section on Private Fostering on the Council's Website.

Following changes to the Fostering Forms on Care First, there is now a Private Fostering Initial assessment document. All new assessments are completed using this Care First form.

Recently, contact has been made with the School's Admission Team, the newly appointed Virtual School Head and the LAC Nurse, with a request for the Private Fostering leaflets to be cascaded to both staff and service users to raise awareness of the related issues and associated process.

In addition to the above, a Marketing Plan has been completed and the profile of PF amended on the council's Web site.

Work is underway and will continue to develop a joint working protocol. This is to ensure that if there is an increase of privately fostered children joining, e.g. Wolves Academy Host Families, there will be a smooth transition and the regulation can be effectively applied. Information leaflets are now available for all involved parties in Private Fostering

Arrangements, parent, child and private foster carer. PDF versions of the above leaflets are also available and these are used when disseminating Private Fostering with other professionals.

Representatives from the Fostering Service continue to attend the Private Fostering Special Interest Group (PFSIG). The group is co-ordinated by British Agency for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF). The group is made up of other specialist private fostering social workers from around the West Midlands regions. The PFSIG looks at the development of services, offers support to specialist workers, relate practice to legislation and currently advises on Ofsted inspection and best practice in raising awareness on Private Fostering. The last meeting was in December 2013.

Improvement Plans where barriers have existed.

In January 2014, the Private Fostering lead e-mailed all a list of people who were identified as potential Private Fostering champions by the Safeguarding Board. Included in the e-mail were the PDF leaflets on Private Fostering and an offer to come and deliver a short presentation on Private Fostering. Unfortunately only 1 person responded (S. D.) to this e-mail. An appointment was offered for April 2014, but S. had no availability.

Also in January 2014, the Private Fostering lead sent an information e-mail to all of the following education providers in Wolverhampton:

- Pupil Referral Units
- Specialist Schools
- Nursery Schools Infant Schools
- Children's Centres
- Primary Schools
- Junior Schools
- Secondary Schools

In the e-mail were 3 Private Fostering Leaflets, a short description of a Private Fostering arrangement, how to make a referral, a request to cascade the information and also an offer to deliver a short presentation on Private Fostering. It is extremely unfortunate that only one of the above organisations acknowledged the e-mail (Ashmore Park Nursery) and no other providers have requested for us to attend their school, nursery or Children's Centre to present on Private Fostering.

The restructuring of the Children Services in 2013-14

Impact for Children, Young People and Families

We have continued to raise awareness within the various professionals groups and the wider community by providing direct information about Private Fostering and how to notify the local authority of such arrangements. Where we have been notified of such situations we have carried out comprehensive assessments to ensure children welfare are safeguarded

In relation to safeguarding children, what are your priorities/objectives for 2014/15

We will continue the targeting of professionals to assist in identifying children who may be in a private fostering arrangement.

- The impact of the restructure of Children Services (NOM) has meant that there has been some slight delay in some aspect of the work .However the focus of the work will now be managed by a dedicated group of workers which will provide enhanced focus and timeliness.
- We plan to continue the joint Private Fostering Information Sessions which will now incorporate Rachel Warrender, policy officer.
- We are in the mid phase of the marketing strategy and action plan for 2013-15. This will continue to be progressed.
- We will continue to try to build relationships and engage with the Language Schools in the City.
- We will continue to try and engage with groups and services for the Black, Asian and other minority ethnic groups in the City.

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

We have strived to work within the statutory framework to ensure that where children are unable, for whatever reason, to live within their own birth family, a range of services and resources are provided designed to assist families in resuming the care of their children. Where this is not appropriate the Fostering Service have assessed private fostering families who can promote the child's best interest, well-being and development by providing the highest possible standards of care according to the child's individual assessed needs.



The B-Safe Team is made up of young people like you!
Get involved and have your say on issues such as:

- Feeling Safe
- Street Safe
- Anti-Bullying
- Confidence
- Inclusion
- Resilience
- Equity
- Cyber Safe
- Supporting others to be safe
- Keeping Safe
- System Safe

Ask your Teacher, Youth Worker or Community Group for more information or visit:

www.wolvesscb.org.uk www.peersupport-wolverhampton.org.uk

THE B-SAFE TEAM WOLVERHAMPTON
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THE Peer Support Network WOLVERHAMPTON
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Text-size: [a](#) [a](#) [a](#) [a](#)

Name	Kathy Cole-Evans
Position	Strategy Coordinator & General Manager
Agency	Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum
How does your agency demonstrate its commitment to safeguarding children and the work of the Board? <p>As part of our contribution in kind to the Safeguarding Boards, WDVF is committed to attending and participating at Board meetings as a professional adviser to the Board, and providing input to various sub-groups of the Board to contribute to the joint Board targets. In addition, WDVF delivers domestic violence and safeguarding training as part of the Board's multi-agency annual training programme.</p> <p>WDVF's objectives, outcomes, policies, procedures, and working practices focus on making children and adults safer.</p> <p>Staff are trained in safeguarding arrangements.</p>	
What were the agreed safeguarding objectives for 2013/14? <p>To increase the early identification of, and intervention with, victims of 'violence against women and girls' subject areas and including men and boy victims, by utilising all points of contact with front line professionals</p> <p>Objective 2: To build capacity to provide effective advice and support services to victims of 'violence against women and girls' subject areas and including men and boys</p> <p>Objective 3: To improve the criminal justice response to 'violence against women and girls' subject areas and including men and boys</p> <p>Objective 4: To support victims through the criminal justice system and manage perpetrators to reduce risk</p>	
Achievements against the above Objectives :- <p>WDVF leads on developing & performance managing successive multi-agency Wolverhampton Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy (VAWG) & Action Plans via WDVF's Executive Board, the Safeguarding Boards, and through the Safer Wolverhampton Partnership Board and its structures. The current strategy and action plan focuses on victim and perpetrator services, and requires refreshing after March 2015.</p> <p>WDVF provides independent challenge at statutory Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) panels, chairs the Standing DHR panel, leads on specific DHR strategic recommendations on behalf of the Safer Wolverhampton Partnership, and contributes to local, regional, and national DHR research.</p>	

In response to previous domestic homicide review recommendations, WDVF has developed and agreed through the Safeguarding Boards a new Over-Arching Domestic Violence Protocol for the city that sets out minimum expectations on organisations to reduce serious harm and homicide, including to have in place appropriate training, policies, routine questioning, risk assessment capability, pathways to Multi-Agency Risk Assessment arrangements for high risk cases, and signposting information.

WDVF has contributed to two recent joint Safeguarding Board forced marriage and honour based violence conferences, and in developing Wolverhampton's multi-agency protocol for forced marriage and honour based violence, the first in the UK to be a joint policy for adults and children. As part of its contribution to the Board and amongst other training commitments, last year WDVF also delivered domestic violence and safeguarding training as part of the Safeguarding Children's Board multi-agency training programme.

WDVF's co-located team jointly screens and initiates action with cases where children and pregnant women are identified. Last year there were 2016 cases involving children and pregnant women jointly screened by a Social Worker, Specialist Nurse, Child Protection Police Officer, and an Independent Domestic Violence Adviser. There were 403 cases assessed at high risk of serious harm and homicide last year with 520 associated children. These cases were jointly assessed and intervention plans developed through Multi-Agency Risk Assessment arrangements and twice weekly crisis intervention meetings. During the year WDVF's Executive Board has agreed to take responsibility for governance of Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference arrangements.

WDVF continues to employ specialists such as an Independent Criminal Justice Domestic Violence Adviser, and a Sexual Violence Adviser, both of which roles assist in improving the attrition rate through the criminal justice system.

WDVF used its own reserve funds to successfully pilot a much-required Independent Health Domestic Violence Adviser service at our local Accident & Emergency department. This pilot is in line with good practice elsewhere, facilitating domestic violence and safeguarding awareness raising and training to health staff. It also provides a clear care pathway for victims of domestic violence presenting with injuries at A&E to be assessed using a common domestic violence risk assessment tool, and signposted to specialist help depending on the level of risk.

WDVF raised external funding to develop and run a pilot community based perpetrator programme over the last two years. There is huge demand for such a programme with referrals being made by Social Care, Children and Family Centres, Family Court, Police, etc, and directly by service users. The pilot will be evaluated shortly.

WDVF's work focuses on evidence based institutional advocacy, and participation at regional and local boards, scrutiny panels, and strategic meetings, in particular around shortfalls in the criminal justice response to violence against women and girls. WDVF

chairs and performance manages Wolverhampton's Specialist Domestic Violence Court Steering Group, is an active participant at the Black Country Criminal Justice Area Delivery Group, West Midlands Criminal Justice Board's Victim, Witness & Domestic Violence Group, the Crown Prosecution Service Violence Against Women & Girls Scrutiny Panel, the West Midlands Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Group,

Improvement Plans where barriers have existed.

The significant barrier to the sustainability of work and services around violence against women and girls remains the considerable and on-going funding cuts to services. WDVF is a small independent organisation and charity that, without Local Authority or partnership funding for its core service after March 2015 will be unsustainable, which will result in the loss of the organisation, its statutory, strategic and coordination work, the external funding it attracts, and the additional services it develops and oversees that contributes to the joint outcomes.

Impact for Children, Young People and Families

Reduced harm resulting from violence against women & girls subjects (including for men and boys) including homicide prevention

Reduced prevalence of violence against women and girls

Reduced rate of repeat domestic violence incidents

Increased offences brought to justice

In relation to safeguarding children, what are your priorities/objectives for 2014/15

Objective 1: To increase the early identification of, and intervention with, victims of 'violence against women and girls' subject areas and including men and boy victims, by utilising all points of contact with front line professionals

Objective 2: To build capacity to provide effective advice and support services to victims of 'violence against women and girls' subject areas and including men and boys

Objective 3: To improve the criminal justice response to 'violence against women and girls' subject areas and including and men and boys

Objective 4: To support victims through the criminal justice system and to manage perpetrators to reduce risk

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

WDVF is a small independent organisation and charity with a specific and unique perspective on multi-agency working around violence against women and girls subject areas. We work closely alongside Wolverhampton's Safeguarding service and from this perspective we play an active professional advisory role at Safeguarding Boards.

2014/15 Summary of Activities & Challenges Ahead for 2014/15

The contents of this report demonstrates that during the reporting year, there has been a much activity across the WSCB partnership in regards to keeping children safeguarded alongside actions to be taken when specialist interventions are needed and the mechanisms to evaluate the overarching arrangements through the duties of the board.

The national context on how LSCB's work means that going forward, we will be actively considering how to measure the impact of our work on outcomes for children – i.e. how have we made a difference? Whilst this increased accountability is welcome, the work of moving WSCB to this new self-challenging position will be significant.

WSCB will continue to strive to improve and develop its role in challenging and supporting the work of agencies involved in safeguarding children and in monitoring and coordinating the response to child abuse and neglect. Going forward, the Business Plan 2013 -2016 keeps the same four key strategic priorities but within them outlines additional outcomes and activities for the year ahead.

Consideration must also be given to the addition role for LSCB's80 within Working Together which now require boards to influence and assess the development of early intervention services, as these are critical in improving the safeguarding of children, and in ensuring that only those in highest need receive specialist intervention form children social care services. WSCB will also need to monitor the interfaces between preventative and statutory services to ensure that thresholds are clear and consistent.

We have a challenging work plan, but, whilst all require attention, this report also tells us that attention is also required in the following areas:

NATIONAL DRIVERS

- ❖ Working Together 2013 requires LSCBs to monitor the provision of early help to children and young people. There are a range of local services available, however, WSCB will need to ensure that the pathways into services are clearly understood and a strategic overview is necessary to identify gaps and to ensure that services are confident in delivering effective services despite any reduction in future funding.
- ❖ Ensuring that the potential risks to safeguarding practice and arrangements are kept under review in response to increasing demand for services and on-going reshaping of public services.
- ❖ WSCB need to be clear of the expectations for LSCB's in safeguarding across inspection frameworks
- ❖ WSCB will need to assure itself that child sexual exploitation is properly addressed; this may require a mapping exercise of the area to establish whether the current

arrangements in place are effective and that work is properly co-ordinated across agencies.

- ❖ There have been changes in the external inspection regime carried out by Ofsted. The new framework recently introduced will focus very much on Council services for children in need of protection, who are looked after, or who are care leavers. It will include a judgement on the board. However, the attempts to create a genuine multi-agency inspection have so far failed, so other agencies will not be adequately represented in the process, this then raise a question as to whether the board can be adequately inspected for the effectiveness of its safeguarding arrangements as a multi-agency partnership under this methodology.

LOCAL DRIVERS

- ❖ WSCB relies heavily on its committees to carry out much of its activities, ensuring there is adequate membership and resources from partner agencies to carry out this work will be a significant challenge in this current climate.
- ❖ Ensuring safeguarding arrangements across the partnership is a core function for WSCB, the quality and performance committee support this process via quarterly audits.
- ❖ The performance data to date has been drawn from children social care, this requires further development to ensure all partner agencies are providing reliable data;
- ❖ There is a need to ensure Board members disseminate information throughout their agencies;
- ❖ In response to Working Together 2013, WSCB has produced a learning and improvement framework, this will need to be maintained to ensure appropriate local effective multi-agency work
- ❖ The board needs to seek assurance that there are effective local arrangements in place to safeguarding disabled children.
- ❖ The board will need to assure itself that Safeguarding of children in Wolverhampton schools, and early years centres are secure, and that the structures for identifying children at risk are robust and exist in all schools and centres irrespective of their status: Community, Academy, Faith, Free or Independent. In addition, the board should agree a mechanism for ensuring safeguarding policies exist, are regularly reviewed, practice is monitored and data is used to inform development work.
- ❖ The board has through the year been better able to assess the quality of practice through the use of multi-agency case file audits (MACFA). This has been in the main. However, this needs to be further developed into a fully comprehensive quality assurance framework.

An evaluation of the progress against the priorities alongside the assessment of the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements, consideration of relevant national issues will influence the main priorities moving forward, it is important that WSCB continues to keep as its focus, improving safeguarding arrangements and activities as a main priority during 2014-15 and beyond.

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
CP-IS	Child Protection Information Sharing
CRH	Central Referral Hub
CRU	Central Referral Unit
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
CYPS	Children and Young People's Services
DBS	Disclosure & Barring Service
DHR	Domestic Homicide Review
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FM	Intensive Surveillance and Supervision'
FTE	Forced Marriage
IRO	Full-time Equivalent
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
MARAC	Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference
MACFA	Multi-agency Case File Audit
PFSIG	Private Fostering Special Intervention Group
PPU	Public Protection Unit
RWT	Royal Wolverhampton Trust
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
YOW	Youth Opportunities Wolverhampton
WTSC	Working Together to Safeguard Children
YJB	Youth Justice Board
YOT	Youth Offending Team
YOW	Youth Organisations Wolverhampton

