

Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 20 June 2017

REPORT TITLE:	Scrutiny Safeguarding Review – December 2015: Update of progress
REPORT OF:	Director for Children's Services

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the progress made implementing 20 key recommendations from the Safeguarding Scrutiny Review that the Families and Well-Being Scrutiny Committee undertook in December 2015.

It also provides an opportunity to cross reference and ensure that this work is incorporated into the Ofsted Safeguarding Improvement Plan as a result of the inspection in July 2016 and ensure there is no duplication or omissions with regards to priorities and reporting.

The findings of this report is critical to the delivery of the Children and Young People 20/20 pledges which are Children are ready for school and Vulnerable children reach their full potential

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough.

The required decision is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Members are recommended to:

- 1) endorse the progress made against the 20 Safeguarding Scrutiny Review recommendations
- 2) agree that any areas of focus are cross referenced and captured in the Ofsted Improvement Plan.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1** Members are requested to support the recommendations as this will help ensure there is a cohesive, joined up, action led approach to delivering the required improvements within the Children and Young People Department and Safeguarding is everyone's priority.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1** This scrutiny review provides a significant evidence base to give assurance that children and young people in Wirral are safe, those most vulnerable are protected and that outcomes are improving.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1** Since the Ofsted inspection of local authority services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers and review of the Local Safeguarding Children Board in July 2016, there has been a significant investment and activity with regards to the Safeguarding Improvement Journey. This has included the establishment of an Improvement Board (including an independent chair), the production of a high level Improvement Plan, a renewed Local Safeguarding Children's Board and a DfE Review of progress to date.
- 3.2** In December 2015 a comprehensive report was produced by the Families and Well-Being Scrutiny Committee which made a number of references with regards to the safeguarding of children and young people in Wirral. The review concluded with twenty recommendations, grouped under five headings:

- 1. Organisational structure**
- 2. Procedures and Processes**
- 3. Partnership working**
- 4. Staffing issues**
- 5. Governance arrangements**

In July 2016, an update was provided to the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the implementation of such recommendations. This report provides a further update on the delivery of recommendations, if they have been completed and if not how they are factored into the overall response to the Ofsted Safeguarding Improvement Plan

The following table captures the recommendations and provides the required update for elected members:

Original Scrutiny Recommendation (Dec 15)	Previous Update from Jun 16	June 2017 - Update
<p>1 – Development of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)</p> <p><i>The Director of Children Services (DCS) is requested to continue to develop the MASH concept and explore opportunities to include additional partner organisations in the model.</i></p>	<p>The MASH concept has continued to be developed and opportunities explored to include additional partner organisations in the model by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Partners co-located in the MASH include Children's Social Care, Early Help & Prevention, Adults Social Care, Police, Health, Family Safety Unit and Catch 22. MASH provides a consistent approach to triaging all new requests for help from children, families and professionals. 2. The MASH Board and the MASH Operational Group includes additional partners such as Probation (Community Rehabilitation Company) and housing representatives. 3. 8 workshops were held across the Children's partnership during March and April 2016 to clarify the role of the MASH and to confirm thresholds for accessing services. Approximately 500 people attended. 4. The role and function of the MASH is under constant review to ensure it is working as effectively as possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Integrated Front Door model builds on the MASH concept and has been signed off at WSCB and the strategic MASH board. The strategic MASH board monitors and challenges developments through a delivery action plan. • The delivery action plan is closely monitored through the MASH operational group that reports to the MASH board. • In December 2016 a multi-agency reference group was established to consider and review the threshold model, this work looked at pathways for access to services • In December 2016 training on section 17 and section 47 was delivered to Elected members • In January/February 2017 the reviewed threshold and reconfiguration pathways and processes was presented to over 460 staff and partners through 4 conferences. • In February 2017 a seminar was delivered for partners to consider safeguarding priorities from an early help and prevention context • In April 2017 safeguarding and early help and prevention training was delivered to elected members • Liquid Logic has been redesigned to successfully support the new pathways in the Early Help (EH) module of Liquid Logic • A permanent position has been developed and sees an Education professional positioned at the integrated front door, realigned access through a portal point at the integrated front door. • Planned strategic alignment with Safer Wirral Hub co-located at Solar Campus.
<p>2 – The front door to social care</p> <p><i>The DCS is requested to consider alternative operating</i></p>	<p>Alternative operating models for the front door to Specialist (Children's Social Care) and Targeted Services (Early Help and Prevention), including those offering further integration have been considered through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff from the Early Help & Prevention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systems and processes ensure reporting to the integrated front door by professionals and members of the public concerned about a child are effective and efficient

Original Scrutiny Recommendation (Dec 15)	Previous Update from Jun 16	June 2017 - Update
<p><i>models for the front door to Specialist and Targeted Services including those offering further integration, such as a combined Gateway and CADT (Central Advice and Duty Team).</i></p>	<p>(Gateway) and Children's Social Care (CADT) co-located within the MASH.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of the operation of the 'Gateway' and CADT was completed to develop a revised model of a single front door for Children's Services. A meeting of the MASH Board on the 2nd March confirmed the proposed arrangements, which were implemented on the 9th May 2016. • The DCS commissioned a MASH Diagnostic which undertook a detailed review of the performance of the MASH. The specification for this work was presented and approved at the MASH board on 3rd March 2016 and was completed on the 13th April 2016. This provided an assessment of current performance and areas for development. • A multi-agency development day is planned for September 2016. This will build on and develop the current model of early help, working with schools, early years settings and partners to effectively and safely contribute to managing the demand for children's social care services by intervening earlier when issues arise. The role of the MASH will be embedded in this cross-partnership work, and it is likely to lead to further development of the model. 	
<p>3 - Monitoring performance data</p>	<p>An effective mechanism to monitor the progress of children across different service provision is being established through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new "dashboard" of information was put 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This recommendation is a clear priority to the Improvement Board and will be reported via the refreshed Performance Management Framework. • An effective performance data reporting function has been

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<p><i>The DCS is requested to establish an effective mechanism to monitor the progress of children across different service provision and to provide regular performance data to monitor outcomes for young people and families who receive specialist or targeted services.</i></p>	<p>in place in September 2015 which provides contemporary data on contacts, referrals, assessments and social worker caseloads.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An effective performance data reporting function will be developed to provide accurate, timely reports. 	<p>developed to provide accurate, timely reports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrutiny will receive regular performance reports at agreed intervals.
<p>4 – Contact with Individual family members</p> <p><i>The DCS is requested to ensure that opportunities are provided for individual family members, including the child, to provide information before and after a child protection conference.</i></p>	<p>To ensure that opportunities are provided for individual family members, including the child to provide information before and after a child protection conference the following steps are being taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In response to what families have told us, case conferences are now held at a single venue that has been developed with good facilities to support families in being able to fully participate in the meeting. The Independent Reviewing Officers always meet with the family and the young person, if attending, to explain their role and what is going to happen in the conference, and there is a suitable private space available for them to do this. • A Young Person's Engagement Officer has been recruited to develop creative ways to secure the views of children and young people. • The Wirral Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) has resolved to introduce a new model of child protection later this year, based on the Strengthening Families and Signs of Safety models. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The voice of the child is a key focus of all assessments. This is monitored through management oversight at case level and through the audit process. • The role of the Independent Review Officer is clearly sighted on ensuring children and young people have the opportunity to talk about what is important to them and to ensure follow up • 'Strengthening Families Enhancing Futures' (SFEF) is the approved delivery model for the children's workforce. • There will be two launch days 22 and 28 June for all partners and Social Care Staff to launch the model. • The Principles of the model have been launched with a 'Prompt Sheet' to partners in April 2017 and training is planned throughout the Summer, with the planned implementation of the new Conference Model in October 2017 • The SFEF model will be then launched across the whole of the service to be used from Early Help to Child Protection from January 2018.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Protection Standards have been developed and implemented this year, in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015. 	

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<p>5 – Formal notification to family members</p> <p><i>The DCS is requested to ensure that the outcome of a child protection conference is reported to family members in a written format.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families and professionals are now sent the outline child protection plan within 24 hours of the meeting. This plan sets out a family's strengths, areas for development and clear expectations in relation to ensuring the safety of children. The requirement to do this is included in the child protection standards. The model being developed for child protection will consider how individual family members are given the opportunity to discuss the outcome of conferences with a neutral contact. Parents who have had experience of child protection conferences and plans will inform this work, as they are part of the group developing the model. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Children and Young People's Safeguarding Unit have taken responsibility to ensure that minutes are sent to the family.
<p>6 – Feedback from service users</p> <p><i>The DCS is requested to investigate the possibility of providing a mechanism for individuals to feedback experiences of the child protection conference process on a confidential basis.</i></p>	<p>The provision of a mechanism for individuals to feedback experiences of the child protection conference process on a confidential basis is being progressed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families now being able to access improved information through the Wirral Children's Safeguarding Board Website, launched in April 2016. This enables families to access information and advice about local Child Protection arrangements and will also provide opportunities for feedback on the individual experiences of children, young people and their families The experiences of parents and young people informing development of the Wirral Signs of Safety and Strengthening Families based model for child protection services. The conference chair does invite feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families are now given feedback forms at the end of Child Protection conference. Parents and children are supported to complete the feedback forms. This information is collated monthly and fed back to the Director.

Original Scrutiny Recommendation (Dec 15)	Previous Update from Jun 16	June 2017 - Update
	from the parents about their experience but a variety of ways to allow families to feedback their experiences are being built into the model.	

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<p>7 – ‘Closing the loop’</p> <p><i>The DCS is requested to consider the options for ensuring that the originator of a safeguarding concern is informed of the outcome.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is the role of the MASH manager to ensure feedback is provided to each person making a safeguarding referral. This is a requirement of national safeguarding standards and was reinforced by Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015. This requirement was tested through the MASH diagnostic. A management instruction is in place to ensure feedback in every case takes place and practice will be audited on a continuous basis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional response forms are now embedded in the contact records in Liquid Logic as mandatory fields on all requests for service.
<p>8 – Definition of assessment threshold levels</p> <p><i>The DCS is requested to develop a training plan aimed at reinforcing the interpretation and application of the definition of the threshold levels for intervention.</i></p>	<p>Eight workshops were held during March and April 2016 to ensure partners clearly understood thresholds to access services. Over 485 professionals attended. To support a better understanding and to ensure thresholds were consistently applied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Integrated Working Guide was reissued in November 2015 A Training Officer for the Safeguarding Board was appointed in May and will oversee and report attendance of professionals at the relevant multi agency training relating to the Guide. <p>A review of the ‘Threshold of Need’ is currently underway and is included in the WSCB Business Plan for 2016.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There has been a review of the threshold document and this has been delivered to partners via 4 conferences January 2017 and February 2017 which were well attended. The activity documented for recommendation 1 also supports recommendation 8
<p>9 – Special Guardianship Orders</p> <p><i>The DCS is requested to ensure that the processes in</i></p>	<p>The safety of children placed with Special Guardians has been given greater prominence in the recently published Special Guardianship (amendment) Regulations 2016. In response to these changes and to ensure children are safe we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated our procedure for Special 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special Guardians are assessed in line with Guidance and Regulations. These are then considered by Area Decision Makers. Procedures with regards to assessments of Special Guardianship applications were updated in March 2016 in line with Special Guardianship (amendment) regulations 2016 which prescribes the matters to be dealt with by local

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<p><i>place to find Special Guardians are as robust as those for Foster Carers and Adopters so that all children placed under Special Guardianship Orders remain safe and are supported within that placement.</i></p>	<p>Guardianship with associated practice guidance for Social Workers, which will be complete in September 2016. A report went to the Children's Sub Committee on 30th March 2016.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held focus Groups in May 2016 with Special Guardians to consider the breadth of support needs required so that children remain safe and are supported. A number of developments are being taken forward as a consequence of these focus groups. • Provided support through a dedicated Adoption and Special Guardianship Team. Whilst the majority of Special Guardians receive a level of financial support for the care of the child, we are working with them to look at what services and support they require to ensure they fully meet the needs of the children in their care. 	<p>authorities in reports they prepare for the court in applications for special guardianship orders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support continues to be provided via the Adoption and Special Guardianship Team to Special Guardians. Each applicant has an assessment of their finances and support offered in line with the level of need. Financial support is reviewed yearly for Special Guardians receiving financial support.
<p>10 – Involving all partners in social work assessments</p> <p><i>The DCS is requested to ensure that all organisations involved with the child, including third sector organisations, are given the opportunity to provide information when social work assessments are being prepared.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All identified organisations working with children and families will be asked to contribute to the Social Work Assessment of Need being produced. Arrangements to support this include MASH, information sharing agreements and the new child protection model. A member of a third sector organisation has been co-opted on to the development group to ensure steps are taken for this recommendation is followed in order that partner agencies will be fully engaged in the assessment process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The integrated front door ensures a partnership response in assessments. • This is a key development and monitored through the improvement work
<p>11 – GPs and</p>	<p>GPs are required to share information on families subject to an initial child protection conference, in the form of a written report or</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GPs are asked for reports and are consistently providing these for Conference.

Original Scrutiny Recommendation (Dec 15)	Previous Update from Jun 16	June 2017 - Update
<p>Safeguarding</p> <p><i>The DCS is requested to work in conjunction with Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group to develop a mechanism to encourage GPs to provide relevant information to safeguarding investigations and formal meetings.</i></p>	<p>attendance at the conference in person. To support GP's to understand the importance of this, the following has been put in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Safeguarding training programme for GPs is in place to enable them to have an understanding of the 'Thresholds of Need' and intervention. • The Designated Safeguarding Nurse will ensure that training continues to be provided to GP's. The training will ensure that GP's continue to improve their understanding of the 'Threshold of Need' and the evidence required to support a referral. 	
<p>12 – Relationship between schools and MASH</p> <p><i>The DCS is requested to consider the provision of a reference point for schools within the MASH.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is currently no single dedicated person in this role within the MASH. Consideration will be given to how the engagement of schools in safeguarding children is made easier. • MASH briefings have been held this year with Schools presenting case studies to help their understanding of thresholds and encourage early consultation with Children's Services staff. • A schedule of Safeguarding training is provided across the partnership, supported by the WSCB. Training includes Common Assessment Framework (CAF) & Team Around the Family (TAF) training courses and the Working Together Training Course to order to ensure professionals have the skills to identify levels of risk and take appropriate action. These courses are highly valued and well attended by professionals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A permanent position has been developed and sees an Education professional positioned at the integrated front door, realigned access through a portal point at the integrated front door. • School consultants for Primary and Secondary sit as members of the MASH strategic board • School consultants sit as members of the operational group. • Presentation made to the school Governors Forum regarding the integrated front door

Original Scrutiny Recommendation (Dec 15)	Previous Update from Jun 16	June 2017 - Update
<p>13 – Relationship between social care and schools</p> <p><i>The DCS is requested to consider ways in which stronger relationships can be developed between social workers and schools, in order to encourage all schools to become more integrated in the safeguarding process.</i></p>	<p>Stronger relationships are being developed between social workers and schools by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having smaller social work teams since June 2015, to work with children in need of protection. It is recognised that relationships between Social Workers and schools needs to be strengthened. There are dedicated children looked after teams in each locality. This is intended to strengthen work with all partners in each locality including schools. Social Workers involved in Early Help and Prevention Services also work with schools, in respect of individual children about whom there may be concerns. • Social Workers being based within the MASH to provide a consultation service for professionals who have concerns for a child or young person where they are unsure of the level of need. • Providing Safeguarding Updates on a regular basis to the Heads of all schools including the independent sector. Schools have representation on the WSCB and its sub committees. The updates include briefings that are specific to safeguarding issues in schools. • Termly meetings with the Primary Cluster Groups and Secondary Heads to discuss specific safeguarding concerns and updates are provided. • Establishing a Head Teachers Reference Group to consider potential models for Safeguarding Supervision and a framework will be published in July 2016. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is underway to re-issue the professional practice stands that all registered social workers must adhere to. • A permanent position has been developed and sees an Education professional positioned at the integrated front door, realigned access through a portal point at the integrated front door.

Original Scrutiny Recommendation (Dec 15)	Previous Update from Jun 16	June 2017 - Update

Original Scrutiny Recommendation (Dec 15)	Previous Update from Jun 16	June 2017 - Update
<p>14 - Access to safeguarding training</p> <p><i>The DCS is requested to develop a process to ensure that safeguarding training becomes more accessible especially to small organisations in the third sector.</i></p>	<p>Specific training for small organisations in the third sector is delivered in a number of ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific Safeguarding training has been provided to voluntary organisations in 2015 which was well attended by 95 representatives. This training will be offered again in 2016; participants are being requested to register with VCAW in order that they receive Safeguarding briefings and updates as they are produced. • The WSCB has delivered a safeguarding briefing to the network of voluntary community and faith sector organisations. It has promoted the programme of multi-agency training with them, and now supports 'out of hours' training sessions. The WSCB Website provides access to training courses for all agencies. • Access to training has been improved by the introduction of a package of 50 e-learning safeguarding courses from April 2016. These courses are accessible to the network of voluntary community and faith sector organisations. This will be further supported by the use of Social Media such as Facebook and Twitter in order to make information more accessible to interested parties. In the past 12 months over 1,200 safeguarding 'Tweets' have been issued. • The WSCB has representation from and strong links to the voluntary, community and faith sector through the Linked-Up network. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All training is now advertised on WSCB website and access is free to all partner agencies

Original Scrutiny Recommendation (Dec 15)	Previous Update from Jun 16	June 2017 - Update
<p>15 – Child sexual exploitation training for front-line staff</p> <p><i>The DCS is requested to continue to encourage the uptake of additional training opportunities for front-line staff, including the police, regarding child sexual exploitation.</i></p>	<p>Additional Child Sexual Exploitation training opportunities for front line staff have been put in place in a number of different ways, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 multi-agency and single agency awareness raising briefings were delivered during the year including social workers, taxi drivers, health staff (including dental practitioners), housing providers, Chairs of Governors of schools, and elected members. • 700+ multi-agency professionals including elected members watched Chelsea's Choice along with 2,200 children and young people. • 40 professional across the partnership attended two multi-agency sessions called CSE: Next Steps Training • 40 front line professionals attended two multi-agency sessions on working with and supporting parents and cares affected by CSE. These sessions were delivered by PACE (Parent's Against Child Sexual Exploitation). • 10 multi-agency CSE training sessions are being provided from April 16 to March 17. This provision will be supplemented by an e-learning CSE package due to be available in April 2016 to all partners across the children's workforce and adult safeguarding. • "On One Condition" is an excellent new drama production developed with a local youth theatre which really captures the issues facing some young people. It gets to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioned Child sexual exploitation training for front-line staff from Catch 22 2016/17 - 63 Social Care Staff attended.

Original Scrutiny Recommendation (Dec 15)	Previous Update from Jun 16	June 2017 - Update
	<p>the heart and complexity of the problem and crosses all boundaries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training undertaken to date has been evaluated and feedback received has informed the future delivery of training. 	

Original Scrutiny Recommendation (Dec 15)	Previous Update from Jun 16	June 2017 - Update
<p>16 – Social Care re-organisation: Follow-up investigation by members</p> <p><i>The Strategic Director of Transformation and Resources is requested to enable scrutiny members to arrange a follow-up session / workshop to evaluate the effectiveness of the re-organisation once the new Specialist Services social care teams are embedded. The review, which will include front-line staff and possibly parents and families, will also monitor the success of the plans to achieve improved retention of staff.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's Social Care was redesigned in order to better meet the needs of children, young people and families; this was implemented in June 2015. The teams have a specific focus on either Children in Need and Child Protection or Children in Care and Care Leavers. This has also been broadly welcomed as a way to reduce changes in social worker for children and their families. The move to smaller teams, with opportunities for increased management support and oversight has been welcomed by staff. A review of the redesign is underway to ensure it is meeting its intended aims. Wirral implemented an improved pay and grading structure for Social Workers, in January 2015, including clear progression routes based upon the Professional Capabilities Framework. In common with most North West authorities recruiting and retaining experienced Social Workers is a challenge, although recruitment of newly qualified Social workers is effective. A review of Social Worker pay, progression and retention is currently underway led by Human Resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The social work establishment and structures are a significant focus of the improvement work and will be developed and monitored through governance in place There is now the proposal for scrutiny members to undertake Reality Check visits through which members will meet with frontline staff. In the first instance these sessions will focus on children's social care giving members the opportunity to question what had been intended through recommendation 16.
<p>17 - Social Worker Caseloads</p> <p><i>The DCS is requested to develop a mechanism to monitor the caseloads of social workers with the aim of reducing the caseload to, at</i></p>	<p>Measures are in place to monitor caseloads of social workers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ A caseload weighting system was implemented in September 2015 for Children's Social Care. Protected caseloads are in place for Newly Qualified Social Workers (NQSW) who are completing their Assessed and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Worker Caseloads are a significant focus of the transformation programme Social Worker Caseloads are a significant focus of the improvement work and will be developed and monitored through governance in place Regular reporting and monitoring is in place to support this work through management structures and oversight

Original Scrutiny Recommendation (Dec 15)	Previous Update from Jun 16	June 2017 - Update
<p><i>most, the national average.</i></p>	<p>Supported Year in Employment (ASYE) and this is included within the caseload weighting system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caseloads both amongst teams and for individuals are monitored regularly and are included in discussions as part of the Director of Children's Services Safeguarding meeting with Social Care Group Managers. • Supervision is monitored both in terms of completion and quality via supervision audits. Supervision is valued by staff and managers and is undertaken regularly. <p>There are a number of measures in place to reduce the overall caseloads in line with the national average:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Social Care currently uses temporary agency Social Workers to provide cover for sickness absence, maternity and vacant Social Work posts. In this way Children's Social Care seeks to maintain reasonable caseloads amongst staff. • Monthly recruitment rounds for social workers are scheduled for the coming year. • A Social Work Induction Programme is being developed to ensure that all new staff have a consistent introduction to working in Wirral. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A dedicated HR function, supporting recruitment retention and training is co-located within the department • Impact is now being realised in CIN/CP teams who have reduced caseload with only a small number of social workers with caseloads above 18. • Work is in hand to support this across the service
<p>18: Social Worker Support</p> <p><i>The DCS is requested to consider the options for</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Windows 7 equipment replacement project commenced in the autumn of 2014 and for Children's Service was completed in the summer of 2015. • The Windows 7 project provided all Social 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration is currently being given to further mobile/agile working

Original Scrutiny Recommendation (Dec 15)	Previous Update from Jun 16	June 2017 - Update
<p><i>increasing the availability of laptops for staff, such as social workers, who are regularly working off-site.</i></p>	<p>Workers with new upgraded laptops.</p>	
<p>19: Governance Arrangements</p> <p><i>The DCS is requested to undertake a review of the governance arrangements relating to safeguarding to ensure that remits of bodies, such as Children's Trust Board, Corporate Parenting Group, Health & Wellbeing Board, Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), Safeguarding Reference Group and scrutiny, are clearly understood, the appropriate reporting lines are in place and that duplication of activity is avoided.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of arrangements commenced in April 2016 and will be completed by September. The review has been asked to consider governance arrangements relating to safeguarding to ensure that the remit of the Children's Trust, Corporate Parenting Group, Health & Wellbeing Board, Wirral Children's Safeguarding Board, Safeguarding Reference Group and scrutiny is understood and that appropriate reporting lines are in place which avoid duplication. • Internal Audit has been requested to perform a review of the inter-connectivity between these groups, the clarity of the different roles and the overall effectiveness of the working arrangements regarding safeguarding children. This work will be reported in June to the Strategic Director. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In April 2016, the Children's Joint Commissioning Group (CJCG) terms of reference were updated to sharpen the purpose of the group so that it acted as the key strategic group that ensured there was effective implementation of the commissioning activity to deliver the ambition set out in the Children, Young People and Families Strategy (CYPF Strategy). • In September 2016, the Children's Trust terms of reference and purpose were refreshed. The work is progressing to become consistently outcome focussed
<p>20 - The role for Scrutiny within Safeguarding</p> <p><i>The Strategic Director of Transformation and Resources is requested to further examine the role of scrutiny in the safeguarding process by establishing a protocol of understanding with the Local</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of the review being undertaken in relation to recommendation 19, the role of scrutiny will be examined by establishing a protocol of understanding with the Wirral Children's Safeguarding Board. • A protocol was established in October 2014 between the Wirral Children's Safeguarding Board, Health & Well Being Board and the Children's Trust, which will be reviewed as part of this work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LSCB is progressing its development through 8 recommendations and as part of the governance for the improvement journey • The member's work programme is sighted on the work of the LSCBs • A scrutiny workshop to be arranged to discuss how scrutiny and the LSCB can work together more effectively in the future. The intention is to hold the session in time to report back to the Children OSC meeting in September.

Original Scrutiny Recommendation (Dec 15)	Previous Update from Jun 16	June 2017 - Update
<i>Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)</i>		

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

6.1 There are no resource implications arising directly from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 There are no relevant risks arising directly from this report.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 Full engagement with the accountable Senior Leaders within the CYPD to ensure the most up to date position statement could be provided to elected members.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 An equality impact assessment has not been completed due to the nature of this report.

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APPENDICES

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date