

WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD – 20TH NOVEMBER 2009

Report from the LSCB on local arrangements and Ofsted evaluation of Wirral Serious Case Reviews

1.0 Introduction

This report informs the Children's Trust Board of key arrangements in place locally to further promote and safeguard children's welfare following the national review of safeguarding by the Government following the Serious Case Review (baby Peter) into Haringey Local Safeguarding Board, the Local Authority and other key partner agencies involved.

2.0 Report on Local Safeguarding Arrangements

Following the Serious Case Review in Haringey and the Government's response through the publication of 'The Protection of children in England: action plan (2009)', Wirral Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) have conducted and overseen the following action:

- Received the DCSF interim report on 'Effectiveness of new LSCBs in England' and used this to benchmark and make the following changes to the Board whilst awaiting full report;
- On lay representation agree one position to be held by a young person from the Children in Care Council. The lead elected member will become an observer on the Board until the national guidance is received.
- Agreement to form an Executive group to improve the development of the core business of the LSCB, the Director will chair and Police will vice-chair. Terms of reference have been agreed and first meeting to take place before December 2009.
- LSCB Manager –successful applicant offered appointment with view to taking up post in January 2010, Independent chairing –Interim chair available from January, full appointment will take place following receipt of DCSF guidance in Working Together expected December 2010.
- Third meeting with senior officers from health and the DCS, to review strategic and operational capacity within health for safeguarding.
- New policy and procedure on Escalation process (when agencies have differences of view about thresholds), updated policy and procedure on children who run away from home/care.
- Merseyside review of the Management of Children at risk of Harm – the 66 cases review – review of progress tabled for next Board.

Wirral LSCB was asked by GONW to be part of a pilot for undertaking more effective Serious Case Reviews. In the knowledge that 46% of all SCRs in England are judged as inadequate, the drive is to consider a different approach. The Social Care Institute of Excellence was awarded the contract and three LSCB's are piloting cases to inform national findings on 'why' professionals made judgements and decisions based on a systems approach to learning. Wirral LSCB has decided to use the pilot for a case which did not meet the criteria for SCR but met the criteria for conducting a Critical Incident.

3.0 Serious Case Reviews

The previous report to the Children's Trust detailed the Ofsted grade on each of the Serious Case Reviews undertaken. A third SCR has been submitted and is awaiting grading, this case of child murder has attracted significant media interest because of the seriousness of the crime and the now published mental health issues attached to this case. The Executive Summary will be made available as soon as Ofsted have notified the LSCB of its findings, expected towards end of November 2009. Once the Executive Summary is received from Ofsted the Childrens Trust will receive this as well as an update on the required action.

4. 0 Recommendations:

That Wirral Children's Trust Board note the report.

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