

WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD – 11TH SEPTEMBER 2009

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

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.

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:

- A rapid appraisal of all children subject to a child protection plan by District Managers which included an analysis of social work visits and actions outstanding on the plan.
- A small sample of children were seen and spoken with about their view of safeguarding arrangements for themselves, as well as their carers who were asked about their knowledge and involvement in plan.
- PCT and Acute Trust produced a written report to the LSCB on health action on child protection plans and their own compliance with planned action. Further to this the NHS partnership has undertaken a review of their safeguarding arrangements following the Quality Care Commissions national review and will report to the LSCB in September. This review will include the capacity of the Trust to support the work of the LSCB and its sub-committees.
- Merseyside Police with the 5 LSCB's undertook an audit of 66 randomly samples cases across Merseyside that had been referred by police operational staff. A full report and Executive summary was produced with an associated Action Plan for a Learning Together Partnership day in June 2009. Each LSCB will report to the Governance Group, chaired by Assistant Chief Constable and consisting of the DCS's, on their respective action.
- Independent chairing of the LSCB- was a recommendation from Lord Lamings report 'The Protection of Children in England – a Progress Report '. Wirral LSCB agreed to tender for an independent chair and an appropriate level of funding was agreed by the Board in June 2009. Interviews will be held in October for this position.

Serious Case Reviews

Ofsted evaluate all SCR's under the new arrangements and Wirral LSCB have had two evaluations thus far. **JLS** – completed in November 2008 was judged to be 'good'. Evaluations range from inadequate to outstanding. The Social Care report was judged to be outstanding. The second, **AP** – was evaluated as adequate, with the health reports being judged as good. A Third SCR is being conducted on a child who died in April , CF, and will be completed in October 2009. As there are parallel criminal proceedings due to be completed in October it is likely there will be a delay in publishing the Executive Summary for this SCR. Executive Summaries are a requirement and are placed on the LSCB website as public documents. The Government have produced, through the DCSF, a re-draft of Chapter 8 – Serious Case Reviews, for consultation with the full revision expected to be regulated for in December when the full revision of Working Together is complete. This will include SCR chairs also being independent of the LSCB but commissioned and financed by the Board.

RECOMMENATIONS:

That Wirral Children's Trust Board note the report.

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