

# WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD – 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2010

## Report to the Children's Trust Board on Safeguarding Arrangements

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### 1. Introduction and background

This report forms part of a regular update from the LSCB to the Children's Trust Board on key developments locally and nationally on regulatory reform, updates on progress of local Serious Case Reviews and key challenges for the partnership and agencies.

### 2. National reform and statutory guidance

The national framework for safeguarding, Working Together to Safeguard Children was published in March 2010. There was significant changes to this framework and the LSCB were provided with an implementation plan on these by the Strategic Service Manager – Safeguarding for consideration. The plan is as follows:

- LSCB membership: the lead elected member has attended the Board as 'participating observer', Adult Social Services have nominated a lead officer, Housing representative has been nominated, schools have become statutory members and Wirral Metropolitan College have been consulted and will be represented. One lay person has been recruited as a member of the Children in Care Council (CiC). An induction programme has been agreed with this member and an advert has gone out for the other member.
- Chapter 5 – Managing individual cases – work on policies and procedures re-draft has begun with the sub-committee of the LSCB to consider the changes required. The LSCB is considering contracting with an agency who provide web based procedures along with other north west authorities. A tendering process has already begun for this work. In addition agencies are reviewing their own part of the procedures to consider any changes required. The timescale for completing the written revision of the procedures is September 2010.
- Child Death functions of the Board- revisions of the child death procedures are being lead by the Designated Doctor with the Child Death Review Panel. These revisions mainly concern revised duties on Coroners (Coroners Amendment Rules 2008) and Registrars to inform the LSCB of any death of a child and further inform of Inquest or Post Mortems. There is a change in emphasis the definition of 'preventability' to include the term 'modifiable factors' which have contributed to the death.
- Relationship between the CTB and the LSCB –a draft Memorandum of Understanding has been presented to both the CTB and the LSCB. A final version of this is being presented to the CTB today following minor amendments.
- An LSCB published annual report - work has begun on this and the first draft will be available for the LSCB and the CTB, to coincide the annual review of the Children and Young People's Plan, which will capture an analysis of the needs of all children and young people in the area, areas for challenge and key developments. There is a specific role for Chief Executives and Leaders of Councils to ensure that they are satisfied with the safeguarding arrangements by making an assessment of the

effectiveness of local governance and partnerships in place for children. The Director of Children's Services has presented a report to the Local Authority Cabinet on proposals for developing this area. It is proposed that a Safeguarding Reference Group be established and membership includes the Chief Executive, the Leader of the Council, and all political party spokespersons. Officers will be the DCS, the Head of Branch and Strategic Service Manager-Safeguarding. This group will consider and sign off the Annual Report, progress on Serious Case Review action plans and safeguarding issues appertaining to any local authority services. Wirral LSCB will produce the first statutory report by October 2010.

- Serious Case Review reform and publication of Overview reports—LSCB were informed by the Minister, Mr. Loughton on the 10<sup>th</sup> June that there was to be statutory changes to the publication of SCR's. The new requirements are as follows: Overview Reports are to be published in full for those cases initiated after 10<sup>th</sup> June 2010. They have to be suitably anonymised to protect the individuals involved. There is an exception to this in that if by publishing it could affect the welfare of the child then consideration would need to be had to their welfare and rights to privacy. It also requires the Individual Management Reports should not be made publicly available. There is no change to the guidance on the Executive Summary.
- SCR's in Wirral –the LSCB initiated a SCR on a family of 4 children in February 2010. The final submission for this report is October 18<sup>th</sup> 2010 to Ofsted. Progress on the actions from CF (reported at the last CTB) is good with many of the key actions well underway with health, police, mental health and other agencies.
- The Munro national Review - this review is intended to improve child protection which began with the appointment of Professor Eileen Munro. Professor Munro is due to submit her final report in April 2011, an interim report in January 2011, and an initial report in September 2010. One major strand to the review is to improve the SCR function and consider alternative ways of learning from experience. In Professor Munro's Call for Evidence Wirral LSCB are submitting a report based on the collaborative work just undertaken with the Social Care Institute of Excellence, (SCIE). The LSCB were one of three pilots in the North West to develop an alternative approach to learning from cases. Regional dissemination events took place in June 2010 and a final report on the work will be received by the LSCB and thereon disseminated in September 2010.

### **3. Recommendations:**

3.1 The Children's Trust Board note the points raised in this report and facilitate any necessary developments required to ensure standards and requirements are met.

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