

WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD – 15th July 2011

Report to the Children's Trust Board on Safeguarding Arrangements

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 Munro Review of Child Protection was published on 10th May 2011. The review contained a number of recommendations which will have implications for safeguarding services and processes, not least in that a re-draft of *Working Together to Safeguard Children* may follow. It is expected that the Government will respond to the review in the late autumn at which point the LSCB will consider the implications and plan to respond accordingly.
- Phase 1 of the Section 11 audit is underway. Section 11 of the *Children's Act 2004* places a statutory duty on organisations to co-operate in safeguarding children and the audit will examine how effectively this is being achieved across Wirral. Phase 1 involves all LSCB partner agencies, except education, and the submission date is 31st August 2011. All schools, colleges and academies will complete the audit in Phase 2 which begins in September 2011. A full report will be presented to the LSCB in December 2011.
- SCR's in Wirral – The SCRs for both Children ABCD and Child E were submitted to both the DfE and Ofsted on 8th April 2011. We are awaiting the evaluation from Ofsted. The multi-agency action plans are underway and being monitored by the Executive Group. Briefing sessions for practitioners and managers have commenced and will reinforce lessons learned. The multi-agency training calendar has been refreshed to include learning from the reviews and specific training sessions have been developed in direct response to the findings.
- SCIE (Social Care Institute of Excellence) – pilot project phase 2. Wirral is one of five LSCBs participating in the second phase of the *Learning Together Systems Approach to SCRs*. In light of the Munro Review and her recommendation that SCRs should move towards a systems approach, this is a very positive development for the Board. The LSCB has nominated Isobel Colquhoun and Colleen Murphy as Trainee Lead Reviewers, Caroline McKenna as Champion and Elizabeth Hartley (LSCB Manager) as Project Co-ordinator. The project is due to be completed in November 2011.

3. Recommendations:

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

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