

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- Implications of the Review and the Government's response were key themes of the recent LSCB Development Day. The LSCB is drafting a statement for partners regarding the approach it will take; this will include retaining our core policies and procedures, keeping some timescales and prioritising the early help offer. Some of the main challenges presented to the LSCB are as follows:
 - Reviewing local policies and procedures
 - Developing safeguarding supervision across the partnership
 - Agreeing performance management information and implementing systems for collection

The government has made it clear in their response that they expect each local area to make decisions and implement structures best suited to their own needs. Therefore the LSCB plans to host a stakeholder event in order to consult with partners on meeting our local needs and common goals.

- Child Death Overview Panel Update- The CDOP Panel, which has responsibility for reviewing child deaths in Wirral, will enter into a pan-Merseyside group as of February 2012. Initially Wirral CDOP will submit only neo-natal deaths and once reporting streams have been established all child deaths will be reviewed by the pan-Merseyside group. The purpose of the pan-Merseyside group is to allow better data analysis through a wider footprint area. The LSCB agreed to join the group as it believes this will enhance learning from cases and enable better awareness raising in terms of preventative work. For the first 12 months Wirral CDOP will continue to function as in previous years alongside the pan-Merseyside group. This will mean that cases are reviewed thoroughly whilst the new group is established.
- Workstreams- work continues in the following areas:
 - Section 11 Safeguarding Audit
 - Annual Report and Business Plan
 - ZK Critical Incident
 - Child F Learning Together Review
 - Themed audits- safeguarding supervision/ pre-birth assessments

3. Recommendations:

3.1 The Children's Trust Board notes the points raised in this report

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