

# WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD – 27<sup>th</sup> November 2012

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

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### 1.0 Background and Introduction

1.1 This report forms part of a regular update from the WSCB 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.

### 2.0 National Reform and Statutory Guidance

#### 2.1 Working Together to Safeguard Children

The consultation for the new Working Together to Safeguard Children and accompanying documents ended on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2012. A key feature of the new documents is the reduction in size of guidance from over 700 pages to something much smaller. The WSCB took part in the consultation and we await the publication of the final documents.

#### 2.2 Disclosure and Barring Procedure

Changes to the criminal records and barring arrangements came into effect in September (further changes will come into effect in December) and the Government has issued a leaflet to explain how the changes will affect organisations who recruit and engage people to work with children, young people and vulnerable adults:

*Changes to disclosure and barring: What you need to know*

Summary of the main changes:

- a new definition of regulated activity
- Introduction of a minimum age (16) at which someone can apply for a CRB check
- More rigorous relevancy test for locally held and released police information on an enhanced CRB check, and a new right of review available for applicants
- Provision of statutory guidance on supervision of children -Most people will be barred only if they have engaged, are engaging or might in the future engage in Regulated Activity
- Greater powers for the ISA to review a person's inclusion on a barred list
- The functions of the ISA & CRB will be merged to form a single new body in December 2012 called the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS)

### 3.0 WSCB Quality Assurance Framework

The WSCB has developed a quality assurance framework (QAF) designed to allow the Board and partner agencies to monitor and measure the quality and impact of safeguarding services. The QAF is designed around a wide range of content areas

including governance, use of regular and themed audits, reporting arrangements and schedule and professional development and training.

The framework focuses on, and is underpinned by, the child's journey and is a working tool which can be used to support organisations to deliver improved outcomes for children through evidence-based action planning. The principles of the QAF can be adopted by organisations as a framework with which to monitor the effectiveness of their practice in keeping children and young people safe.

The timeline of reporting activity in the QAF will be used to inform the agenda for future WSCB meetings.

#### **4.0 Safeguarding Training Needs Analysis**

The WSCB Learning and Development Sub-Committee have undertaken work to develop an informed strategy for multi-agency staff to access the safeguarding training most relevant to their role and experience. Phase one of this work has been the development of an IT based database to record role and training details of the children's workforce from which training needs can be extrapolated.

The resulting training needs analysis will be used to inform the necessary provision of training and promote a more effective use of resources and improve and monitor individual's participation in training.

#### **5.0 Children at Risk of Sexual Exploitation**

In response to the progress report on national action plan for tackling child sexual exploitation a working group is developing a local Child Action Plan and progress reports will be presented to the WSCB and Children's Trust.

#### **6.0 Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)**

The MASH idea is based on the police model of co-locating key professionals from agencies together to swiftly and securely share information. The lack of good and timely information sharing between agencies is a feature of most serious case reviews. These professionals share information to ensure early identification of potential significant harm and use this information to decide the most appropriate intervention to respond to the child's identified needs.

The potential for a MASH in Wirral is currently being explored.

#### **7.0 WSCB and Children's Trust Joint Development Day**

A joint development day was held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2012 as part of Wirral's response to Professor Eileen Munro's statement that the government:

*"should place a duty on local authorities and statutory partners to secure the sufficient **provision of local early help services** for children, young people and families.."*

The development day was attended by 36 colleagues from across the Children's Trust and WSCB and the outcomes from the day have informed the wider ongoing review of family support services. A separate report detailing the outcomes from the day is available.

## **8.0 Critical Incident Reviews (CIR) and Serious Case Reviews (SCR)**

CIR – Child ZK – The Critical Incident Review has been undertaken and completed by the WSCB Performance Sub-Committee. Recommendations and learning have been reported.

SCR – Child HW – The Serious Case Review is ongoing and in final stages of completion. There will be a criminal trial starting on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

### **9.0 Recommendations:**

9.1 The Wirral Children's Trust Board notes the report.

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