

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

## FAMILIES AND WELLBEING POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>WIRRAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S BOARD AND SAFEGUARDING ADULTS PARTNERSHIP BOARD- UPDATE REPORT.</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b><i>DIRECTOR OF CHILDRENS SERVICES AND DIRECTOR OF ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES</i></b>
<b>KEY DECISION</b>	<b>NO</b>

### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide updates from the Wirral Safeguarding Children's Board (WSCB) and Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (SAPB) on key safeguarding developments locally and nationally including regulatory reform, updates on the progress of serious case reviews and WSCB and SAPB priority areas and challenges for the partnership and agencies.

### 2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 **WSCB and SAPB Joint Activity.** Wirral Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) and Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (SAPB) have a number of joint activities, these are as outlined below.

**Appointment of Independent Chair.** Bernard Walker has been appointed as the Independent Chair of both the WSCB and the SAPB. Bernard has 14 years experience as the Executive Director of Health and Well Being in Wigan, and has most recently served as the Chair of the Adults Faculty at the College of Social Work.

**MASH Development.** Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) development is underway with partners. The Moreton Building is currently being renovated which includes necessary secure IT infrastructure. The building work is currently behind schedule and is due to be completed by early October.

**Joint Safeguarding Function.** The local authority will shortly be advertising for a Head of Corporate Safeguarding who will lead children's and adults safeguarding developments including establishing a joint WSCB and SAPB safeguarding function.

### 2.2 WSCB Safeguarding Developments

**Child Sexual Exploitation.** The Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) multi-agency sub group of the WSCB has been established and oversees implementation of the CSE action plan. Recent progress includes:-

- Launch of the Pan Merseyside and Cheshire CSE Protocol at an event in July
- Agreement of a multi-agency information sharing protocol to support monthly meetings managed by Merseyside police to discuss plans for children identified as at risk of being sexually exploited

- completion of awareness raising training with police, response, health and youth workers in schools, and foster carers and residential providers
- Planning a community awareness raising project with trading standards which will focus on 'night time economy' workers who may come into contact with vulnerable children including taxi drivers, hoteliers, takeaway/ off licence staff, licensees etc. The WSCB have successfully bid for £9,900 from the Public Health outcomes fund to support this activity and an associated media campaign

**Ofsted Inspection Framework.** Ofsted issued proposals and a draft document for a new single inspection framework for the *Inspection of Services for Children in Need of Help and Protection, Children Looked After and Care Leavers*. A consultation on the proposed inspection framework ended in July 13 and Ofsted intend to implement the new framework in November. The proposed inspection framework contains a number of significant differences to previous frameworks including:-

- The previous judgement grade of *adequate* will be replaced by *requires improvement*
- Three key judgement areas – experiences and progress of children who need help and protection - experiences and progress of children looked after and achieving permanence - leadership, management and governance
- A grade of *inadequate* in any key judgement area will result in an overall grade of *inadequate*
- LSCB's will be given a graded judgement of their effectiveness for the first time
- Graded judgement will also be given for quality of adoption service and experience of care leavers

### **Core Child Protection Data**

- Number of children on a child protection (CP) plan (30<sup>th</sup> June 13) – 317. The figure has increased from 275 recorded in March 2013, but is below the 12 month high figure of 356 recorded in August 2012
- Number of children currently on a CP plan who have been on the plan for more than two years is 12 (figure has varied between 6 and 12 over the past 12 months)
- Primary reasons for children being placed on a CP plan are neglect (47% of plans and physical abuse (40%). These figures are largely remained static over the past 12 months.
- Number of looked after children (LAC) (30<sup>th</sup> June 2013) – 669. This is the lowest figure recorded in the past 12 months. The range has been 669-698.

**Current WSCB Audits.** The Section 11 Audit cycle has begun across agencies. This is an annual audit undertaken by the WSCB which looks at the effectiveness of agencies arrangements to safeguarding the welfare of children and young people. Other audits currently underway include:

- Audit of how robust and fit for purpose a selection of Core Assessments are
- Audit of the assessments, plans and quality of service received by children with a disability
- Audit of multi-agency approaches to measuring neglect

**Policies and Procedures.** The WSCB has delivered 8 multi-agency briefings focusing on the implications of the new Working Together 2013 document. The WSCB is also undertaking work across the region and with the support of Tri-X (who publish our

procedures) to make sure all policies and procedures are Working Together compliant. Reviews are currently taking place of the Child Sexual Exploitation procedure, the Integrated Working Guide and Domestic Violence Practice Guidance.

**Regional Joint Working.** The WSCB is exploring opportunities to share some wider functions with other LSCB's in Merseyside and Cheshire as a way to join up working and potentially make savings. Recent collaboration across LSCB's has resulted in an agreed Pan Merseyside and Cheshire Protocol for Child Sexual Exploitation and the WSCB is part of a joint bid for central government funding to create a combined Merseyside and Cheshire safeguarding training function.

## 2.3 SAPB/ Adults Safeguarding Developments

### Strategic Developments

- The board, executive and sub groups have been the subject of a self assessment process presented to the board in March. The board subsequently approved a facilitated away day for members to consider other structures and approaches to achieve greater effectiveness and cooperation with LSCB colleagues.
- Sub groups; WSCB and SAPB training sub groups have amalgamated to form Learning and Development sub group, which is working to implement a training need analysis, including safeguarding adults. A revised board work plan has been drafted and the board will be invited to approve in September.
- A SAPB Communication Strategy has been agreed and is being progressed. Materials, including plasma screen displays and printed material are awaiting final approval. An internet page has been fully developed and is regularly maintained
- Cathie Williams, LGA Safeguarding lead, has been commissioned to support the development of both governance arrangements for the joint unit and also to support professional development and practice improvements in Adult safeguarding. The first meeting to scope the work is scheduled for September. This will cross connect with our professional standards and provider contracts lead. Cathie will be completing a Peer review as part of this work.
- Making Safeguarding Personal: The council has volunteered to participate in the development of a national project led by the LGA to 'make Safeguarding personal'. DASS representatives will be attending a workshop in September and then engaging in the operational application of the principles over the following months.
- Internal Audit will be completing a safeguarding review, commencing September.

**Regional Developments.** Graham Hodgkinson is now leading the NW Safeguarding Group on behalf of ADASS to identify and coordinate the development of safeguarding initiatives across the region and line with national guidance.

**Safeguarding Team.** In anticipation of the appointment of a corporate safeguarding lead, strategic safeguarding issues are being retained with their commensurate departments.

The safeguarding team has been recently enhanced after the appointment of new members (3 FTE PO8's) working to a safeguarding manager. The 3 PO8's will support

both strategic developments, whilst retaining an operational focus also. Each will have a lead area and immediate priorities have been agreed:-

1. Neil Maycox, who has an extensive background in mental health, will be leading the review of safeguarding within mental health services
2. Rachael Crockett, who has extensive clinical and social work experience, will be leading on the review and development of processes at WUTH, building on the good relationship with the WUTH safeguarding team.
3. Julie Hunt, has extensive safeguarding experience across a number of local authorities and in the care sector, will be leading the review and development of safeguarding those with Learning Disabilities

The ALADO process is now fully established and is utilised well by provider partners and agencies, the process is managed between the safeguarding unit and QA staff.

The team continues to develop and maintain effective contributions to:-

- The domestic abuse MARAC on a fortnightly basis and Hate Crime MARAC, which is jointly chaired by the DASS safeguarding manager, who is collaborating with the voluntary sector in an effort to fund and establish two third party reporting centres on the Wirral, to address the huge under reporting of disability hate crime in particular.
- The relationships with co-located NHS safeguarding colleagues are now highly developed, leading to effective information sharing and joint work.
- The delivery of bespoke safeguarding training in the form essential pathways, multi-agency domestic abuse training and WRAP workshops. (workshop to raise awareness of PREVENT. This is the Government strategy for diverting vulnerable people away from radicalisation towards committing extreme acts of terrorism)
- MAPPA, Joint Action Groups for repeat offenders and domestic homicide reviews.

### **3.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 3.1 The provision of effective safeguarding services for children, young people and adults, at risk of significant harm or who have experienced significant harm is an area of work demanding constant attention, monitoring and oversight. This report seeks to provide assurance that practice developments and systems are in place to do this; however, there can never be any room for complacency. This remains an area of considerable risk.

### **4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 No other options were considered as a part of this report.

### **5.0 CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 The developments outlined within the report have been discussed by the Wirral Safeguarding Children's Board and Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board.

### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

- 6.1 There are no direct implications associated with this report.

### **7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS**

7.1 Members will note the progress made to date in ensuring that Safeguarding Officer posts are recruited to by the SAPB. Pending the appointment of a corporate safeguarding lead, strategic safeguarding issues are being retained with their commensurate departments.

## 8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no legal implications.

## 9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

(a) Yes and impact review can be found via the following link:

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010-0>

(b) No because there is no relevance to equality.

(c) No because of another reason which is

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*\* Delete the two answers above which don't apply.*

## 10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no direct implications associated with this report.

## 11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Providing effective safeguarding services directly impacts on safety within the community.

## 12.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

12.1 Members are asked to note the content of the report

## 13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 Members have a responsibility to assure themselves that the council is taking appropriate action to ensure that safeguarding services provided by the Council are effective.

### REPORT AUTHOR:

**David Robbins**

*WSCB Board Manager*

telephone: (0151) 666 4314

email: [davidrobbins@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:davidrobbins@wirral.gov.uk)

**Jacqui Evans**

*Head of Transformation*

0151 666 3938

[jacquievans@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:jacquievans@wirral.gov.uk)

**APPENDICES**

**REFERENCE MATERIAL**

**SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>