

Wirral Safeguarding Children Board
Annual Report (12-13)
and Business Plan (13-14)

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November 2013

Statutory Objectives and Functions of WSCB

Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 sets out the objectives of LSCBs, which are:

- (a) to coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and
- (b) to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.

The WSCB operates as an independent multi-agency body under the direction of an independent chair and is not subordinate to any other body.

Safeguarding Context for 2012-13

WSCB Annual Report 12-13

- Government acceptance of the Munro Review of Child Protection- child centred, professional judgement
- Publication of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013
- NHS Reform – demise of PCTs, creation of CCG's, change in roles/ accountability
- Safeguarding in a time of Austerity- implication of budget cuts/ remodelling particularly in LA, Police, Health, Probation

1. Further develop professional expertise in safeguarding practice

- ✓ Working Together briefings delivered to over 300 professionals
- ✓ Core safeguarding procedures fully published online
- ✓ Safeguarding supervision audit recommended changes
- ✓ Section 11 audit overview report published
- ✓ Policy, Practice and Procedure committee updating procedures following publication of new Working Together
- ✓ Undertaking of workforce training needs analysis

2. Improve learning from Serious Case Reviews

- ✓ Learning disseminated from 2nd national pilot using SCIE systems approach methodology
- ✓ WSCB has trained two authors in SCIE approach
- ✓ Learning embedded in WSCB training and tested by audits
- ✓ Detailed messages from SCR's published in Annual Report
- ✓ New NW learning and improvement framework being developed

3. Ensure outcomes for children are the focus of interventions and performance management

- ✓ Quality assurance framework and 3 year quality cycle developed and linked to multi-agency auditing
- ✓ Child Protection performance data published and scrutinised by WSCB
- ✓ Revisions made to performance management reports in line with government/ Munro recommendations
- ✓ Impact assessment tool for measuring effectiveness of multi-agency training

4. Implement the actions from Serious Case and Critical Incident Reviews

- ✓ Four core areas targeted for training – child sexual abuse, neglect, domestic abuse and parental mental health
- ✓ Joint working protocol for parental mental health published and updated training delivered
- ✓ Study of the use and impact of the graded care profile and wider study of neglect planned
- ✓ Extensive and targeted child sexual abuse training for social care

5. Continue to improve the functioning and accountability of WSCB

- ✓ Memorandum of understanding developed with the Wirral Children's Trust Board
- ✓ Appointment of new Independent Chair
- ✓ Publication and presentation of annual report
- ✓ Implemented government's statutory guidance on role of the lead member and Director of Children's Services
- ✓ Recommendations from the Section 11 overview report implemented
- ✓ Safeguarding included in commissioning arrangements

6. Continue to strengthen joint working between WSCB and SAPB

- ✓ Children's and Adult's training co-ordinated through Learning and Development Committee
- ✓ Publication of single training plan and core competences
- ✓ Sharing of lessons from Children's and adult's case reviews
- ✓ Closer future integration through corporate safeguarding function
- ✓ Single Independent Chair
- ✓ Joining up of other sub group functions

Section 11

- Duty on organisations to comply with annual audit (117 2012)

Learning from Serious Case and Critical Case Reviews

- 16 learning points highlighted and disseminated by WSCB from one SCR and one CIR

Safeguarding Training

- 28 courses (90 sessions) delivered to over 1000 professionals

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

- WSCB member of Merseyside CDOP. Annual report published

Early Help Offer

- 1116 supported through Team Around the Child (TAC). 56% of cases closed needs met

Local Authority Designated Officer for Allegations (LADO)

- 139 allegations reported. Physical abuse (61%) and sexual abuse (18%) main categories

For 2013-14

Priority One

Review, monitor and develop professional expertise in safeguarding practice

- Targeted provision of training informed by training needs analysis
- New Section 11 audit and accountability meetings
- Update of core safeguarding procedures and work with Tri-X
- Development of a WSCB website

Priority Two

WSCB Business Plan 13-14

Undertake Serious Case and Critical Incident Reviews and embed learning from these

- Requirements for undertaking SCR's as set out in Working Together are Implemented
- Learning from SCR's and CIR's is disseminated across partner agencies
- Systems are in place to measure impact of learning
- To agree the NW Learning and Improvement framework

Priority Three

WSCB Business Plan 13-14

Ensure the development of early help is quality assured to improve impact and outcomes

- The WSCB maintains oversight of development of the Early Help offer through targeted services (focus on family)
- WSCB published updated Integrated Working Guide including thresholds
- Thresholds scrutinised through multi-agency auditing
- The need for children to be subject to child protection plans or to become looked after is reduced by effective early help

Priority Four

WSCB Business Plan 13-14

Ensure children and young people continue to be safeguarded in the light of significant national reform and local changes

- New NHS organisations and structures are securely embedded in the WSCB
- The WSCB effectively challenges Wirral Children's Trust Board, particularly with regard to commissioning
- WSCB scrutinises 'think family' practice to ensure needs and wishes of children are central to planning outcomes
- WSCB continues to undertake multi-agency audits

Priority Five

WSCB Business Plan 13-14

Develop and implement an action plan to tackle child sexual exploitation (CSE)

- Multi-agency CSE sub committee is established
- Children experiencing or at risk of CSE are identified and provided with effective services
- Awareness of CSE is raised in communities
- Activity related to CSE is successfully disrupted leading to successful prosecution of offenders

Priority Six

WSCB Business Plan 13-14

Continue to monitor and improve the functioning of the WSCB and ensure there is appropriate challenge to the Children's Trust to drive up standards

- The WSCB quality assurance framework drives improvement
- Regular audits measure effectiveness of practice
- Effectiveness of WSCB to keep children safe can be measured in all aspects of local safeguarding
- WSCB sub committees have clear action plans and can demonstrate the effectiveness of their work

Priority Seven

Continue to strengthen joint working between the WSCB and SAPB and develop common approaches to safeguarding

- Shared service areas are identified and integration continues through sub committee working
- Development of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) includes co-location of children's and adult's safeguarding
- WSCB and SAPB functions become aligned under single corporate safeguarding function
- The Intensive Family Intervention Programme (IFIP) – troubled families programme is embedded in service delivery
- The new Family CAF and Team Around the Family approach are evaluated

End of Presentation

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<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/childrens-services/local-safeguarding-childrens-board/annual-reports>