

**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 safeguarding 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 work locally and key challenges for the partnership and agencies.

**2.0 National Reform and Safeguarding Developments**

**2.1 Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy**

The multi-agency Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) multi-agency sub committee continues to focus on developing an effective response to CSE including awareness raising, training and ensuring young people who are at risk of, or victims of CSE are identified as early as possible and protected from harm.

The committee through the WSCB and in partnership with the LSCB's in Merseyside has begun a 12<sup>th</sup> month campaign against CSE called [www.listentomystory.co.uk](http://www.listentomystory.co.uk). The campaign was launched on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015 – the date of the first National Awareness Raising Day for Child Sexual Exploitation. An example of the campaign poster images is included in Appendix One. Key aspects of the campaign include:

- highlighting the [www.listentomystory.co.uk](http://www.listentomystory.co.uk) website to partners through safeguarding updates and emailed briefings to partner agencies
- providing partners with awareness raising resources including posters, leaflets, screensavers, email signatures etc
- developing a media strategy including local press releases and local radio shows and regular messages through the Friday updates and on Twitter
- working in partnership with young people's groups to design a *Who's Looking Out for the Teenagers?* style day for young people
- undertaking a series of audits of practice and testing of multi-agency readiness to help combat Child Sexual Exploitation

The WSCB has requested all partners answer four key questions in regards to their CSE preparedness:

Q1. How many (%) of your frontline staff have received CSE training (single or multi-agency) in the last three years?

Q2. How many (%) of your operational and strategic managers have received CSE training (single or multi-agency) in the last three years?

Q3. How confident (very confident; confident; not very confident) are you that staff in your organisation know how to make a referral in respect of cases where they suspect CSE?

Q4. Has your organisation undertaken work with young people to raise awareness about CSE? If yes, what work have you done (events, training, posters etc)?

The WSCB asks that agencies respond (to [davidrobbins@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:davidrobbins@wirral.gov.uk)) by the **24<sup>th</sup> April**. We will publish a report of the findings shortly afterwards.

## **2.2 Feedback from the WSCB Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

The full WSCB meets once a quarter to discuss safeguarding items of local and national significance including those the WSCB holds a statutory duty for. The WSCB does not publish the minutes publicly due to the sensitive nature of some of the content but will include general feedback from the meetings as a standing item in the quarterly reports to the Children's Trust. The following topics were discussed at the meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015:

- Presentation from Merseyside Police about the involvement of girls and young women in criminal groups and gangs in Wirral – the presentation highlighted the breadth of criminal activity controlled by a small number of criminal groups and the need for all agencies to be aware of signs that young people may be involved with such groups, for example sudden signs of wealth. The WSCB is supporting activity led by Merseyside police.
- Multi-agency audit of 'thresholds' – the WSCB audited nine cases at level 3 (3x team around the family) and level 4 (3x child in need and 3x child protection). The report showed that there is a good understanding of the thresholds of need across the partnership but it did highlight the need for agencies to share information in a timely manner and for lead professionals to ensure all relevant agencies receive invitations to meetings and minutes, and are able to contribute effectively to plans designed to support young people.
- Early Intervention Maturity Matrix – the Head of Targeted Services presented to the Board the findings from the recently undertaken Early Intervention Maturity Matrix by the local authority and partners during two multi-agency workshops. The Maturity Matrix, developed by the Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) was designed to support those involved in decision-making, planning, designing and commissioning Early Help services in local areas. Analysis of the findings from the matrix has helped the Early Help Strategic Board identify five work streams including development of performance indicators and publication of a strategy.
- Private Fostering – the Private Fostering Annual Report for 2014/15 was presented to the WSCB. The report highlighted that in Wirral relatively few cases of private fostering are reported to the Local Authority: there were six in the last 12 months. The recommendations from the report, informed by best practice highlighted nationally by Ofsted, include devising an awareness raising strategy for the next 12 months, ensuring reporting is robust and reporting a self-evaluation of placements. A multi-agency task and finish group has been established to implement the recommendations.
- Wirral Community NHS Trust 0-19 Healthy Child Service – The Community NHS Trust presented a report about the recently jointly commissioned Healthy Child Programme for 0-19 years by the Local Authority and NHS England. The new service is designed to improve safeguarding for children and young people by providing a seamless pathway of care, preventing duplication and promoting integration in preventative health care provision for children and young people. The service incorporates key functions and services for children and young people including: health visiting; family nurse partnership; health promotion services; school nursing; sexual health; alcohol education; immunisation and vaccinations. The new service provides many opportunities to closely align with other support to young people provided by the partnership, particularly early help.

## **2.3 Online Section 11/ Section 175 Safeguarding Audit**

The WSCB has launched the 2015 Section 11/ Section 175 Safeguarding Audit for schools and partner agencies. All agencies who deliver services to children and young people under the age of 18 are required to assure the WSCB that they have effective arrangements in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

The paper audit has been replaced with an online audit which requires agencies to log into and update. The WSCB can monitor how complete the audits are and can offer support to agencies where they identify gaps in their safeguarding arrangements. The audit covers key areas of safeguarding including training for staff, named lead professionals for safeguarding, management accountability, quality of policies and procedures and safer recruitment.

Agencies have to register to be put on the online system and invitations have been sent across the partnership. The WSCB will be delivering multi-agency briefings for agencies to explain the how to log on and complete the audit. Agencies are requested to have completed the audit by **31<sup>st</sup> July 2015**. A report of findings from the audit will be included in the WSCB Annual Report and follow up accountability meetings with key partner agencies will also be held.

Partners are asked to contact [davidrobbins@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:davidrobbins@wirral.gov.uk) if they have any queries about the audit.

## **2.4 WSCB Safeguarding Messages via Twitter**

The WSCB has an established method for delivering safeguarding messages across the partnership to highlight safeguarding matters and issues through the regular Friday safeguarding update newsletters. Since the end of May 2014 39 safeguarding updates have been emailed out across the partnership. Topics have included learning from national and local serious case reviews, forced marriages, operation encompass, safeguarding training, child sexual exploitation, domestic abuse, neglect strategy, safe sleep advice etc. Feedback from the partnership has been very positive. The WSCB has now expanded on how it communicated safeguarding messages by complementing the newsletters with messages on Twitter.

To coincide with National Awareness Raising Day for Child Sexual Exploitation the WSCB has launched its own Twitter account called **@wirralscb**. The WSCB will tweet at least once a week (we are currently tweeting every day about CSE) to highlight an important safeguarding message. We are encouraging partners to follow us.

The WSCB will continue to explore other ways for us to be accessible to children, young people, families, professionals and the wider community including using social media and redeveloping the use of the website.

## **3.0 Recommendations:**

**3.1** The Wirral Children's Trust Board notes the report.

**3.2** The Wirral Children's Trust Board supports the WSCB's request for all partner agencies to answer the four stated CSE questions by 24<sup>th</sup> April.

**3.3** The Wirral Children's Trust Board supports the WSCB's request for all partner agencies to register for and complete the Section 11/ Section 175 Safeguarding Audit by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015.

## **4.0 Appendix**

**4.1** Appendix One - [www.listentomystory.co.uk](http://www.listentomystory.co.uk) Campaign CSE Poster images

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**Appendix One – Child Sexual Exploitation [www.listentomystory.co.uk](http://www.listentomystory.co.uk) Campaign  
Poster Images**

