

WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD – 16th May 2016

Report to the Children's Trust Board on Safeguarding Arrangements

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 Feedback from the WSCB Meeting March 2016

The full WSCB meets six times a year 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. The following topics were discussed at the meeting held on the 15th March 2016:

- Opening Event – Exploitation drama presentation. The Last Minute Theatre Company – part of CYPD Targeted Youth Support – is a young people's theatre company who have developed a new production called On One Condition...which aims to raise awareness of exploitation. There are five short scenes in the performance; each one explores a different type of exploitation. The company performed two of the scenarios to the WSCB and received extremely positive feedback for the hard hitting portrayal. The Board will support the theatre company in rolling out the performance locally and regionally.
- Multi-agency Performance Information. Scrutiny of multi-agency performance information provides the WSCB with indicators of the strength of safeguarding arrangements. The Board considers over 200 indicators each quarter which are reviewed by its Performance Committee. At the March meeting the WSCB scrutinised Early Help and Child Protection indicators and a number of targets were set. A more detailed report including the narrative 'behind' the Early Help data is being brought to the next meeting in May
- Case Reviews. The WSCB considered the Child 2 Critical Incident Review action plan which has one action outstanding. A plan was agreed to complete the action and the plan will be brought to the WSCB for sign off in May 2016
- CSE and Early Help. CYPD Targeted Services presented a report about the Early Help response to Child Sexual Exploitation. The Early Help Strategic Group previously established a CSE workstream and the recommendations from this work had now been incorporated into the WSCB's CSE Action Plan for 2016-17. The Targeted Services report highlighted:
 - CSE is a standing agenda item at all Targeted Services management and team meetings
 - The recent Youth Voice Conference had focused on *keeping safe* and young people had developed a workshop to young people about sexual exploitation
 - All first time entrants into the youth and criminal justice systems are screened for vulnerability to CSE

- Targeted Services contribute to the Police *Operation Stay Safe* through the Response service which includes accompanying the Police on patrols into parks and other hotspot areas to talk to and engage with young people
- The Last Minute Theatre Company, part of the youth service has developed an exploitation drama production called 'On One Condition'
- Child Protection Standards. The WSCB has published multi-agency Child Protection Standards. These are the agreed standards and expectations for partnership working in Child Protection and will form the basis for how we hold ourselves, and each other, to account for the effectiveness of the process. The standards are published on the WSCB website:
<https://www.wirral safeguarding.co.uk/procedures/new-procedures/>

2.2 CSE Awareness Day 18th March 2016

The WSCB marked CSE Awareness Day on the 18th March with a variety of activities and launch of resources including:

- Catch22 visiting shopping centres with their CSE 'Gift Box' stand to raise awareness amongst young people
- Catch22, Response, Youth Service and Merseyside Police collaborating in the latest *Operation Stay Safe*
- Launch of monthly multi-agency CSE training
- Launch of the revised pan Merseyside CSE strategy and protocol
- Expansion and highlighting of the www.listentomystory.co.uk website
- launch of the new CSE awareness posters (hard copies are available at the meeting) which have a focus on the dangers of online gaming and chat
- Launch of monthly WSCB training for new taxi drivers plus guidance leaflets and briefings for the district based licensed premises forums

Child Sexual Exploitation remains a priority area for the WSCB and it has increased the frequency of its multi-agency CSE committee meetings from bi-monthly to monthly and has also published its action plan for 2016-17 which includes a continuous programme of auditing.

The WSCB is also shortly going to appoint a CSE Co-ordinator to lead on this area of work for the safeguarding board. The postholder will be supported by the recently appointed Youth Engagement Worker who will lead on capturing the views of young people in relation to CSE, particularly the effectiveness of the partnership response and how we can raise awareness.

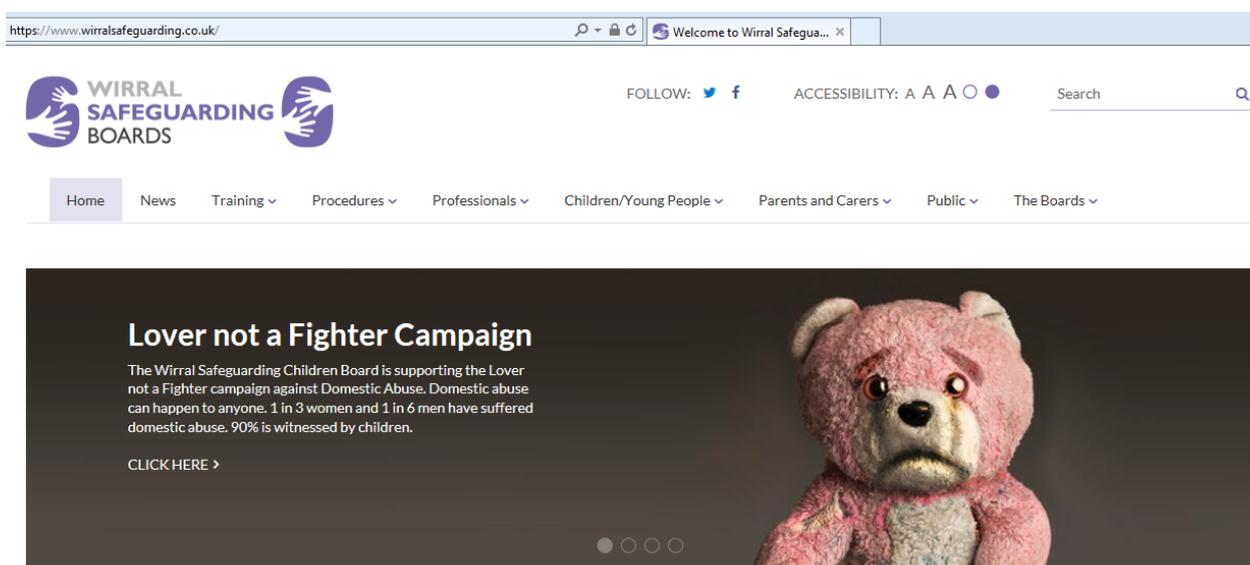
2.3 WSCB Website

The WSCB and the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board launched their joint safeguarding boards website on the 1st April 2016. For the first time the website provides the Boards with the ability to hold all of our safeguarding information in one place, in an independent website. Content will continue to be added to the website over the coming months, and information will be updated every week.

The website is designed to be accessible to children and young people, parents and carers, professionals and members of the public and to provide a 'one stop shop' of safeguarding information and important contact details. For professionals the website provides:

- links to all multi-agency safeguarding policies and procedures for children and adults
- ability to view the training calendar and book directly onto multi-agency safeguarding training
- information about latest safeguarding news, campaigns and guidance documents

The WSCB requests that all partner agencies add the web address: <https://www.wirralsafeguarding.co.uk/> to their safeguarding procedures.



Welcome to Wirral Safeguarding Boards

“ Welcome to our website for the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board and the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board. There is no more important role within any community than ensuring children, young people and adults are safe from abuse, exploitation and harm. The Safeguarding Boards have a statutory responsibility to monitor and evaluate what is done by partner agencies individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of everyone who lives in Wirral. This website has been designed to support all those who live and work in Wirral to safeguard and protect all our residents.

Bernard Walker, Independent Chair Wirral Safeguarding Boards ”

2.4 Section 11 and Section 175 Safeguarding Audits 2016

The WSCB has a statutory duty (under Section 11 of the Children Act and Section 175 of the Education Act) to test the effectiveness of partnership safeguarding arrangements and arrangements to promote the welfare of children and young people. Agencies and schools are requested to complete an online annual safeguarding audit self-assessment to provide assurance to the WSCB about the effectiveness of their safeguarding arrangements.

For each school and partner agency the safeguarding audit tests:

- Senior Management and Staff Commitment to Safeguarding – including policies and procedures
- Safeguarding Training
- Safer Recruitment arrangements
- Information Sharing
- Escalation, Complaints and Whistleblowing
- Managing Allegations
- Listening to Children and Young People

Audits are completed by agencies using an online audit tool. Details of the audit and how to register are on the WSCB website:

<https://www.wirral safeguarding.co.uk/professionals/section-11-175-audit/>

A series of multi-agency briefing sessions about the audit and how to complete it will be delivered over the next few weeks and details will be on the website.

As well as participation by statutory agencies the WSCB requires all agencies who deliver services directly to children and young people to complete a Section 11 audit.

2.5 WSCB Case Reviews

The WSCB's Case Review committee has recently completed one learning review:

Learning Review – Child 3. This case centred on an allegation that Child 3 was at risk of forced marriage. The case review committee completed the review in September 2015 and have published its multi-agency action plan. The WSCB Performance Committee is responsible for ensuring the action plan is completed and exception reports into the WSCB. Key recommendations from the review include:

- Publishing forced marriage practice guidance to support practitioners using the Merseyside protocol
- Development of Harmful Practices multi-agency training by the Learning and Development Committee
- WSCB to test that practitioners can easily access multi-agency safeguarding procedures including understanding of the multi-agency escalation procedure
- Partners to be aware of the referral pathway in Forced Marriage cases
- Highlighting the role and function of the Family Safety Unit – particularly the advice and guidance it can offer
- WSCB to review how interpreter services are provided for families
- When assessing harmful practice risks agencies must ensure an holistic assessment of need is undertaken to identify other potential safeguarding concerns

The WSCB currently has two reviews (below the Serious Case Review threshold) underway and is considering two others against the Serious Case Review criteria. Further information about potential Serious Case Reviews will be brought to future meetings.

3.0 Recommendations:

3.1 The Wirral Children's Trust Board notes the report

3.2 Partner agencies who deliver services directly to children and young people agree to undertake a Section 11 safeguarding audit

4.1 Appendix One – New CSE Posters are available for partners to display in their agencies.

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