



**Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Tuesday, 26 September 2017**

REPORT TITLE:	Workshop regarding the relationship between scrutiny and Wirral Safeguarding Children Board - Feedback
REPORT OF:	The Chair of the Committee – Councillor Tom Usher

REPORT SUMMARY

A workshop was held on Wednesday 23rd August at which members of the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee gained a better understanding of the role and functions of the Local Safeguarding Children Board and explored their future relationship with the Board. This report provides feedback from the workshop.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that Committee:

- 1) notes the report;
- 2) approves the draft protocol regarding the future working relationship between Wirral Safeguarding Children Board and the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- 3) agrees the proposed additions to the Committee's work programme relating to the Youth HIVE and the employment prospects for care leavers.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

The recommendations will enable the relationship between Wirral Safeguarding Children Board and the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be strengthened.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not Applicable

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 Workshop – 23rd August 2017

It is important that members establish scrutiny arrangements which will be effective in the long-term and will remain in place beyond the period of the Improvement Board, which is currently in place to oversee progress as a result of the Ofsted inspection and inadequate judgement of 2016. A number of members attended a safeguarding training event provided by the Centre for Public Scrutiny in January 2017. A key message for the scrutiny of safeguarding arrangements was the establishment of strong relationships with key partner bodies and organisations. The Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is clearly a key partner. Therefore, a workshop was arranged for 23rd August 2017 at which Committee members were better able to understand the key links between scrutiny and the Board and to recommend ways in which those links could be improved. All members of the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee were invited to the session and attendees at the workshop are shown in Appendix 1.

The session commenced with a presentation delivered by the Chair of Wirral's Safeguarding Children Board, Professor Maggie Atkinson followed by a wide-ranging discussion with members and key officers. The presentation included the role of the Local Safeguarding Children Board; the relationship between the LSCB and the host Local Authority; and current challenges for the Board.

3.2 Key outcomes from the Workshop

Key outcomes agreed from the workshop were:

- It would be positive to develop a complimentary relationship between Wirral's Safeguarding Children Board and the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee. A draft protocol to enhance the working relationship between the two bodies was discussed. A draft version of the protocol is attached as Appendix 2 to this report for approval by Committee. The draft protocol will also be presented to a meeting of Wirral Safeguarding Children Board, also being held on 26th September 2017.

- During the session, members were informed of the Wood Review which has investigated the future role of LSCBs. This has resulted in recommendations to review the role of LSCBs from 2019. It was agreed that a report on the future of LSCBs should be presented to the meeting of the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee scheduled for 26th September 2017.
- The work programme of the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee should be amended to include updates on the work taking place at the HIVE and the employment prospects for care leavers.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising from this report

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

The future relationship between Wirral Safeguarding Children Board and the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee will be managed from within existing resources.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

Not Applicable

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

The workshop was held in order to develop an effective working relationship between members of the scrutiny committee and the LSCB.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

This report is for information to members and there are no direct equality implications.

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APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: Workshop attendees

Appendix 2: Draft protocol regarding the working relationship between Wirral Safeguarding Children Board and the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

Appendix 1: Workshop Attendees

Members:

Tom Usher (Chair)
Alan Brighthouse
Wendy Clements
Brian Kenny
Moiria McLaughlin
Chris Meaden
Walter Smith
Jean Stapleton
Ian Lewis

Officers:

Maggie Atkinson (Chair, Wirral LSCB)
Deborah Gornik (Interim Director of Children's Services, Wirral Borough Council)
Kerry Mehta (Head of Children's Safeguarding Unit, Wirral Borough Council)
David Robbins (Business Manager, Wirral LSCB)
Alan Veitch (Scrutiny Support)
Patrick Torpey (Scrutiny Support)

Apologies:

Tony Jones
Paul Hayes
Cherry Povall