

Wirral Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report On-a-Page 2016-17



How do we measure the Journey of Children and Young People?

The Wirral Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) receives reports from agencies detailing the work they are undertaking to keep children and young people safe. The WSCB is particularly interested in how our most vulnerable young people are safeguarded and in the past year has received reports about:

- The number of children who are young carers
 - The reports to the WSCB reveal that identified young carers are well supported by agencies but agencies are not aware of all the young carers in Wirral
 - The number of private fostering arrangements
 - Wirral has a lower number of notifications than we would expect
 - How effectively agencies intervene at the earliest opportunity
 - Early Help response is robust and continues to be developed
 - The effectiveness of arrangements to protect children from harm, including those who are sexually exploited and suffer abuse and neglect
- Multi-agency arrangements are improving as part of the post Ofsted Improvement Plan. Children in need of protection receive a swift and effective service
- Multi-agency arrangements to safeguard children who are looked after
- Arrangements to keep children safe are strong. Wirral is better at keeping in touch with care leavers and is developing stronger processes so we know about all children who are placed in Wirral.

Supporting Families Enhancing Futures

The WSCB has developed a new single model for working with families called Supporting Families Enhancing Futures (SFEF). The model will be used for families in Team Around the Family, Child in Need and Child Protection processes. The model has a focus on looking closely at the child and family's daily lived experience and creating effective outcome focused and realistic plans. The model was introduced in October 2017.



What are the Partnership Challenges?

Safeguarding challenges for the partnership over the next 12 months are:

- Implementing the Children and Social Work Act which will replace local safeguarding children boards with other local arrangements led by the local authority, police and clinical commissioning group
- Launching and embedding the SFEF model
- Embedding the Right Service Right Time strategy
- Continuing to progress the improvement journey
- Ensuring the delivery of and attendance at training
- Safeguarding in austerity and budget and resourcing challenges

If Wirral Had 100 Children.....49 would be girls and 51 would be boys; 22 would live at or below the poverty line; 7 would be from ethnic minorities; 3 would have a social worker; 75 would achieve well at age 5; fewer than 1 would have a Child Protection Plan; 9 wouldn't be in education or training

What has the WSCB Achieved in the Past Year?

Safeguarding boards are made up of over 25 representatives from a range of organisations who deliver services to children. They are responsible for ensuring agencies (including schools, the local authority, police and health organisations) effectively work together to keep children and young people safe. The Wirral Safeguarding Children Board does this in a number of ways including:

- Co-ordinating multi-agency safeguarding activity and holding agencies to account for how they keep children safe
- Publishing safeguarding policies, procedures, guidance and resources
- Delivering safeguarding training for professionals
- Reviewing cases where children have died or suffered abuse and neglect.



What does our Improvement Journey look like?

Since the review of the effectiveness of the WSCB by Ofsted in 2016 found the safeguarding board to be inadequate an improvement plan has been developed to address the 7 recommendations from the report. Improvement work completed by the WSCB includes:

- Appointment of Maggie Atkinson as Independent Chair
- Revised structure and operating framework in place
- Revised 'top 20' safeguarding performance dataset scrutinised by the WSCB
- Challenges to partner agencies tracked and recorded
- All serious incidents referred to the WSCB
- Improvement plan progress is swift and sure



What has the WSCB Achieved in the Past Year?

Over the past year the WSCB has undertaken the following work to improve safeguarding across the partnership:

- Completed design of the Supporting Families Enhancing Futures model
- Established an Improving Outcomes group to evidence impact of activity
- Delivered Right Service Right Time conferences which included launch of the revised thresholds of need and publication of tools for professionals
- Developed the 'top 20' multi-agency safeguarding performance indicators
- Met with young people from the Children in Care Council to find out how safe they feel
- Delivered training to over 1,100 professionals
- Appointed a new Chair and revised the WSCB's terms of reference
- Revised strategies and tools to combat exploitation and neglect.

The Right Service Right Time strategy is designed to improve the understanding of thresholds of need to ensure that once a child's needs are identified the partnership response is swift, effective and leads to positive outcomes.



How does the WSCB support Learning and Improvement?



Learning from Serious Case Reviews
 As well as statutory Serious Case Reviews the WSCB undertakes other reviews where lessons may be learned. These are shared with the partnership through trainings, resources and briefings and impact is tested through audits. Key lessons from reviews:

- transition plans need to evidence effective multi-agency planning
- importance of partnership understanding and application of thresholds
- importance of the multi-agency escalation procedures
- to ensure all relevant agencies are invited to multi-agency meetings
- to ensure that key professionals access appropriate training.

How is the WSCB Organised, Governed and Led?

The WSCB is an independent statutory multi-agency body led by an Independent Chair supported by a small team. Much of the work of the WSCB is carried out through its multi-agency committees including:

- Performance and Improving Outcomes Committees (audits, data and impact)
- Case Review Committee (Serious Case and Multi-agency Reviews)
- Learning and Development (Training)
- Exploitation and Domestic Abuse (strategic groups)
- Child Death Overview Panel (pan Merseyside statutory group).

