



Annual Report

2012 - April 2013



Contents

Foreword Independent Chair	
Looking back and Moving Forward, Director Children's Services	
Commentary Lead Member Children's Services	
Executive Summary	
Section 1 WSCB Business Plan, WSCB Principles and values 2013	
Child Death Overview Panel	
Education Settings Sub Group	
E-Safety Sub Group	
Health Settings Sub Group	
Safe Sleeping Sub Group	
Lessons Learnt Sub Group	
Training Sub Group	
Vulnerable Young Persons Sub Group	
Young People's Advisory Group	
Section 2 Governance and Accountability	
Section 3 Performance Indicators.....	
Section 4 Celebrating Achievements and Next Steps	
Section 5 WSCB member organisations contribution to safeguarding headlines	
Section 6 How safe are our children and young people in Wigan Borough?	



Foreword

Independent Chair KATH NELSON

Having recently joined WSCB, I am delighted to introduce this report which clearly sets out the action taken by the Board to make children and young people safer in the past year, led by the previous Independent Chair, Sue Woolmore.

It is encouraging to note how much progress has been made in addressing the priorities identified in the Business Plan. This progress has been achieved by the hard work and commitment of Board Members and the Agencies which they represent and it is clear that the determination exists to continue to go the extra mile in providing services which work to enhance children's safety.

Safeguarding is only effective when undertaken collaboratively. We need everybody to play their part and to prioritise the protection of children. I am delighted to know that this remains a strength in Wigan and this year Ofsted judged partnership working locally to be outstanding. Our challenge now is to both continue this high level of joint working in face of shrinking resources and to develop our partnerships further by reaching out into the community more widely to increase the safety of our children in all areas of the Borough.

I commend the Report to you and thank everyone who has contributed to it: As stated

earlier, It has been another busy and productive year for WSCB and the Report details the achievements of the Board and its sub groups but also highlights clearly the areas where more progress is needed.

We are aware that there is still much to do! Improving the safeguarding of our children requires constant vigilance and appropriate adjustments to the ever changing context in which we take forward our work. The Board intends to review its performance to ensure we are working in line with the guidance detailed in the new Working Together and we will reconsider our priorities to ensure we are addressing the most pressing issues. We will seek the views of our children and young people to inform this review for the Board!

I am really pleased to have the opportunity to work in Wigan again! In my previous connection with the Borough, I was always impressed with the energy and passion of all those involved with the Safeguarding agenda! I look forward to working alongside Board Members so we can support and challenge each other in demonstrating that "keeping children safe is the highest priority of each member of WSCB, individually and collectively".

Looking back and Moving Forward

Director Children and Family Services ANNE GOLDSMITH

As the newly appointed Director of Children and Families I am delighted to contribute to this annual report.

This has been a significant year for changes to some of our longstanding key members on the Board. Sue Woolmore who was the first independent chair of WSCB left to spend more time in her role at the association of independent chairs and to become chair of NE Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board. Nick Hudson, Corporate Director, People also left to work for Ofsted. I wish them both every success.

Kath Nelson has been appointed as the new chair of the WSCB and I look forward to working with her and to driving forward the safeguarding work in Wigan.

One of the things I am particularly proud of this year is the outcome of the Ofsted inspection of safeguarding and services for looked after children. In particular the way inspectors described the outstanding partnership working we have developed in Wigan and how that has contributed to improving outcomes for some of our most vulnerable children and young people.

The inspection confirmed that we have good services for children and young people in Wigan but it also gave us some external challenge and scrutiny and identified those areas where we could do better. The areas for development have been picked up in a typically enthusiastic and ambitious way and

have resulted in a number of initiatives to strengthen our performance. This included a renewed focus on Corporate Parenting with two conferences held for almost 350 people from across Wigan and the launch of a new Corporate Parenting strategy. Work linked to this has also focused on improving PEP's as we seek to ensure our most vulnerable children get the best possible education and attain as well as they can in school and colleges. A particular area for attention has been our care planning so we can ensure more timely plans for those who cannot live with their parents.

We haven't got as far as we wanted in developing our involvement of children and young people in the work of the Board so in the next 12 months this will be one of the areas I want us to give more focus and to make a real difference.

The Health and Wellbeing Board has been in meeting in shadow form for a while now but from 1st April 2013 it will be formally established. I will be championing the rights and needs of children and young people on that Board and welcome the support of Kath and the WSCB in doing so.

The next year will bring new challenges as always and the pace of change is not easing up, nor is the pressure on budgets but I am sure with the strength of partnership working in Wigan we will continue to work hard and deliver better outcomes for the children and families of Wigan.

Commentary

Lead Member Children's Services SUE LOUDON

I have now been Cabinet Member for Children's Services for nearly 5 years and during that short time there has been many changes. I am constantly impressed by the wide range and high quality of services that are available to young people and their families in this borough.

The next few years will not be easy with ever decreasing budgets at a time of economic downturn, rising unemployment, and the threat of a large numbers of our children living in poverty. We all understand that child protection issues don't just impact on poorer families but there appears to be a clear correlation between the numbers of looked after children and those subject to child protection plans with some of our areas of highest deprivation. In the borough of Wigan

we are very lucky to have some fantastic facilities and services providing early support. However as times get tougher we will have to focus our energies more in to the areas of high deprivation and try to support our poorest families to keep children safe. I am pleased to report that this remains a high priority in our partnership with other service deliverers. I welcome the positive outcome of the recent OFSTED inspections; results which are a credit to all the hard work that continues throughout the Borough.

Finally I would like to thank members of the Safeguarding Board for their time, support, and commitment I totally admire how they work, within their individual roles and, together for the good of the young people of this borough ...helping to keep them safe and healthy and happy.

Executive Summary

Purpose

The executive summary highlights the achievements of Wigan Safeguarding Children's Board in fulfilling its objectives and how this relates to the objectives set for 2011 to 2012; these include safeguarding some of our most vulnerable infants and young people affected by a number of issues such as domestic abuse, unintentional and deliberate injuries and bullying including cyber bullying. It will also consider the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements and gives consideration to the challenges that lie ahead for Wigan.

Full details of WSCB Subgroups, member organisation contributions and governance arrangements are set out within the report.

Key area of progress and achievement WSCB continues with a strong ethos for sharing responsibility and multiagency working, this was highlighted within the recent Ofsted Looked After and Safeguarding Children Inspection where the multi agency working was considered to be outstanding. We have also undergone an Inspection on Private Fostering again undertaken by Ofsted. The outcome of this Inspection was considered to be adequate with good safeguarding factors.

WSCB has developed policies for some of the most vulnerable young people e.g. Pre Birth Assessments, Concealed Pregnancy, Bruising in non mobile Infants and Safer working Practices, Guidance and Protocols around E-Safety.

WSCB has undertaken a Social Care Institute of Excellence review facilitated by Independent Reviewers using a systems methodology. The outcomes from this review were shared with front line team managers in a development day and by way of a safeguarding news alert to the children's workforce. WSCB has continued to learn from critical cases by trialling a focused systems

model approach by way of Multi Agency Learning Reviews for a 12 month period. Two such reviews have been completed on the date of the writing of this report. These reviews have resulted in good feedback from participants and immediate action plans that can be turned around quickly and effectively.

The effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements has been audited and challenged by way of Multi agency case file audits which been undertaken around the effective use of pre birth assessments and the effective management of cases of domestic abuse with resulting action plans which are monitored through our Lessons Learned Subgroup.

Current activities and ongoing work:

WSCB is also represented at the Multi Agency Licensing Team meetings where we fulfill our functions as a Responsible Authority under Wigan Councils Licensing Policy for the protection of Children from harm. All licensing applications are shared with WSCB Business Manager and other partners to ensure effective safeguarding of children and young people on licensed premises.

A new Training Brochure has been reviewed and published and Training Officer appointed, the amount and variety of courses has increased. All courses are evaluated with feedback being consistently positive. We also, in partnership with the Adult Safeguarding Board circulate a monthly Safeguarding News Alert sharing Safeguarding information across the different agencies. Including such items as breaking news, changes in legislation, outcomes of research and training opportunities for members of the children's workforce. All efforts are being made to reach the greatest multiagency audience.

WSCB's two Lay Members have become valued members of the WSCB and provide regular important input and challenge to discussions.

We are as a Board engaging positively with our young people in encouraging them to provide training on behalf of the WSCB. They have for the last year been working alongside professionals in rolling out training to targeted groups such as foster carers and residential staff this has proved to be valued and effective. In 2013 they are for the first time going to be part of WSCB's offer to schools to enable them to buy their training and input around Bullying and Sexual Exploitation and provide this within school settings. We are planning to employ a Young Persons link worker under the councils apprenticeship scheme to further develop our regular consultations and feed this into the work of the WSCB on a more formal and regular basis.

Future priorities:

WSCB are aware that we need to engage more with our local communities and we intend to address this issue by a series of awareness raising and training events around Safeguarding issues to voluntary groups, school governors and hospitality workers.

A key challenge will be to gain an understanding of what our outcomes framework tells us. We have spent time getting an effective tool that will collect and inform the WSCB on relevant data, we need now to ensure that appropriate action is taken to respond to this information.

Our two biggest challenges are responding to Domestic Abuse within Wigan. Wigan are in the process of launching a multi agency co located team to tackle this issue and we will be able to have regular updates regarding their progress in tackling this issue.

The other big challenge for the Board is informed by Government i.e. Department of Education Child Sexual Exploitation National Action Plan. The action plan highlights areas of work and sets out specific actions which Government, local agencies and voluntary and community sector partners need to take or

already have underway to address this form of abuse. The action plan emphasizes the important role of Local Safeguarding Children Boards who are placed at the centre of local multiagency arrangements to help and protect young people from this form of abuse. Although Wigan has in place some good practice in this area we can always improve and need to maintain what we have in place in these difficult times. Ensuring that we make efficient use of our resources.

Outcomes:

Wigan's Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) continues to operate in a challenging context as the demands on the public sector and NHS increase and the mantra "more for less" continues to be an ongoing theme. The introduction of free schools and academies has changed the landscape of Wigan's and the countries education provision, providing its own challenges to the work of WSCB and as we move into 2013 there are a number of uncertainties that may impact on the work of WSCB. These include changes in Health Provision, the ongoing implementation of the Munro recommendations, the new Working Together and the introduction of the new Police and Crime Commissioner role which will work to identify local policing priorities. It is likely that the scale of Local Safeguarding Children Board tasks will increase and the nature of relationships with some sectors will change with the revised Working Together (QA Framework, Learning Improvement Framework, Relationships with Council Overview scrutiny committees, CCG & Clinical Commissioning Board membership of LSCBs, Health & Wellbeing Boards, Police Commissioners.

The Government has accepted the Munro report which will bring about a strengthening of the role of LSCBs and it is clear that delivery of the Government agenda on safeguarding can only come about through strong partnership working and the development of

trust and transparency between partner agencies and increased involvement with the community and young people. WSCB can be satisfied that it has been able to maintain a steady course and we can reflect on our strengths of confident multi-agency working and continue to build on existing partnership

working to facilitate the strengthening of these partnerships ,enabling partners to be open about their challenges and their strengths as we move forward together.

Kath Vereycken
WSCB Business Manager

Section 1

WSCB Business Plan and WSCB Principles and values 2013



WSCB Business Plan 2012-2014

WSCB will maintain its infrastructure and governance to enable it to fulfill its statutory duties. Equally, and based on its learning from local practice and experience, WSCB will exercise authoritative and enabling leadership, to give priority to:

- safeguarding children and young people living with domestic abuse
- strengthening the insight and response of the multi agency workforce to vulnerable infants
- consolidating the multi agency response to the needs of vulnerable teenagers
- engaging the community to support multi agency efforts to keep children safe

Safeguarding children and young people living with domestic abuse

WSCB will support and seek evidence of:

- improved information sharing between agencies with regard to domestic abuse
- improved understanding by workforce of impact of domestic abuse on children and young people
- shared understanding of thresholds for intervention
- development of a variety of interventions
- meaningful use of 'tools' to inform practice
- strengthened collaboration between statutory and voluntary sector partners

Strengthening the insight and response of the children's workforce to vulnerable infants

WSCB will support and seek evidence of:

- increased awareness within the multi agency workforce of developmental/attachment needs of infants
- use of this knowledge base to inform provision of support to infants
- timely and appropriate response to any injuries to non-mobile infants

Consolidating the multi agency response to the needs of vulnerable teenagers

WSCB will build on its existing work to facilitate the collaboration of agencies in response to vulnerable young people associated with:

- child sexual exploitation
- missing from home, school, care
- homelessness
- risks posed by social media

Engaging the community to support multi agency efforts to keep children safe

WSCB will raise awareness of the need for the community's support for multi agency efforts to protect children. This will be achieved through:

- local information sharing events
- collaboration with local press and media
- specific activities with children and young people
- partnerships with existing community groups

Wigan Safeguarding Children Board Principles and Values

The work of Wigan's Safeguarding Children Board will be underpinned by the following Principles and Values which have been adopted by its members.

Principles

- Keeping children safe is the highest priority of each member of WSCB, both individually and collectively.
- WSCB has high aspirations for children and young people and is willing to go the extra mile to keep them safe, through individual and collective effort.
- The collective priorities of WSCB takes precedence over the priorities of individual member agencies. Any subsequent conflict of interests for members will be acknowledged and minuted.
- WSCB listens to children and young people and is influenced by what they say.
- WSCB accepts the inherent risk in child protection, including that presented by the abusive behaviour of individuals in the community.
- WSCB accepts that, despite best efforts, there may be human error by professionals or volunteers who are trying to keep children safe. WSCB will support the workforce to learn from these experiences.
- WSCB supports the children's workforce to make good professional judgements, through continuous learning across agencies.
- WSCB is open and transparent in its work, whilst holding member agencies to account.
- WSCB knows that it needs the community to understand and support its work and will seek out partnerships with communities in the Borough to strengthen local child safeguarding.

Values

- WSCB values children and young people and their crucial role in the life of the Borough.
- WSCB takes leadership seriously, both collectively and individually.
- WSCB is always honest and transparent about what it does and what it can't do.
- WSCB role models mutual respect between member agencies.
- WSCB is creative, stretching its finite resources as far as it can to fulfill its Business Plan.
- WSCB isn't afraid of change. It will adapt, and embrace what it learns from experience.
- WSCB is courageous and willing to speak out and act for children, even if this is inconvenient and challenging to other structures in Wigan Borough.

April 2012

Child Death Overview Panel – Pamela Sheldon Chair

Wigan Safeguarding Children Board has worked in partnership with Salford and Bolton Safeguarding Children Boards within the 'tripartite' Child Death Overview Panel (Child Death Overview Panel) since 2008. Every LSCB is required by law to establish a Child Death Overview Panel, to review causes of all child deaths and ascertain if future deaths could be prevented. This includes deaths from any cause, which might include among other things: disease, disorder at birth, accident or maltreatment. The 'tripartite' nature of the panel mean panel members review a greater number of deaths and can, therefore, more easily identify trends in the circumstances leading to the deaths.

The Panel meets 4 times per years to review data regarding deaths of all children and young people from birth (excluding those babies who are stillborn), up to the age of 18 years, who are normally resident within Bolton, Salford or Wigan. This includes neonatal deaths (babies up to four weeks of age) and expected and unexpected deaths of infants, older children and young people.

The table below provides a picture of the number of deaths in the three neighboring boroughs over the last 4 years.

	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	Total
Bolton	38	28	24	32	122
Salford	33	29	26	27	115
Wigan	29	19	21	17	86
Total	100	76	71	76	323

There has been a decrease in childhood deaths (20%) in Wigan this year upon the previous year.

Over two thirds of childhood deaths occurred within the first year of life, with an increase of 11% upon the previous year.

2008/09	18 of 29	62.1%
2009/10	7 of 19	36.8%
2010/11	15 of 21	71.4%
2011/12	14 of 17	82.4%

Nearly half of all deaths occurred during the first 28 days of life this year.

2008/09	10 of 29	34.5%
2009/10	3 of 19	15.8%
2010/11	9 of 21	42.9%
2011/12	8 of 17	47.1%

The Child Death Overview Panel aims to identify themes or characteristics in the causes of death which might suggest action could be taken to reduce the number of similar deaths in the future.

As reported in last year's WSCB Annual Report, making sure that the arrangements for babies' sleeping are safe has been identified as an important issue. As a result of this, the local campaign to raise awareness of this has been sustained. The training has been revised and now includes case scenarios to enable practitioners to develop different ways of communicating safe sleeping advice to parents / carers.

Further challenges are highlighted within the Tripartite Child Death Overview Panel Annual Report which also makes reference to deaths resulting from suicide / deliberate self harm. The issue of suicide and self-harm by young people continues to challenge the Panel and, as such, a dialogue was opened with the North West Strategic Health Authority which led to a Practitioner Conference being held in April 2012. The need to ensure that staff in a variety of agencies and settings receive training to identify and respond to the emotional wellbeing of children/adolescents has been identified. Clarification is required for staff, service users and their carers regarding the complex referral pathways to access services, as is access to services which make provision for young people beyond the age of 16 and provide services out of normal working hours.

Education Settings Sub Group

Chair- Kirston Nelson, Head of Service, Education

Purpose

On behalf of the WSCB, the Safeguarding in Schools and Settings Sub-Group will provide a forum for discussion, co-ordination and development of safeguarding practices across the Education sector. This group is to be the conduit to schools and educational settings regarding information from the other WSCB sub groups.

Key areas of progress and achievement

- Revised membership and terms of reference.
- Policy changes for children missing education (CME)
- Review of response to critical incidents and new training offer.
- Support in the dissemination of the e-safety communications to schools.
- Re-enforced escalation policy through schools.
- Development of a revised action plan for the group.
- Auditing of Child Protection designated teachers in schools.
- Ratification of school safeguarding training.

Current activities and ongoing work

- Responding to the recommendations from the Safeguarding and Looked After Children inspection & including this in the development of this group's action plan.
- Ensuring that school policy is consistent for reporting of safeguarding incidents.
- Review of CME numbers and the tracking process and outcomes.
- Develop key information sharing protocols with health partners to allow identification of CME.

- Reviewing the school complaints procedure and consult with schools. Ensure this is consistent with Local Authority Designated officer procedures.
- Responding to school complaints and ensuring they are directed appropriately.

Future Priorities

- Early Years safeguarding audit.
- Agree data sharing protocol with health for the identification of children missing education.
- Ensuring that all education settings have an appropriately trained designated teacher (Designated Teacher) and governor for safeguarding - monitor the training. (Need to establish who will do this).
- Review of school complaints procedures in parallel with that of Local Authority Designated Officer to ensure clarity for parents, schools and other professionals.

Impact on Outcomes

- All children will be receiving a suitable education and no child will be 'missing education'.
- Professionals will support each other and the need to escalate issues will reduce.
- School complaints will be dealt with effectively by schools and the number of inappropriate and ongoing complaints to Local Authority Designated Officer will reduce.
- All complaints will be dealt with effectively and in partnership with the appropriate professionals.
- All schools will have an appropriately trained DT and .an appointed governor for safeguarding.

E-Safety Sub Group

Kath Vereycken, WSCB Business Manager

Purpose

The purpose of the E safety sub-group is to produce an over arching strategy, action plan and data set to assist with the monitoring of E safety knowledge, policy and practice within each agency.

Key areas of progress and achievement

- Since March 2012 the following progress has been made the contract with Securus the monitoring software company has been extended for a further twelve months.
- An E Safety audit has been circulated to schools and other school settings to establish who is responsible for E Safety and a baseline position on policies and procedures they have in place.
- After undertaking a baseline audit of schools within Wigan Securus was offered out to schools and over the last twelve months the number of schools utilising this forensic tool has increased.
- We have over the last year reviewed the subgroup membership, terms of reference and action plan and have successfully re-engaged partners across the work force. As mentioned above.

Current activities and ongoing work:

- Work needs to continue to raise awareness of the following processes.
- A toolkit to support E Safety officers in their role.

- School governors will need to be reminded of their safeguarding responsibilities and advised of the toolkit.
- An E Safety policy for all educational settings has been agreed and signed off by WSCB and the process has been agreed for identification, investigation, reporting and monitoring of E Safety incidents.
- Leaflets and posters aimed at children, young people and parents has been drafted and publicised and circulated.
- E Safety leads have been identified and policies and Acceptable Use Policies reviewed across the partnership. A Safer Working Guidance document for all practitioners has been developed and agreed.

Future priorities:

- Our priorities for the next 12 months: include reviewing the contract for monitoring software and to determine if a tendering process is required for use past April 1st 2013.
- Ongoing work will be required to keep up with developments in Internet Technology and the ongoing requirement for the raising of awareness of potential dangers with our young people and their parents and carers.

Impact on outcomes

- Children and Young People will be safer from abuse and bullying over the internet.

Health Settings Sub Group

Chair - Dr David Valentine, Medical Director and Director of Primary Care, NHS ALW, changed on 6th March 2013 to Dr Justin Tankard.

Purpose

On behalf of the WSCB, the WSCB Health Settings Sub Group will co-ordinate and facilitate a forum for the development of safeguarding practice within the Health Economy provided within the Wigan Borough.

Key areas of progress and achievement

- Working across Provider Organisations to co-ordinate safeguarding systems contributed to OFSTED assessment of "outstanding" in health services.
- Completion of outstanding action plans from historical Serious and Local Case Reviews.
- Implementation of Flagging Systems across the Borough.
- Development of a Borough-wide approach to managing bruising in children. Dissemination of National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children leaflets to all Primary/ Community Care settings.
- Implementation of the Supervision Model for Safeguarding clinicians.
- Development of a Borough wide Did Not Attend policy (DNA).

Current activities and ongoing work

- Monitoring safeguarding across organisations and advising re training provision and content.

- Development of policies relating to Safeguarding Children in Primary / Community care.
- Increasing awareness of the Local Authority Designated Officer and encouraging appropriate reporting.

Future Priorities

- The Health Settings Subgroup is an important conduit to allow discussion and co-ordination of Safeguarding policies across all Health Providers at a time of uncertainty and change within Management/Governance Structures.

Impact on Outcomes

- The Health Subgroup held partner agencies to account for implementation of actions derived from local and serious case reviews.
- A Flagging System is now in place across all Health Provider Organisations.
- The DNA policy is to be audited over the next 4 months to assess impact.
- The Lessons Learned Sub Group will assure the WSCB that all learning.



Safe Sleeping Sub Group

Alison Healey, Lead Commissioner Health Improvement (0-5 years) Breastfeeding Strategic Lead.
Chair of subgroup.

Purpose

To eliminate the cases of sudden and unexplained deaths of infants by educating parents to risk assess the sleeping environment of their infants; to support parents to address the risky life style behaviours that put babies at increased risk of Sudden Infant Death.

Key area of progress and achievement

- Introduction of assessment tool and resources to support parents to risk assess the sleeping environment of their babies embedded into practise of front line services delivering to families with babies.
- Media campaign to advertise the safe sleep messages.
- Renewed membership of Safe Sleep implementation group to reflect the refocus of campaign to address those babies most vulnerable to Sudden Infant Death, and life styles that contribute to that increased risk.
- Winter Campaign launched outlining the additional risks associated with winter months. Information distributed to all families with babies under 12 months with associated media campaign.
- Creation of multiagency safe sleep training pool.

Current activities and ongoing work:

- Scenario based training programme provided by multiagency training pool advertised in the safe guarding training brochure, to be delivered to all services that support young families. Scenarios based on recent sudden and unexplained deaths of infants cases and designed to allow practitioners to practise the skills to deliver complicated and emotional safe sleep information with sensitivity and clarity.

- Integration of Healthy Life Style support services into antenatal and post natal pathways of universal and targeted services supporting young families.
- Development of sub team to provide relevant safe sleep information and resources to second hand and charity shops recognising their increasing relevance in view of the Welfare reform.
- Development of resources for a Summer Campaign addressing the risks associated with summer months.

Future priorities:

- Roll out of Summer campaign and associated media coverage.
- Audit of effectiveness of current safe sleep messages to inform future direction of the agenda.

Impact on outcomes

- All services that work with families with young children will be skilled to deliver safe sleep messages with sensitivity and clarity and skilled to help families risk assess their own sleeping environments.
- All Antenatal families will be offered a Healthy Life style assessment and sign posted to support to address their needs.

Lessons Learned Sub Group

Chair- Justin Tankard, Named Dr for Safeguarding Children, Wigan CCG.

Purpose

To act on behalf of the Wigan Safeguarding Children Board to identify learning from cases that do not meet the threshold for Serious Case Review and ensure that these lessons are disseminated throughout the workforce of all partner agencies.

Key areas of progress and achievement

- Completion of outstanding action plans from historical Serious and Local Case Reviews.
- Implementation of a new model for multi-agency learning –the multi Agency Learning Review- which brings together staff from all agencies to discuss selected cases, elicit learning points and feedback to their agency. Two Multi Agency Learning Reviews have already been held and feedback is very positive from attendees.
- Lessons learned action plans now incorporate a plan for implementation and monitoring of outcomes.

Current activities and ongoing work

- Case file audits- 3 scheduled over next 6 months; Domestic Abuse; Graded Care Profile; Missed Appointments (Health).

- Reviewing local data to assess whether there is any link between learning difficulties and self harm.
- Monitoring the implementation of actions recommended by Ofsted regarding the cases used in the inspection in 2012.
- Implementation of a flagging system within Wigan A&E, Leigh Walk-In-Centre and GP Out of Hours.

Future Priorities

- The Lessons Learned sub group will continue to help inform the development of services for victims of Domestic Abuse.
- Act as a link across agencies to promote joint learning and working.

Impact on Outcomes

- The Lessons Learned Sub Group will assure the WSCB that all learning is disseminated across partner agencies.
- All action plans will include outcome assessment measures.
- Pre- birth assessment pathway revised and implemented.
- Missed Appointment Policy (Health) disseminated and impact to be assessed by case file audit.



Training Sub Group

Joanne Hiley, Chair of subgroup

Purpose:

To act on behalf of Wigan Safeguarding Children Board to take a lead role in the identification, planning, delivery and evaluation of training to ensure all those coming into contact/working with children are competent and up to date with current legislation and procedures to help them safeguard and promote the welfare of children effectively.

Key area of progress and achievement:

- 21 different courses and 2600 face to face places offered in 2012, all courses positively evaluated by participants.
- Lessons Learned by WSCB incorporated into training courses.
- 95% completion rate re e learning awareness of child abuse and neglect.
- Monthly news alert jointly with adult services.
- Bespoke packages available to private companies through application of charging policy.

Current activities and ongoing work:

- Review and develop current training ensuring it reflects WSCB policy, procedures and priorities.
- Monitor the quality of WSCB training provision and its impact on practice with particular reference to messages from serious case reviews.
- Development of schools, governor and designated teacher training and partnership with schools.
- Review of courses by young people using evaluation tool.
- Bespoke packages to be made available to private companies through application of charging policy.

Future priorities:

- Development of a Supervision skills course to support staff engaged in Multi Agency Reviews.
- Demonstrate service user participation in development of training courses.

Impact on outcomes

- WSCB training committee will be able to demonstrate learning is taking place in practice.
- There will be a training programme in place to meet the needs of all staff which will be easily understood with regards to knowing which training all grades of staff need to access.
- The training sub group will be able to give assurances that all safeguarding children training delivered to NSCB partners will be appropriate and of good quality.
- The views of service users will be reflected in training therefore ensuring courses are needs led by accurately reflecting what is really going on 'at grass roots level'.

Vulnerable Young Persons Sub Group

Kath Vereckyen, WSCB Business Manager

Purpose

To lead activity to prevent and respond to children and young people who are vulnerable and at risk.

Key area of progress and achievement

- We had already completed a Child Sexual Exploitation problem profile that was shared with the WSCB.
- We continue to map concerns and outcomes regarding this issue.
- We have developed a multiagency response to the risks of children missing from home, care and education and children at risk or having suffered Sexual exploitation. We have recently reviewed our processes and continue to strive to improve them and are encouraging a greater role for parents and young people within our processes.
- We have evidenced the need for a parenting worker and supported an application for funding to support this work.
- We have raised awareness of these issues by media campaigns and training sessions, recently training more than 160 staff members regarding processes and outcomes to use when dealing with children missing and at risk of sexual exploitation.
- We have involved young people in our training by supporting them in developing and publishing their DVD and training package around Child Sexual Exploitation and E-safety.
- We have developed training packages regarding trafficked children, preventing violent extremism amongst others.

Current activities and ongoing work:

- Research completed on Victim profile to enable us intervene earlier and more effectively.
- Raise awareness of vulnerability and risk factors with parents, carers and the community.
- Roll out targeted training to foster carers, residential staff and hospitality staff.
- Roll out more training on Violent Extremism.

Future priorities:

- To be able to identify vulnerable young people earlier and offer interventions earlier utilising Common Assessment Frameworks more effectively.
- To ensure our children are safe from the risks of going missing and Sexual Exploitation within our Children's Homes.
- To ensure the voice of Wigan is heard within the changes around the push from Gtr Manchester Police for Child Sexual Exploitation "hubs" across Greater Manchester.
- To ensure structural changes within partner agencies do not impact on our ability to work together to keep vulnerable children and young people safe within Wigan.

Impact on outcomes

- Wigan will have a skilled and informed workforce and community to safeguard vulnerable children.

Secure Settings Sub Group

Chair- Peter Rawsthorne, Head of Safeguards, HMYOI Hindley

Purpose

On behalf of WSCB, the Children and Young People in a Secure Setting Sub-Group will provide a forum for discussion, co-ordination and development of safeguarding practices within HMYOI Hindley.

Key areas of progress and achievement

- High number of staff accessing WSCB Training.
- Senior Management Team completed safer Recruitment Training.
- All young people who are parents are provided an opportunity to participate in a parenting course.
- Preventative measures have been implemented for young people who are at risk of involvement in gang activity, and support is provided to those who wish to leave gangs.
- Raised the profile with North West Youth Offending Teams of young people leaving custody without secured accommodation on release.
- Appropriate challenges to home Local Authorities to ensure that the provision to Looked After Children is consistent with their statutory rights whilst in custody and upon transition back to the community.

Current activities and ongoing work

- Looked After Children's Nurse recently employed to improve the provision of health services to Looked After Children.
- Development of a tool to be used on First Night Centre to assist with the identification of vulnerable young people at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation.

- Raising the awareness and support for Trafficked young people by means of training and support from third sector agencies.
- Ongoing training and awareness raising with staff in relation to young people at-risk or involved in Extremism.
- Reviewing arrangements for engaging and consulting with young people to ensure that they have a voice heard within the establishment.

Future Priorities

- Ensure that any Learning from adverse incidents, Serious Case reviews, and Independent Inspections or Investigations is disseminated, acted upon, and monitored by managers to ensure that outcomes for young people are improved.

Impact on Outcomes

- Arrangements in place to ensure the safety of young people in a secure setting are improved.
- Looked After Children are supported in custody and upon release back into the community which should have an impact on their levels of recidivism.

Young People's Advisory Group

Kath Vereycken

Purpose

WSCB is in the process of developing a young person's advisory group to consult on key safeguarding issues with children and young people living in Wigan. The children and young people's advisory group is new and pioneering because it will directly feed into the LSCB meetings, influencing the Board's priorities and goals. The group will develop and facilitate service improvement through projects, consultation, events and activities.

Key area of progress and achievement

- WSCB has supported and ratified the training and DVD developed by the Lowton Young Women's group and consulted with them on a regular basis regarding a number of issues such as Sexual Exploitation, Missing from Home, E Safety and Bullying.
- More recently we have been working in partnership with the group in rolling out specific targeted training to professionals regarding Sexual Exploitation Missing from Home, and the processes Wigan utilises to manage these risks. We have jointly rolled out training to more than 200 professionals.
- Promoted by the WSCB two young women from the group and staff from Youth Voice and Engagement have delivered eight 'cyber bullying' workshops to 700 plus students.

Current activities and ongoing work:

- We are aware as a LSCB that in line with our Business Plan we need to engage more effectively with local communities some of our young people are already undertaking this work and have recently been working in partnership with the local WI branch. Members from the WI have visited the group to discuss the girls work around Child Sexual Exploitation and from this initial meeting the girls were invited to attend a Women's Institute monthly meeting where they showcased their Child Sexual Exploitation project to over 60 WI members.

- The girls also supported the WI's annual proposal to Government in regards to concerns around the rise in Teenage Suicide's and the social networking sites that encourages such practice. In addition the local branch of the WI has forwarded the Lowton Girls Child Sexual Exploitation Brochure to their National headquarters; they are looking to do some further intergenerational work with the WI.
- WSCB are now wanting to formalise our young peoples involvement with all the business of the board and are intending to recruit a young person under Wigan Councils apprenticeship to be an active link between the young people of the Borough and the LSCB undertaking regular consultation with our children and young people, such as a recent consultation exercise around E-safety.
- Training courses provided by the Lowton Young Women's Group will be advertised for the first time within the WSCB training brochure to enable schools to book the training alongside other members of the children's workforce.

Future priorities:

- A key priority for WSCB over the next twelve months is to really listen to the views of our children and young people and for their views to inform the work of WSCB.

Impact on outcomes

- The voice of young people will influence and impact on service improvement.



Section 2

Governance and Accountability



Governance and Accountability

Local politicians

- Local politicians represent the vulnerable children and young people in their wards, as well as adults. Councillor Loudon, the Lead Member, is the route by which individual councillors can make sure the voices of children and young people are heard by WSCB.
- Community and Voluntary Services in the Borough are having to review and restructure their resources in the light of changes to funding streams. Local councillors must pay close attention to any impact of this on the well being of children and young people in their ward and report this to the WSCB.
- When councillors scrutinise any plans for Wigan Borough, they must keep the protection of children as the paramount consideration, asking questions about how any plans will affect children and young people.

Chief Executives and Directors

- Senior officers must ensure that their workforce is able to contribute to the provision of WSCB safeguarding training and to attend training courses and learning events.
- Every agency's contribution to the work of WSCB must be categorised as the highest priority in the allocation of time and resources.
- The WSCB needs to understand the impact of any organisational restructures on the capacity to safeguard children and young people in Wigan Borough. Through their membership of WSCB, senior officers need to provide timely impact statements to the Board.

Non-executive directors

- Non-executive directors (NEDs) have a key role in scrutinising the governance and planning across a range of organisations.
- NEDs are therefore well placed to examine each organisation's consideration of children and young people in their

planning, ensuring this receives appropriate priority.

- NEDs can also provide valuable feedback to the WSCB about safeguarding in the wider community. This can be directed through the Lead Member.

Children's workforce

- All members of the children's workforce, from all agencies and the voluntary sector, should access all safeguarding courses and learning events required by WSCB for their role.
- All members of the children's workforce, both paid and volunteers, should familiarise themselves with, and use when necessary, WSCB's Escalation Policy to ensure an appropriate response to children and families.
- Practitioners and volunteers should make sure the voices of children and young people are heard, through their representative on WSCB.
- The children's workforce will be supported in all the above by the monthly publication of the Safeguarding News Brief, this will highlight lessons learned, training opportunities, changes in legislation and good practice examples.

Community

- Members of the public are in the best place to look out for children and young people and to raise the alarm if something is going wrong for them.
- We all share responsibility for protecting children. If anyone is worried about a child, they should do something (See Appendix B for advice).
- Children and young people – your voices are the most important of all. We give an undertaking to set up a Young Persons Advisory Group to the WSCB by January 2013.

Local media

We have over the last 12 months taken part in various awareness raising campaigns around

safe sleeping, sexual exploitation and e-safety amongst others. Communicating the message that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility is crucial to the WSCB and the local press and

media is ideally positioned to help do this and we are happy to continue with the partnership with the local media.



Governance and Accountability with other partnerships

Wigan's Children's Trust

As described in the section about "Participating in planning and commissioning", the WSCB has close links with Wigan's Children's Trust. There has been an expectation from Government that all LSCBs challenge to scrutinise and question, if necessary, the plans of the Children's Trust. However, the Coalition Government has taken a different view on the necessity of the Children's Trust, in contrast to its predecessor. This structure has now become 'optional' for local authorities, along with the Children and Young People's Plan which has been produced by the Children's Trust in the past.

Discussions in Wigan have concluded that the work of the Children's Trust has been helpful and should not be abandoned. A detailed review of what the most useful structures to help local planning would look like is underway.

Health and Wellbeing Board

The Health and Wellbeing Board is a new structure which has been introduced by the Coalition Government. This Board will be concerned with services for both adults and children and will be responsible for co-ordinating the efforts of the local authority and the NHS for the whole population. At this stage it's not clear what the relationship will be between the WSCB and the new Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB), but it is certain that there will need to be a clear and well defined relationship. As the HWB will be interested in the services to the whole population, WSCB will need to make sure that the needs of vulnerable children are not overwhelmed by the wider issues for adults and the elderly.

Wigan Borough Clinical Commissioning Group

As a result of the implementation of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, the structure of the Health service changed on April 1st 2013.

NHS England has replaced Strategic Health Authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's) have replaced Primary Care Trust's as the main commissioner of health services.

NHS Ashton, Leigh and Wigan Primary Care Trust was responsible for the Commissioning and Planning of all health services across Wigan Borough, including, Public Health, Acute and Community and Primary Care services (General Practice, Opticians, Dentists and Pharmacists) and was responsible for ensuring that commissioned services had appropriate Safeguarding processes in place. The lead responsibility sat with the PCT's Medical Director.

From April the 1st 2013 NHS Wigan Borough CCG is now responsible for the commissioning of Acute and Community health services, with Public Health becoming the responsibility of Local Authorities and Primary Care services being the responsibility of NHS England.

NHS Wigan Borough CCG now has the responsibility for ensuring that the services it commissions have appropriate safeguarding processes in place. The Chief Officer of the CCG holds Corporate responsibility for safeguarding.

The safety and welfare of children is of paramount importance to Wigan Borough Clinical Commissioning Group (WBCCG). We work closely with other CCGs across Greater Manchester to ensure that all of the services we commission ensure high quality safe effective care.

The following measures ensure that safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is given priority and is discharged effectively across the whole local health community through commissioning arrangements:

- Executive level CCG membership of both Wigan Safeguarding Children and Adult Boards which ensures that safeguarding is at the forefront of service planning.
- Senior CCG membership on the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- Close collaboration with the Local Authority to assess and ensure the provision of co-ordinated integrated services to meet the needs of the local population, including specialist services for vulnerable groups.
- Ensuring that safeguarding children and associated policies are in place, including safe recruitment of staff; a whistle-blowing policy; safeguarding training and supervision policies.
- Ensuring that providers of services are held to account through regular review of safeguarding arrangements through quality scrutiny processes.
- Designated Nurse and Doctors in post to offer professional expertise and advice around safeguarding and Looked After Children matters.

Member agencies' management Boards

As members of the main WSCB Board are senior officers within their own agencies, there are therefore direct links between WSCB and the management Boards of these agencies. As local agencies have been restructuring – including the health service and the police – these lines of communication have sometimes changed. It's essential that the management Boards of each statutory agency in the Borough cement a close connection with the Safeguarding Children Board and invests in its work. This will be closely monitored by the WSCB in the coming year as the landscape of statutory services changes under the direction of central government.

What exactly is a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)?

LSCBs were established in law by the Children Act 2004 (section 13). There are two essential responsibilities for LSCBs:

- to co-ordinate what everyone does to keep children safe and to promote their welfare.
- to make sure that what everyone does is effective and actually makes a difference.

Wigan established its Local Safeguarding Children Board in 2006 and called it Wigan Safeguarding Children Board.

The government has also produced detailed guidance about how LSCBs should set themselves up and work. The guidance is called Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010 and LSCBs are expected to follow this guidance very closely. This guidance can be found on the government's Department of Education website:

<http://publications.education.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00305-2010>

Chapter 3 of this guidance focuses specifically on LSCBs.

Roles for Wigan Safeguarding Children Board

The roles for WSCB are set out in the Working Together guidance and include:

- Thresholds, policies and procedures
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Participating in planning and commissioning
- Communicating and raising awareness
- Child death overview
- Serious case reviews

Each of these roles is described in more detail in Appendix A.

Key roles on WSCB

There are some key roles on WSCB which are laid down in the Working Together guidance. These are:

Independent Chair

It's expected that all LSCBs appoint an Independent Chair who can bring expertise

Membership and structure of Wigan's Safeguarding Children Board

and a clear guiding hand to the Board, to make sure that the LSCB fulfils its roles effectively. Wigan Safeguarding Children Board welcomed this role, as having an Independent Chair frees up all the members to participate on an equal footing, without any single agency having the added influence of chairing the Board.

We have been fortunate to have had Sue Woolmore holding this position for the last 3 years however whilst writing this report Sue has moved on and we wish her well. A recruitment process is presently underway to find a new Independent Chair for our Board.

Director of Children's Services

The Director of Children's Services (now known in Wigan as the Corporate Director, People Directorate) is required to sit on the main Board of WSCB as this is a pivotal role in the provision of education and children's social care in Wigan Borough. This post is held by Nick Hudson. The Director of Children's Services has a responsibility to make sure that the WSCB functions effectively. Whilst Nick Hudson stood down as Chair of WSCB to allow an Independent Chair to be appointed, he has remained responsible for

the proper functioning of the Board and has liaised closely with the Independent Chair who keeps him updated on progress.

Local Authority Chief Executive Officer

The ultimate responsibility for the effectiveness of the WSCB rests with the Chief Executive of Wigan Borough, Donna Hall. The Director of Children's Services is answerable to the Chief Executive, who forms the final link in this chain of accountability.

Lead member

The elected councillor who has responsibility for children and young people is known as the Lead Member and this role is held by Councillor Susan Loudon. Councillor Loudon sits on WSCB as a 'participating observer'. This means that Councillor Loudon observes all that happens and can contribute to discussion, although she does not participate in any voting. This allows Councillor Loudon to scrutinise WSCB and challenge it if necessary from her political position, as a representative of the elected members and Wigan communities. These are some of Councillor Loudon's thoughts about the work of WSCB:

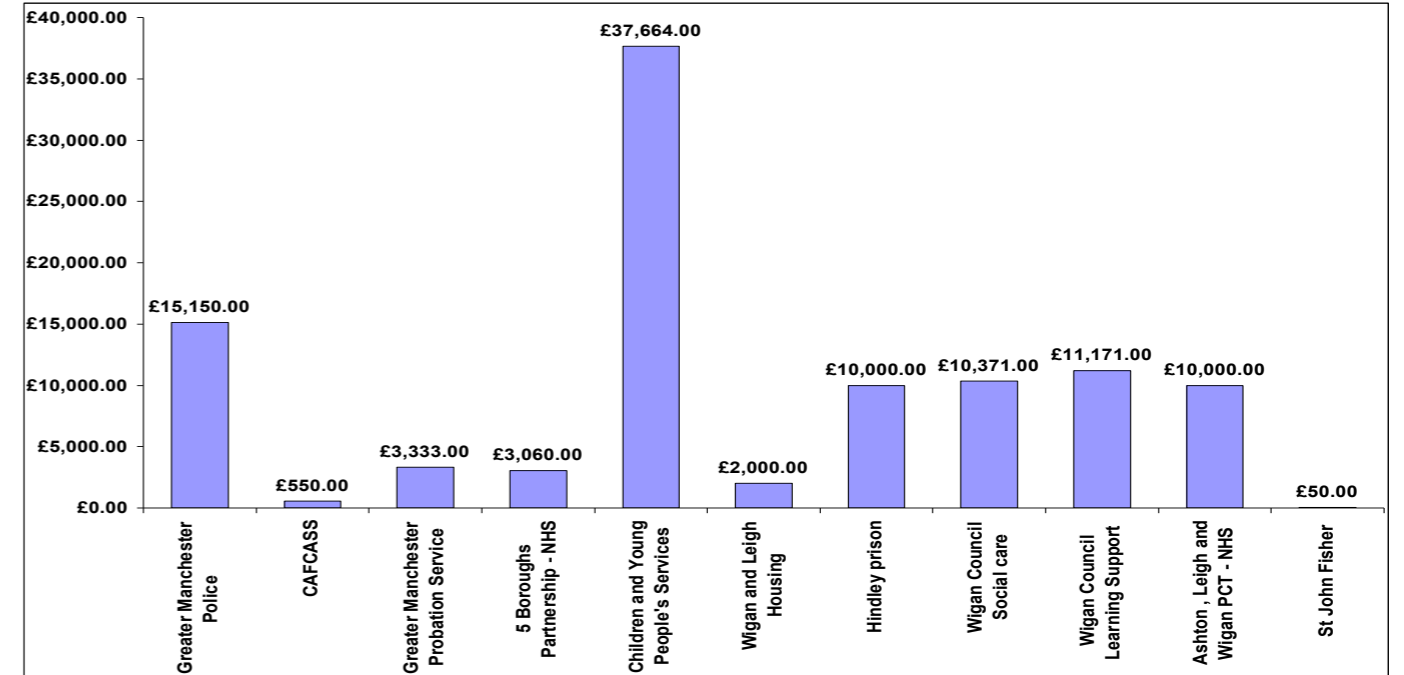
Wigan Safeguarding Children Board	Kath Nelson	Independent Chair - Local Safeguarding Children Board
	Kath Vereckyten	Business Manager - Local Safeguarding Children Board
	Rachel Fairhurst	Lay Member, WSCB
	John Mason	Lay Member, WSCB
People: Children's, Adults and Families, Wigan Council	Anne Goldsmith	Director of Children and Families
	Sue Elliott	Associate Director for Partnerships and Safeguarding, Wigan Borough Clinical Commissioning Group / Head of Service Preventative & Targeted Pathways
	Jane Ivory	Head of Service, Specialist Services
Wigan Schools	Jill Hyde	Primary Headteacher, Representative Ince C of E Primary
	Jan Garretts	Secondary Headteacher, Representative Fred Longworth High
Wigan Council	Councillor Sue Loudon	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services
Wigan Borough Clinical Commissioning Group	Joanne Hiley	Designated Nurse Safeguarding Wigan Borough Clinical Commissioning Group
	Trish Anderson	Designate Chief Accountable Officer Wigan Borough Clinical Commissioning Group
	Dr Elham Abbas	Designated Doctor Safeguarding Wigan Borough Clinical Commissioning Group
Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Trust, Ashton, Leigh and Wigan Division	Michelle Lee	Divisional Director (on secondment) Bridgewater Community Trust

HMYOI Hindley	Peter Rawsthorne	Head of Safeguards, Her majesty's Youth Offending Institute
Greater Manchester Police, Wigan Division	Andrea Jones	Superintendent Gtr Manchester Police Service
Greater Manchester Fire Service	Derek Dempster	Community Safety Manager / Bolton and Wigan Cluster, Gtr Manchester Fire Service
Greater Manchester Probation	Angie Buckley	Assistant Chief Executive for Gtr Manchester Probation Service
Wigan and Leigh Housing	Mike Grimes	Director of Housing Needs wigan and Leigh Housing
5 Boroughs Partnership, NHS Foundation Trust	Linda Kellie	Assistant Director for Child and Mental Health Services 5 Borough Partnership
CAFCASS	Glen Hagan	Service Manager
Wigan and Leigh Community and Voluntary Service	Beulah Gowen	Business Development Manager / training and Consultancy Wigan and Leigh CVS
Legal Advice, Wigan Council	Joanne Robinson	Senior Solicitor (Childcare)

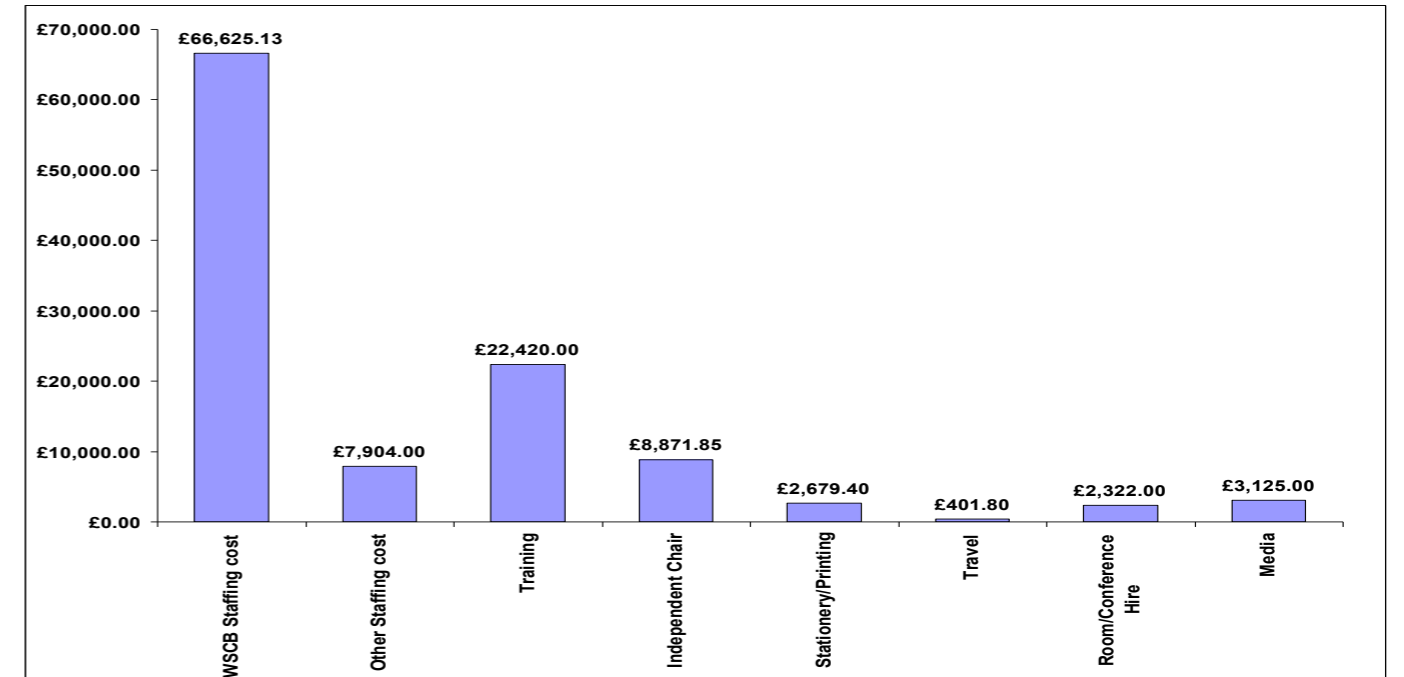
Attendance at Board is monitored by the WSCB Business Development Manager. Any lack of agency attendance is addressed directly by the Independent Chair. There is also an agreement between members about WSCB's expectations of them. This can be found on the WSCB website on this link: <http://www.wiganlscb.com./boardmembers.asp>

LSCB budget

Carried forward from 2011/2012 – 185,494.08
Income - 103,349.00



Expenditure
£119,349.18



WSCB remains financially viable because of an under spend in the budget in 2011-2012. This can be partly be accounted for by the monies which had been set aside for the costs of any Serious Case Reviews which up to recently has not been required. Last years participation of WSCB in the Social Care Institute of Excellence (Social Care Institute of Excellence) case review project cost in excess £17,200 and a priority of WSCB was to develop a series of learning events to embed lessons learned from local case reviews. A Reflective Learning Event was held in March 2012 with first line managers to share the learning from the Social Care Institute of Excellence across the workforce, this cost a further £1000 but had excellent feedback from participants, we continue to share the learning by way of a Safeguarding News Alert

published and circulated monthly. In addition to the local contributions to WSCB's budget, the Department for Education has also made a contribution of £21,953.50, from central government funds. This money is intended specifically to assist WSCB in co-ordinating the effective implementation of the recommendations of the Munro Review into the child protection system in England, through workforce training and development.

WSCB has collaborate with other LSCBs in Greater Manchester to commission joint procedures and protocols across Greater Manchester, they will be launched in February .Further training and development for LSCB Business Managers is in the pipeline. This is a link to the final report of the Munro Review:

http://www.education.gov.uk/munroreview/downloads/8875_DfE_Munro_Report_TAGGED.pdf

Training Mapped to priorities

WSCB Priorities	Training Face to Face	E-learning
	Safeguarding Children CORE (level 3, part 2) Train the Trainer	Safeguarding Children Introduction and Foundation
Safeguarding children and young people living with domestic abuse	DV Training including DV RIM	Cultural Awareness in Safeguarding Domestic Abuse in Wigan: Your Responsibilities E-Safety – Guidance for Practitioners Hate Crime
Strengthening the insight and response of the children's workforce to vulnerable infants	Child Sexual Exploitation Graded Care Profile Mental Health and parenting Physical injuries in children Public Law Outline (PLO) Supporting Parents who use Substances Introduction to attachment theory	Safeguarding Children Introduction and Foundation Information Sharing
Consolidating the multi-agency response to the needs of vulnerable teenagers	Adolescent Mental Health Health of Vulnerable young people Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of Teenagers Working with Fathers Working with Homeless and Vulnerable people	Hidden Harm E-Safety – Guidance for Practitioners
Engaging the community to support multi-agency efforts to keep children safe	MAPPA Child Protection Conferencing and Core Group Child Trafficking CSE & Bullying Designated Teacher Governor training LOCAL AUTHORITY DESIGNATED OFFICER	Think Safe Be Safe Stay Safe Safeguarding Children with Disabilities



Section 4

Celebrating Achievements and Next Steps



Achievements in 2011 – 2012

Over the last year the members of WSCB and the underlying subgroups have continued to develop a strong sense of shared responsibility for keeping children safe. This has been evidenced by the joint commitment that was clearly shown in a day dedicated to the embedding of the 2012 -2014 WSCB Business Plan into the work of the multiagency subgroups of the Board.

Further evidence is provided by present WSCB models of good practice within the workforce such as the Domestic Abuse Partnership. This is a new development and new team working in a multiagency way to manage the risk of Domestic Abuse within Wigan. Domestic Abuse is one of the key priorities for WSCB.

WSCB fully supports the process for managing cases of Child Sexual Exploitation which is called SEAM. SEAM is a multi agency panel which meets twice monthly to share information and intelligence, assess risk and put together action plans to keep young people safe from this type of abuse. Further work is undertaken within this forum to gather intelligence regarding local hotspots and manage this in a multi agency way. This model of working is being considered by other Local Authorities across the North West and is seen as a model of good practice.

In Wigan's recent Safeguarding and Looked After Children Inspection multi agency working was deemed to be outstanding.

Policies to safeguard the most vulnerable young people have been strengthened e.g. Pre Birth Assessments, Concealed Pregnancy, Bruising in non mobile Infants and Safer working Practices, Guidance and Protocols around E-Safety

As a result of an audit undertaken by WSCB in December 2011 a new protocol and pathway was agreed regarding Pre birth assessments this will ensure our most vulnerable infants and their parents will get a more timely intervention

when necessary from professionals. As will the recent launch of the policy on Bruising in non mobile infants. This provides clear guidelines to practitioners across the workforce in making decisions regarding this issue. We have also undertaken considerable work around the issues of Safeguarding across social networks and the internet. An increasing and difficult challenge for professional, parents and carers alike and have recently issued Safer Working Practice Guidance and Protocols across the children's workforce.

All the above protocols and processes will be audited as to their effectiveness in the twelve months following their implementation.

Finally Wigan alongside the other Greater Manchester authorities have been working together to jointly draw up and agree Safeguarding protocols and policies across Greater Manchester to enable us to work more effectively across boundaries. This work has been funded by monies from Central Government to assist Local Authorities implement the Munro recommendations.

Sharing a joint project with the Local Safeguarding Children Boards in Bolton and Salford to raise awareness about safe sleeping arrangements for babies

As described in last year's WSCB Annual Report, the Child Death Overview Panel which WSCB shares with Salford and Bolton, has identified that there have been a number of potentially avoidable deaths of babies in the three boroughs. These children died when they have been placed in sleeping arrangements and positions which contributed to them suffocating or dying from other related causes.

It was therefore agreed that the three boroughs would pool some resources – and more importantly, ideas – to raise the public's awareness again about how to keep their babies safe when they are put down to sleep. This resulted in a very imaginative campaign which will extend over three years and involve professionals, parents and the wider public.

The intention is to fix this advice firmly in the minds of all families, so that no babies are put at avoidable risk.

Ensuring that the lessons learned from local case reviews and case file audits become embedded in local practice and services WSCB is trialling a new process for undertaking local case reviews this is called Multi Agency Learning Review There are cases which come to light where Serious Case Reviews must be conducted, and there are also critical incidents or near miss cases which warrant a wider and formal process to include the use of Individual Management Reports. The decision to hold such reviews is made by via the Lessons Learned sub-group and the process for these is outlined elsewhere. These reviews are very costly in terms of time, and commitment, and often with predictable outcomes.

It is intended that multi-agency learning reviews will operate quite differently, and sit under these processes. Multi-agency learning reviews can be conducted speedily and cost effectively, efficiently harnessing the high level of willingness of professionals to learn. Cases will be identified where there is significant learning to be gained across the multi-agency network. Weaknesses or faults in the system can be identified quickly through individual cases, and action plans drawn up quickly.

It is anticipated that these reviews will not depend on the completion of complex chronologies and agency reports, but that agency managers will come to a Review meeting fully appraised of their agency involvement, having read the case file and spoken to the staff involved. Consequently the reviews will have a less bureaucratic process around them and there will be minimal delay before the necessary corrective action is put in place. They will be a vehicle for interagency review and discussion.

It is hoped that the provision of multi-agency learning reviews will enhance transparency and

openness, but also provide opportunities for appropriate challenge and peer scrutiny. In addition, it is hoped that these reviews will highlight good practice and stimulate a positive learning culture. At the time of writing this report two such reviews have been held with positive reports from all participants and actions plans which have been quickly implemented. It is planned that lessons coming out of these Reviews will be disseminated to staff in a similar way to those from Serious Case Reviews, and that multi-agency learning events will incorporate the themes and issues arising from all Wigan's reviews.

It is proposed that this approach is piloted for a year to test out capacity and efficacy of the approach. It will then be reviewed to check out if the approach is achieving its aims, and with a view to developing the process further and taking account of any national developments.

WSCB is committed in engaging more meaningfully with children and young people about setting priorities for keeping them safe Young people have been actively involved in the WSCB training on Missing From Home, E-Safety and Sexual Exploitation. In 2013 we are planning to set up a Young Persons Advisory and Consultant Group to the WSCB, this group will advise the WSCB on what are the priorities for the young people of Wigan and how best to deal with these priorities. To support this function we are intending to recruit a young persons link worker by using Wigan Councils apprentice scheme.

All agencies have maintained their existing level of financial support for the WSCB Despite all the cuts in public spending and huge pressure on local budgets, members of WSCB have been able to maintain their financial contribution to the work of the Board. It is now incumbent on WSCB to use this wisely and to make sure that it properly funds its priority activities.

Challenges facing WSCB April 2012 - April 2013

- WSCB continues with a strong ethos for sharing responsibility and multiagency working on WSCB this has been noted as such, within the recent Ofsted Looked After and Safeguarding Children Inspection.
- WSCB has developed policies for some of the most vulnerable young people e.g. Pre Birth Assessments, Concealed Pregnancy, Bruising in non mobile Infants and Safer working Practices, Guidance and Protocols around E-Safety
- WSCB has undertaken a Social Care Institute of Excellence review undertaken by Independent Reviewers, using systems methodology and consequent to this put on a successful Learning Event for Front Line Managers.
- WSCB continues to learn from critical cases by trialling a systems model approach by way of Multi Agency Learning Reviews for a 12 month period, two of which have been completed to the date of the writing of this report .
- Multi agency Audits have been undertaken around Pre birth Assessments and Cases of Domestic Abuse with consequent action plans.
- 4 of Subgroups of the WSCB have had new chairs appointed, new Terms of Reference agreed and New Action Plans put in place.
- New Training Brochure has been published and Training Officer appointed
- WSCB's two Lay Members have become valued members of the WSCB and provide regular important input to discussions.
- Appointment of a new Business Manager for the WSCB.
- All agencies have maintained their existing level of financial support for the WSCB.
- WSCB members are providing regular 'impact statements' to the Board about the effects of the public spending cuts on their capacity to protect children
- Safeguarding monthly News Alert was launched in September.
- Inspection on Private Fostering undertaken by Ofsted, the outcome was considered to be adequate with good safeguarding factors.

Challenges facing WSCB April 2013 - April 2014

- Despite ongoing efforts to protect essential services, there are diminishing resources available to member agencies to safeguard children and young people.
- The need to develop an effective agreed data base for collating information required for the WSCB's attention.
- To engage effectively with the Community and residents of Wigan Borough
- To engage with Children and Young people and to develop a young persons advisory group for the WSCB.
- Many senior staff have been given substantial extra responsibilities, including services for adults as well as children including the WSCB Business Manger. The challenge is to continue to prioritise the work of the Board.
- The community and voluntary sector has experienced a significant impact from the changes to allocation of grants and funding to grassroots services.
- Engage more with Black and Minority Ethnic groups (BME).
- Child sexual exploitation in light of Rochdale.

Section 5

WSCB member organisations contribution to safeguarding headlines



Wigan and Leigh Community and Voluntary Service (CVS)

This year Wigan and Leigh CVS has been administering safeguarding training for voluntary sector organisations to 252 people. We have also assisted in the delivery of face to face training and used our e-bulletin and other networks to disseminate strategic information from the WSCB to the voluntary and community sector.

Wigan and Leigh College

All Designated Protection Officers are clear about their role, it is well publicised and action monitored. In 2010-11 there were 127 student referrals to the Designated Protection Officers. This is an increase in the number of disclosures – possibly reflecting better use of the systems.

A number of training programmes have been offered with 70% (503) staff being trained in Basic Awareness. This is year one of a three year cycle. Appropriate training has been undertaken for more advanced programmes with all sites of the College having a named Protection Officer.

There is an exceptionally high rate of students feeling safe in college and this is monitored through course reviews and on internal audits.

Risk assessments are undertaken of all students with unspent convictions with 2 students not able to study. For others, the support arrangements have been introduced to ensure the College community is safe.

Gtr Manchester Fire Service

Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service have now published their Safeguarding Policy and Procedure (joint Adults and Children) and central coordinators for Safeguarding will ensure each partner in GM will have a copy.

Gtr Manchester Probation Service

From April 2012 to March 2013 21 cases have been managed subject to Mappa Level 2 and 3 and there have been no further serious offences committed.

Wigan Local Delivery Unit have committed staff resources to the Integrated Safeguarding and Public Protection Team (ISAPP) based at Bamfurlong Police Station.

Wigan and Leigh Housing

Specialist staff working within MAPPA protocol and with sex offender management unit where child protection cases require accommodation in very short timescale (moved approximately 10 cases and provided advice to 20 cases via sex offender management unit) this excludes MAPPA cases.

Attended over 100 Child protection case conferences and contributed effectively in producing reports for conference

Licensing Team

As a result of the introduction of the Licensing Act 2003 WSCB is specified as “Responsible Authority” in matters relating to the protection of children from harm. Agreed process are in place to ensure that all licensing application are evaluated to ensure the applicant demonstrates in their operating schedule how they intend to protect children from harm. As a responsible authority the Safeguarding Children Board can make representation to the Licensing Unit in relation to an application that raises concern in relation to children.

Wrightinton Wigan and Leigh Trust (WWL)

We have established a flagging system to flag children who are on a child protection plan and known to Social Care along with an electronic alert for all children who are on the plan on the main Hospital IT system as well as documented in the child's file. This has been implemented in A&E IT system as well as paper based. Systems in place will alert staff and the clinician about the risk of re-occurring abuse and allow the practitioner to take further steps to prevent harm from coming to the child. The Acute Trust has signed to be part of a national project of information sharing which is led by the Department of Health.



Section 6

How safe are our children and young people in Wigan Borough?



How many children and young people are there in Wigan Borough?

There are 306,800 people altogether in Wigan Borough, so this means that the children and young people add up to just over 21% of the population.

It's impossible to provide a total picture of how safe are our children and young people in the Borough because some abuse or neglect may be hidden, despite every best effort of workers and volunteers to identify which children need their attention. Sadly, some families may deliberately conceal their children's need for protection and neighbours may turn a blind eye to their concerns too. Keeping children safe really is everyone's business.

But what might be helpful, is to look at how many children and young people in Wigan Borough have got Child Protection Plans (CPP).

Children who have a child protection plan have been discussed at a child protection conference (with their parents or carers there too) and it's been agreed that the child needs protection from harm. This includes protection from physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect. The plan will explain why

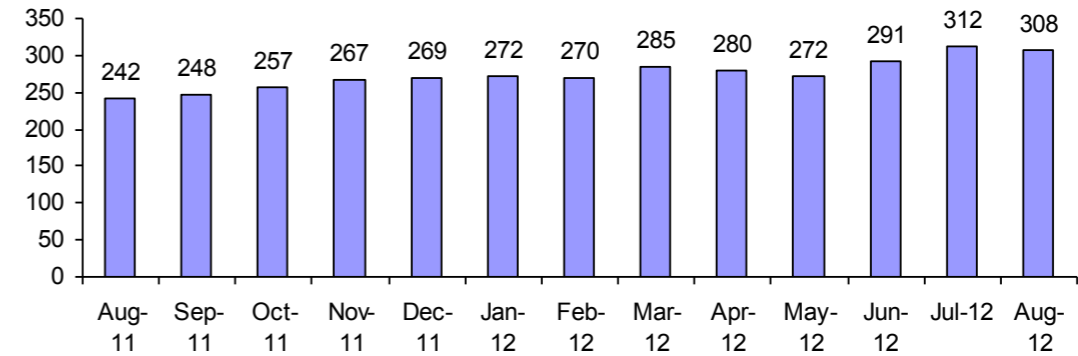
people are worried about the child, what action will be taken to reduce those concerns, how the child will be kept safe, and how we will know when progress is being made.

Wigan's children's services keep a list of children who have a child protection plan. Each child protection plan is reviewed regularly, to make sure that the plan really is helping to protect the child. Only when the concerns about the child's safety have been properly dealt with can the plan come to an end (but this doesn't mean that professionals and/or volunteers don't carry on providing help and support to a family).

The number of children who are "Looked After" by the local authority also shows us how much effort has been given to keeping children and young people safe, in the most difficult circumstances. Only when every possibility of keeping a child at home safely, will the local authority go to court to ask for a decision about whether a child or young person should live away from their birth family. Some families also agree that this is the best thing for their children. In the past we referred to these children as "being in care" but now it is known as being 'looked after'.

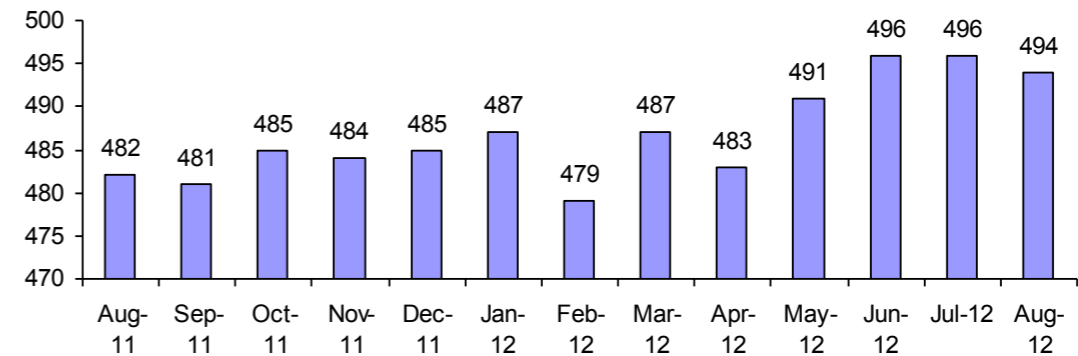
Here are recent figures in Wigan Borough:

Number of Children Subject To a Plan Per Calendar Month August 2011 - August 2012



The number of children subject to a plan has increased dramatically throughout the reporting period. In August 2011 there were 242 children subject to a plan in August 2012 there were 308 this is a notable increase of 27%.

Number Of LAC as at 1st of Each Calendar Month August 2011 - August 2012



The number of Looked After Children has been changeable throughout the reporting period peaking at 496 and at its lowest 479 a difference of approximately 3.5%