



Annual Report
April 2011- March 2012

Document Governance

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Contents	Page
Forward by Independent Chair	4
LSCB Key Priorities and their impact on the lives of children and young people	5
Objectives of LSCB	6
Board Membership	7-8
Introduction	9
Governance and Operational Arrangements	10
Performance and Audit	11
Progress against Business Plan – Improving practice and service delivery	12-18
Conclusion & Looking Forward	19-20
Appendices	
A. LSCB Financial Summary 2011-12 / 2012-13	21
B. Sub-group and work streams achievements	22-23
C. LSCB Involvement of children and young people	24
D. What difference are we making to children, young people parents and carers?	25-26
E. SCB Themes and Sub-Groups 2012-15	27

FOREWORD

I am pleased to present the Telford and Wrekin Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2011-2012 outlining the achievements and assessments of the Board during the last twelve months, during which time there has been a particular focus on the voice of the child with the 'I Stay Safe' initiative. A summary of the LSCB Key Priorities and how they have impacted on the lives of children and young people can be found over the page.

Since April 2010 there has been a new statutory responsibility for Local Safeguarding Children Boards to produce and publish a report that provides an assessment on the effectiveness of our local arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. In essence, it provides an analysis of how well the key agencies responsible for child safety are performing their duties both individually and collectively. Whilst this report recognises the achievements and the progress that has been made it also makes a realistic assessment of the challenges that still remain.

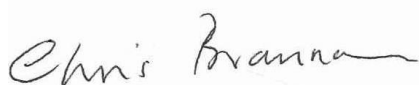
The last twelve months have been very demanding for all front line services as they have been working in a rapidly changing environment. The public sector landscape has altered significantly and partners have had to redesign their organisations in response to the new financial climate.

Nationally Professor Eileen Munro has published her independent review to improve child protection and produced a comprehensive report to the Government. We have welcomed their response and are now eagerly awaiting the revision of 'Working Together' our statutory guidance. There have been fundamental changes in the National Health Service and these have created uncertainties about safeguarding and its future framework within the Health Community.

In Telford and Wrekin there is a strong culture that recognises the requirement for continuous development, transparency and accountability by all the partners. There is no doubt that the agencies take their responsibilities very seriously and this was clearly acknowledged by action in response to the Munro Report, OFSTED Good Practice Guide, Peer Review and the Section 11 Audit. Having said that, there is no room for complacency and therefore we must continue to focus resources on front line delivery and also ensure that our quality assurance framework has a key role in our improvement cycle.

Finally I would like to thank the Board, its staff and all practitioners for their commitment and professionalism in what has been a challenging year.

Chris Brannan



Independent Chair

2011-2012 LSCB Priorities Key Activity and Impact on the lives of children & young people

Board Priorities	LSCB Key Activities	Impact on the lives of C& YP
Children Abused Through Exploitation (CATE) Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed a draft 5 step model which helps identify localities where there maybe an emerging problem 	Known intelligence of sexual exploitation activity and related crime which helps us put our resources where needed.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent Sexual Violence Advisory (ISVA) Service implemented in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin. 	2 full time ISVAs and 2 Sexual Violence Support Workers have supported 30 clients in their first 7 months of operation.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for children, young people and families who are victims of child sexual exploitation 	More young people and parents are engaging and accepting support. Reduced level of risk from sexual exploitation.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Muslim Forum 	Highlighted problems ,challenged behaviours and cultural issues and tailored services to local Pakistani Muslim needs..
Getting The Right Help At The Right Time Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information sharing between Early Intervention Teams and Social Care Team. 	Improved decision making means that appropriate support to children & families is now provided earlier
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing CAF Performance Framework 	Measures the outcomes for the early intervention teams
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-Birth Pathway 	Vulnerable children are identified and supported earlier
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Connect consultation events with all stakeholders 	Knowledge and views are captured to shape the service.
Missing Children Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Missing Children data analysis 	Analysis of what is working well and what is not
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint Regional Protocol launch 	Robust mechanism for information sharing across all children in care providers both private and public
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop process for Children & Young People missing from care 	Return interviews will be a way for them to discuss feelings
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involvement of Early Intervention and Cohesion services 	Early identification means we provide the right services at the right time
Children & Young People Feeling Safe Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anti- Bullying consultations with young people, the Care Council, Youth Projects ,Play Groups and Disabled Children’s Groups 	How were doing comments for our communications and anti-bullying strategy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents Protect (sexual abuse) Events 	Raising parents awareness of sexual abuse
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary School mentoring by West Mercia Police Cadets 	Positive role models for Years 4 – 6
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refreshed the LSCB website using a I Stay Safe campaign during anti-bullying week by Holmer Lake School on Beacon radio 	Promotion of anti-bullying week & LSCB website to 250,000 listeners. In first week of launch 600 hits on new website
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10,500 anti-bullying chatterboxes created by children for children plus supporting curriculum delivered to schools 	Raising awareness of bullying amongst children, parents and schools. Recognised by the Children’s commissioner as primary school safeguarding best practice.

BOARD OBJECTIVES

The Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) was created under The Children Act 2004.

The work of the LSCB has a focus on keeping children safe: including the prevention of significant harm as well as the wider remit of improving the wellbeing of all children in Telford & Wrekin.

The specific objectives of the Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Children Board are:

1. To co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area and to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for that purpose. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development

2. To ensure that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe effective care and undertaking that role as to enable those children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully.

3. To improve safety for children by promoting the development of safe environments in which children can grow, for example improved cyber safety, reducing death from injury from fires and reducing deaths in infancy.

4. To promote a community involvement in safeguarding children and promoting their welfare by raising awareness through publicity and training.

LSCB MEMBERSHIP

The Board

Name	Agency
Mr C Brannan	Independent Chair
Ms M Bayley	Shropshire Community Health Trust
Mr J Bedesha	T&WC: Family & Cohesion Services
Mr M Bennett	Lead Joint Commissioner and Contracting Manager of Mental Health, Substance Misuse, Adults with Learning Difficulties and Employment
Mr G Branch	West Mercia Probation Trust
Mr J Collins	T&WC: Education, Culture & Skills
Ms G Eatough	Secondary Schools
Dr Ganesh	Shropshire Community Health Trust - Designated Doctor
Ms K Hancocks	Community Board Member
Ms H Hipkiss	NHS Midlands and East SHA
Ms C Hobbs	Primary Schools
Mr S Hosking	Youth Offending Service
Ms B Jackson	Telford College of Arts and Technology
Ms L Johnston	T&WC: Director of Children and Family Services
Mr C Jones	T&WC : Assistant Director Family & Cohesion Services
Ms G Knox	Special Schools
D Supt M Lakeman	West Mercia Police
Ms M Lee	South Staffordshire & Shropshire NHS Foundation Trust
Ms V Morris	Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust
Ms S North	Community Board Member
Ms K Perry	T&WC: Interim Assistant Director: Children's Safeguarding
Mr D Robson	T&WC: Adult Safeguarding & Quality
Ms A Scott-Ryan	Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin NHS Trust – Designated Nurse
Mr R Thomson	Public Health – Shropshire County PCT
Cllr P Watling	T&WC Lead Member
DCI J Wells	West Mercia Police

Executive Group

Name	Agency
Mr J Bedesha	T&WC: Family & Cohesion Services
Mr M Bennett	Lead Joint Commissioner and Contracting Manager of Mental Health, Substance Misuse, Adults with Learning Difficulties and Employment
Mr C Brannan	Independent Chair
Mr G Branch	West Mercia Probation Service
Ms S Dean	Primary Schools
Dr M Ganesh	Shropshire Community Health Trust - Designated Doctor
T/DI H Gordos	West Mercia Police
Mr S Hosking	T&WC: Youth Offending Service
Ms L Johnston	T&WC: Director of Children and Family Services
Ms D Lloyd	T&WC: Family Connect
Ms K Perry	T&WC: Interim Assistant Director: Children's Safeguarding (Chair)
Ms A Scott-Ryan	Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin NHS Trust
Mrs S Vale	Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust – Vice Chair

Ms M White	T&WC: Child Protection and Assessment
Ms W Williams	Wrockwardine Wood Arts College

Board Officers

Name	Agency
Miss E Boddison	T&WC: Safeguarding Advisory Service
Mrs J Britton	T&WC: Safeguarding Advisory Service, Interim Service Delivery Manager
Ms C Hughes	T&WSCB Interagency Training Coordinator
Ms T Knight	T&WC: Safeguarding Advisory Service, Principal Officer Conferencing and Review & LADO
Mr M Turner	T&WC: Safeguarding Advisory Service, Principal Officer Child Protection & LADO
Ms K Woodcock	T&WC: Safeguarding Children Partnership Development Officer

Annual Report 2011-2012

Introduction

The Purpose of this Report

- To report work progress against T&W SCB Business Plan 2011-12.
- To analyse safeguarding practice within the Borough, focussing on T&W SCB agreed performance data and information relating to inspection, audit and needs analysis.
- To inform the T&W SCB business planning process 2012-15.

Background

The Children Act 2004 required each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). The LSCB is the statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations in each local area will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in that locality and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do.

Working Together To Safeguard Children 2010 (WT2010) requires all LSCBs to produce an annual report which reflects the progress of its business plan as well as providing a realistic assessment of the challenges which still remain.

The core content for annual reports is outlined in WT2010. This report complies with that guidance.

As well as the statutory requirement, the activities and focus of the Board are aligned with a core priority of the 2011-12 refresh of Telford & Wrekin's Children and Families Plan: *"Keep children safe from maltreatment, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation"*.

This **Annual Report** is divided into three sections:

- Governance and Operational Arrangements
- Performance and Audit
- Progress against Business Plan - Improving Practice and Service Delivery

The 2011/12 Business Plan had four safeguarding priorities together with a number of sub-groups and work streams and its two Professional Practice Themes. These are detailed below.

Board Priorities

- * Children Abused Through Exploitation (CATE)
- * Missing Children
- * Getting The Right Help At The Right Time
- * Children and Young People Feeling Safe

Sub-groups

- * Child Death Overview Panel
- * Policies & Procedures
- * Performance Management
- * Serious Case Review
- * Training

Professional Practice Themes

- * Invisible Men' The role of men in children's lives
- * Cultural Competence

Work Streams

- * Communication Strategy
- * Munro Report Response
- * Funding
- * Structure & Membership

Governance and Operational Arrangements

This has been a period of reflection, challenge and change for the LSCB. The Munro Review of Child Protection: Final Report - A child-centred system was published July 2011. The Munro Report set challenges for improvements in service delivery especially early intervention and the quality of social work practice and the role of the LSCB in driving these improvements across all partner agencies. In response to the 15 Munro recommendations a strategic steering group has been set up to drive the implementation forward.

All the organisations who work with Children and Young People (C&YP), share a commitment to safeguard and promote their welfare have specific roles and responsibilities to do so which are underpinned by statutory duty or roles. These are outlined in WT2010.

Chris Brannan is the Board's Independent Chair. This is his third year of tenure.

The Lead Cabinet Member for Children and Young People regularly attends LSCB meetings.

During 2011-12 the membership of the Executive Group and Sub-groups has been reviewed and approved by the SCB.

Two Community Board Members were appointed in January 2011 and under took a comprehensive induction programme. In addition to attending the main Board both serve on the Children and Young people Staying Safe Sub-group. The Community Board Members have been able to contribute to the scrutiny and oversight of various policies and procedures and in developing work with children and young people.

All statutory member agencies completed Section 11 Audits in 2011. They all report having safer recruitment policies and procedures which comply with T&W SCB guidance. Members also have in place policies and procedures to address the management of Allegations Against Adults Who Work With Children.

LSCB Financial Summary 2011-12 / 2012-13 is Appendix A

Performance and Audit

The SCB approved a comprehensive performance management framework and calendar of reporting, which enables it to fulfil the expectations outlined in the business plan. The framework covers five core areas: Section 11 Self-Audits, performance reporting and performance indicators on a range of safeguarding issues, single agency focused audits, multi-agency practice audits and themed reviews.

The **Annual Unannounced Inspection** of contact, referral and assessment arrangements took place in May 2011. Ofsted found two areas of strength: an innovative and effective multi-agency approach to protecting children at risk of sexual exploitation which is recognised nationally as a practice leader in this area and the investment in business support officer posts who provide extensive, individualised support for social workers. The level and quality of this support enables workers to efficiently manage their casework and spend more time with children and families. The introduction of this support has had a very positive impact on social worker morale.

OFSTED found the service met statutory guidance in child protection enquiries, arrangements for the screening of contacts and referrals, thresholds for children's social care are well understood and operate effectively across partner agencies, use of the common assessment framework and a Team around the Child approach, partnership arrangements for working with children at risk of significant harm are strong, the needs of disabled children are responded to in a sensitive manner, children and young people are routinely seen and spoken to as part of the assessment process, at the time of the inspection all cases were appropriately allocated, out-of-hours arrangements are well established and responsive with effective communication between daytime and out-of-hours services. Standards for the service are defined and monitored through a clear service level agreement, the local authority seeks user feedback on their experience of its duty and assessment services which informs service development and senior managers have a good understanding of the strengths and vulnerabilities of the service.

Areas for development were identified as: children's ethnicity and diverse needs being considered in assessment and care planning, the quality of analysis in assessments, up to date comprehensive case recording, timely initial assessments for children in need and consistent good quality supervision.

To move forward and action the findings of the Ofsted Unannounced Inspection, the Munro Report recommendations and the Peer Review which took place in 2011, Telford & Wrekin Council has established a Transforming Social Care initiative.

Progress against Business Plan Improving Practice and Service Delivery

The LSCB has made considerable progress towards achieving its Business Plan objectives. Key progress includes:

- Ongoing support to children and families affected by Operation Chalice investigation into sexual exploitation
- Development of the draft 5 steps model for identifying potential CATE issues in a particular geographic area with potential for regional and national implementation.
- A Regional Joint Protocol for Missing Children to enable improved support to be given to the children, young people and families affected.
- During the year the Board ratified the following policies: The 2011-12 Communications Campaign, Anti-Bullying Policy and Guidance.

Further examples of work are listed at **Appendix B**.

Key to the effectiveness of the LSCB is the involvement and engagement of children and young people throughout the Borough, particularly vulnerable groups. These activities have included:

- Anti-bullying consultations with the Care Council, Youth Play and Activity Groups, Disabled Children's Groups and Youth Projects. These consultations informed the refreshed Anti-bullying Policy and Guidance.
- Consultations involving 5 Primary Schools and 1 Infants School with the purpose of the children producing an anti-cyber bullying and domestic violence tactile communications tool for all primary school children in the borough. This piece of work was recognised by the Children's Commissioner as best safeguarding practice for primary schools.
- Beacon Radio Broadcast. The focus of which was anti-bullying. The script was created and performed by the children of Holmer Lake Primary School and was transmitted 62 times to a listening audience of 250,000 during the last two weeks of November to coincide with national anti-bullying week.
- Groups of children commented on the refresh of the LSCB website
- Other examples of activities and those planned for the future are summarised at **Appendix C**.

What difference have we made to children, young people, parents and carers?

Significant differences include:

- The raised awareness of children in terms of their own safeguarding environment; anecdotal evidence suggests children are questioning their own environment and how this reflects on their wellbeing
- Child deaths have reduced since 2008
- The role of significant men in children's lives and the impact is better taken into account in assessment and care planning
- Hospital paediatric staff are better able to identify potential safeguarding issues within apparent Life Threatening Events
- The reflective question, 'How has the work of this meeting contributed to keeping children and young people safe?' has become an integral part of all T&W SCB meetings.

Other achievements are set out at **Appendix D**.

Serious Case Review (SCR) During 2011 -12 the Group continued to meet on a bi monthly basis. It has co-ordinate the production of a number of discretionary reviews, received and considered reports of serious incidents from the Youth Offending Service. The group has received and considered a report analysing Child Protection Plans over 2 years. It has also considered published Executive Summaries from other LSCBs to ascertain any potential local learning and nationally published summary documents collating themes from SCRs [e.g. Ages of Concern], good practice and framework guidance. The group will continue to look at future arrangements for the SCR Process as and when guidance is published.

There have also been specifically convened Panel meetings to progress and address the recommendations from the individual SCR (Child A) initiated in 2010 and to successfully addressed the inadequacies which were identified in Ofsted's evaluation,

Key examples of the impact of addressing the learning from Child A

- Increased visibility of men who are significant figures in children's lives and the role they play (as evident from care plans for court and notes of legal planning meetings)
- Increased awareness by hospital doctors of the differential diagnosis of Apparent Life Threatening Events, that child maltreatment should be considered as one of its important potential causes (as evident from safeguarding training delivered by Designated Doctor).
- Reduction in frequency of missing children from local children's homes (data from COMPACT system, the West Mercia Police missing person database that automatically shares information with key agencies)
- Schools have comprehensive advice on good practice for record keeping and archiving (development and use of Designated Persons workbook and follow-up health checks)

- Agreement by A&E to flag additional vulnerable children (those subject to Supervision Orders or Care Orders but Placed with their Parents)
- Information regarding child protection concerns is shared when a child is moved to specialist hospital. (As evident from Paediatric Intensive Care Retrieval Forms).
- Improved safeguarding governance for all members of Shropshire health family including Ambulance and GPs as member of the Health Safeguarding Governance Children's Committee (as evident in notes of meetings)
- Recognition of the importance of involving someone with the right specialist knowledge in conducting management reviews (as evident from proposal to commission specialist assistance for current discretionary management reviews)

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP). There were 25 deaths reported to the Shropshire/T+W CDOP in 2010-11, 17 fewer than the 42 deaths during the year 2009/10, 30 fewer than the 55 which occurred in 2008/09. There were no homicides or suspicious deaths. The appointment of the Lead Nurse for CDOP in May 2011 increased the cover for the Rapid Response during the week and an option appraisal has been carried out to look at covering evenings and weekends. CDOP has been involved in developing the T+W accident prevention strategy. The CDOP information leaflet has been reviewed and updated.

Interagency Training In year 2012 /13 each statutory agency will be required to provide a single agency safeguarding training plan, identifying their staff requirements for interagency training. Currently the Training Sub-group are conducting an audit ensuring all partners are compliant with this WT2010 requirement.

Training courses During the reporting year training offered 12 different course titles which included: the 'Hidden Sentence', and 'Somebody Else's Child' and 'Developing Practice', which extended learning around the four categories of abuse. In total, 27 interagency courses were delivered by the training pool, 309 learners attended. 4 new courses have been developed by the training pool for 2012, titles include: Parental Mental Illness in a Child's World and Interagency Working to Safeguard Children Living with Parental Substance Misuse. The Peer Review acknowledged multi-agency training was well regarded and a particular strength of the LSCB.

Conferences Training also hosted 3 conferences: Parent Protect which provided practitioners with information to be shared with parents enabling them to protect their children from sexual abuse and provide information about e-safety. Fabricated and Induced Illness, jointly hosted with Shropshire Safeguarding Children Board. The outcomes from this event are currently being discussed by the Serious Case Review Sub-group and further work will be developed in 2012/2013. The third conference: Assisted Voluntary Return, introduced issues relating to illegal migrants and provided information which could be offered to people to assist them to return to their home country, the session was led by the Refugee Migrant Centre

Schools Child Protection training which includes statutory, private and independent provision All Schools in the Telford & Wrekin area have received Board approved training which is refreshed every 3 years. The Designated Persons have attended role specific training and update sessions are provided every term. A large number of schools access interagency training on a regular basis.

Voluntary Sector Training The Training Sub Group undertook the commitment to provide free training for the Voluntary Sector. Organisations who have received child protection training include: Street Pastors, Home Start, Woodside Family Group, small Volunteer Youth Groups, Chaperones, Stay Project, Shropshire Girl Guides and the Police Cadets

The Local Authority Designated Officer dealt with 142 allegations during 2010-2011 eight people were dismissed and three received criminal convictions. The numbers of allegations are slightly up on the previous year (138); this is also reflected in regional and National trends”

Safeguarding in schools During the year there were eleven Ofsted inspections. As part of the overall inspection process Safeguarding is taken into account as a limiting judgement. Of the eleven, two were rated as Outstanding and the others as being good (six) or satisfactory (3). As an officer of the Board the Principal Officer for Child Protection visited two of the schools who took up the option of a “health check” on their Child Protection and Safeguarding procedures. One of the schools achieved outstanding prompting the Head teacher to write: *“Just had a very successful Ofsted. Our Safeguarding and Child Protection Strategies were considered to be exemplary and we were awarded an Outstanding Judgement. Thank you for all your help and guidance in these matters”*

A **“Designated Persons Workbook”** was submitted and approved by the SCB. For the first time this set out roles, standards, practice and performance for Designated Persons in Schools and was subsequently adopted as good practice model at the Regional Midland Association Safeguarding in Education Officers Network (MASIE). It is hoped our lead will shape practice across the wider regional safeguarding agenda. The “Workbook” sits alongside model template policies that the SCB produces yearly for schools.

Police Protecting Vulnerable people which includes children is a strategic key priority for West Mercia Police; a theme which is embedded within our training for all of our staff.

West Mercia Police has five local authority aligned territorial policing units and within each there is a dedicated public protection team with specialist staff that address key areas which include Child Abuse and Domestic Abuse. Each Public Protection Unit is lead by a dedicated Detective Inspector, with West Mercia Police HQ having strategic control and leadership but delivering a localised service.

Partnership working is fundamental to effective public protection and West Mercia Police are committed to this process of working with all agencies that have an ability to provide protective services. A demonstration of that commitment is the current engagement to pursue co-location working within the Telford and Wrekin Family Connect project. New data analysis and assessment now addresses the wide agenda area of children who may be abused through exploitation. West Mercia Police data is provided to allow agencies to proactively identify any early indications of abuse through exploitation and therefore implement early prevention strategies.

Professional Practice themes Information relating to the two practice themes has been disseminated across agencies and partners of the LSCB. An LSCB training event

(Missing Men Conference) has been held which assisted in the launching of the two practice themes. This Conference was well attended and received by professionals across the LSCB Partnership.

A baseline audit has assessed how partner agencies have incorporated the two themes into professional practice. Further developments will include embedding the themes in all work, policy/procedures and quality assurance frameworks.

Child Protection Trends

The number of children with Child Protection Plans is measured as a rate per 10,000 population aged 0 to 17. Telford & Wrekin continues to have a higher rate of CP Plans per 10,000 than All England and Statistical Neighbours. At year end we were also the highest of all West Midlands Authorities per 10,000 (35.13). Telford & Wrekin's children subject to a CP Plan per 10,000 at 31 December 2011 was 56.5.

The percentage of Children who have been made subject to a CP Plan who have previously been subject to a plan at 31 December 2011 was 14.8%. At the same time in 2010 Telford & Wrekin's figure was 14.1%. As overall registrations increase this figure may come down. At year end, March 2011, Telford & Wrekin's outturn was 12.4%, which was just above the statistical neighbour average of 12.3% and lower than All England average of 13.3%.

There has been an increase of 31.2% in the number of children becoming subject to a CP Plan between 01 April 2011 - 31 December 2011 compared to the same period in 2010. There has also been an increase of 72.3% in the number of children ceasing to be subject to a CP Plan between 01 April 2011 -31 December 2011 compared to 01 April 2010 – 31 December 2010.

The percentage of children who ceased to be subject to a Child Protection Plan within 6-12 months was lower than the All England Average. 33.2% of Telford & Wrekin children ceased to be subject to a plan within 6-12 months and the All England outturn was 38.2%. 31.2% of Telford & Wrekin children ceased to be subject to a Plan within 1-2 years, this was higher than the All England outturn.

Whilst the number of children becoming subject to a Plan has increased, further analysis of sibling groups has shown that whilst we do have some larger sibling groups the trend has not changed dramatically in recent years. In 2009/10 there were 10 sibling groups which included 4 or more children, in 2010/11 there were 13 and from 01 April 2011- 31 December 2011 there have been 11 sibling groups of 4 or more children made subject to a CP Plan. In 2010/11 there was a 61% rise from 2009/10 in boys aged between 1 and 4 becoming subject to a CP Plan. There was also a rise of 67% in boys aged 5 to 9 in 2010/11 compared to 2009/10. The ratio of boys to girls being made subject to a CP Plan is generally consistent over the last 5 years. The category of abuse that children are being made subject to CP Plans under has not changed dramatically, however since 2009/10 the predominant change has been an increase in the number of boys becoming subject to a Plan under the category of Sexual Abuse. In 2010/2011 there was a rise in the number of boys being made subject to a Plan under the category of Physical Abuse. It rose from 22 in 2009/2010 to 48 in 2010/2011.

Referral rates in Telford and Wrekin in comparison to Statistical Neighbours and All England have been lower per 10,000 however this year (2011/2012) there has been a significant rise which is mainly attributed to improved recording mechanism. The number of Referrals as at 31 December 2011 was 1684, this is 446.7 per 10,000.

In terms of the number of Children Looked After, the trends in Telford & Wrekin have continued to increase and exceed the All England Average since 2007. The current number of Children in Care per 10,000 is 79.6.

The percentage of children who were subject to a CP Plan who subsequently became Looked After within 12 months of being subject to a CP Plan has increased year on year since 2007/08 to 2010/11 and is expected to continue this year with the percentage as at 30/09/2011 being 42%.

Available data suggests that Telford & Wrekin have had a high rate of children subject to child protection plans for the last 10 years, however, up to 2007, this was counter balanced by a lower rate of CIC in comparison to all England average and statistical neighbours. It could be suggested that prior to 2007 Telford & Wrekin attempted to retain children on child protection plans as opposed to bringing children into care. From 2007 this trend began to change, and along with high rates of child protection plans, we began to see an increasing rise of CIC. There could be a number of reasons for this trend:-

- The establishment and bedding in of the TAC process and Early Intervention Services, leading to improved information sharing and a collective approach to safeguarding children and young people within Telford & Wrekin.
- The identification of long term neglect cases, particularly identifying large sibling groups. This could be a relevant factor when considering the conversion rate from child protection to CIC rate.
- The impact of 'Baby Peter' on safeguarding practice.
- The introduction of the Public Law Outline, resulting in consistent management oversight of significant cases, and decisions being made earlier regarding long term care plans for children & young people.

Telford & Wrekin continues to have a higher rate of CP Plans per 10,000 than All England and Statistical Neighbours. We need to explore the reasons behind this trend. One of the reasons for the rise could be a change in our practice in relation to unborn children. Instead of children becoming subject to a child protection plan at birth, they can now be made subject to the child protection plan up to 12 weeks before the birth.

When we explore why our rate of child protection plans continuing to rise, we particularly need to focus on the reasons behind the rise in repeat child protection plans. We are in the process of undertaking audits jointly within both Safeguarding and the Early Intervention services of those children who have been made subject to a child protection plan within a 12 month period, in order to identify themes within this area. Jointly with our safeguarding partners, we also need to review our safeguarding practices in relation to children where there is a dual status, i.e. children being subject to a child protection plan and being a CIC, as this has an impact on the numbers of children subject to a child protection plan.

Telford & Wrekin have continued to consider new approaches to targeting services for our vulnerable children – particularly in light of increased referrals, the number of children with a child protection plan, and increasing numbers of CIC. The development and introduction of Family Connect Model will bring together key professionals in one place in order that there is early identification of vulnerable children and improving the speed to which those children receive the most appropriate help from single agencies or several agencies. This approach will avoid unnecessary duplication of assessments by agencies, simplify processes and improve communication and information sharing between professionals.

Conclusion & Looking Forward

Whilst operational safeguarding arrangements remain robust, organisational change and restructuring within key partners' agencies both nationally and locally has impacted on the momentum for local delivery of the strategic objectives in some areas. For example, these have affected the comprehensive development of the local missing children and pre-birth pathways. Partner agencies have however continued to monitor the effectiveness of operational child protection services. This has been accomplished through a range of mechanisms: supervision of staff, internal meetings with leads with less formal discussions with staff and young people, management and performance information, managers signing off assessments and care plans, statements for court, case file and theme audits. The number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan including those subject to a repeat plan are continually monitored.

Relationships between frontline professionals remain strong, and energy is being put into redeveloping them where changes in personnel require it. Where any professional disagreements cannot be resolved informally on a day to day basis, the role of the Designated and Named professionals and Safeguarding Advisory Service is well known.

The SCB has had a productive year. In response to national developments we have spent time reviewing how we deliver our core functions. This will contribute to improving outcomes for children and their families and ensure that agencies continue to work effectively together to plan, commission and deliver services.

The SCB has not just looked inward; we are developing strategies to improve operational practice throughout the Borough. This work has required extensive discussion and collaboration between board member agencies.

Given the current economic climate, next year will be particularly challenging for all partner agencies. The SCB have agreed a new budget to address the impact of partnership restructuring and the recommendations of the Munro Review.

2012-15 Business Plan Looking forward.

Telford & Wrekin is about working smarter. We know that boards which concentrate upon a limited number of priorities are more likely to make a difference to children and young people. We also understand that in order to lead to improvements, priorities need to be relevant to the local area. To ensure the Board has a proper overview of activity relating to vulnerable groups of children including those living with domestic violence, hidden harm, parents/carers with mental health issues, children with disabilities and to identify any possible gaps, the Board will be undertaking a scoping exercise identifying the numbers of partnership meetings where these groups are identified and supported. It is imperative that the Board has this overview and that there are established linkages in terms of reporting and sharing information.

The LSCB has set three priorities for the coming year: **Children Abused Through Exploitation, Missing Children, and Children and Young People Feeling Safe**. On going actions from this year's SCB Business Plan will be subsumed into the 2012-15 Business Plan. Whilst the ongoing development of the T&W Family Connect Service will be overseen by the Council's Children Young People and Families Board.

Strong practice is seen where LSCBs review regularly and update their priorities to meet changing needs and pressures. To this end there will be a board development day towards the end of this year where we can collectively review our priorities and the learning from the scoping exercise.

Future Board work will continue to focus on positive outcomes for and the continued engagement of children and young people, performance and holistically integrating our professional practice themes: 'Invisible Men' and Cultural Competence into the Boards work.

The SCB priorities, sub-groups and work streams for 2012-3 are at **Appendix E**.

Appendix A – LSCB Financial Summary 2011-12 / 2012-13

LSCB FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2011-12 / 2012-13

2011/12			
2011/12 ORIGINAL BUDGET	2011/12 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS	2011/12 REVISED BUDGET	2011/12 ACTUAL OUTTURN

(inc Partners payment holiday)

£ £ £ £

EXPENDITURE

Salaries	147,486	0	147,486	158,630
Non Salaries	52,504	-12,674	39,830	18,096
CEC/DEC's	10,008	5,769	15,777	15,777
	209,998	-6,905	203,093	192,502

INCOME

Shropshire & Telford Hospital	-5,000	1,250	-3,750	-3,750
Telford & Wrekin PCT	-38,000	9,500	-28,500	-28,500
West Mercia Constabulary	-14,000	3,500	-10,500	-10,500
West Mercia Probation	-4,340	1,085	-3,255	-3,255
CAFCASS	-550	137	-413	-413
YOS	-500	125	-375	-375
Education	-29,606	7,401	-22,205	-22,205
T&W Base Budget	-65,706	-5,042	-70,748	-70,748
Schools	-25,000	0	-25,000	-25,000
Training Fees	-4,560	0	-4,560	-4,910
Non Attendance Fees	-1,200	0	-1,200	-660
Daphne	-8,000	0	-8,000	
Funded from reserve	-13,536	-11,051	-24,587	-22,186
	-209,998	6,905	-203,093	-192,502

LSCB - RESERVES

2011/12

Opening Reserves 11/12 (as at 01/04/2011)	-109,679	
Actual Reserves used 11/12	22,186	
Closing reserves 11/12 (as at 31/03/2012)		<u>-87,493</u>

2012/13

Opening reserves 12/13 (as at 01/04/2012)	-87,493	
Planned use of reserves 12/13	50,433	
Current Serious Case Review	16,000	
Planned closing reserves 12/13 (as at 31/04/2013)		<u>-21,060</u>

2012/13		
2012/13 ORIGINAL BUDGET	2012/13 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS	2012/13 REVISED BUDGET

(inc Partners payment holiday)

£ £ £

	160,996	0	160,996
	39,420	0	39,420
	24,580	0	24,580
	224,996	0	224,996

ACCOUNTING NOTES:

Partners payment holiday agreed 2011/12 and 2012/13
 DAPHNE income not expected - taken out
 Salary costs 11/12 higher than budget due to incremental drift

Appendix B: Sub-group and work streams achievements

	Sub-Group/Work Stream	LSCB Achievements
	Priority Areas	
1	Children Abused Through Exploitation (CATE) Priority	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of the draft 5 steps model for identifying potential CATE issues in an area. This is part of the launch of the Regional Missing Children Joint Protocol. 2. Implementation of Independent Sexual Violence Advisory (ISVA) Service. In the first 7 months, the service has supported 30 clients, 2 full time ISVAs and 2 Sexual Violence Support Workers. Service available throughout Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin. Key agencies have received referral packs. 3. Support for Chalice victims and their families. 4. Strong links established with two voluntary organisations – Axis and Calla. 5. Menu of activities agreed with Muslim Forum – which includes working with young people and Community Safety including Chalice, proposal to establish supplementary schools to focus on raising aspirations for young men.
2	Getting The Right Help At The Right Time Priority	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Family Connect Service recruitment complete. 2. Information sharing of Early Intervention Teams data with Social Care Data Team and Safeguarding: including Common Assessment Framework and Team Around the Child data. 3. Common Assessment Framework (CAF) Performance Information Framework completed and ready to use. 4. Development of Family Connect PR and Communication strategy including consultation with all stakeholders. 5. Customer Relationship Management System (CRM) being developed. Commissioned April 2012. 6. Pre-Birth Pathway complete. Implemented April 2012.
3	Missing Children Priority	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Missing children data analysis. 2. Developing robust process for children and young people missing from care. 3. Launch of the Joint Regional Protocol 4. Involvement of Early Intervention and Cohesion Services
4	Children & Young People Feeling Safe Priority	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Produced creative outcomes whilst navigating around financial constraints. 2. Anti- Bullying consultations with young people: Care Council, Youth Activity & Play Groups, Disabled Children’s Groups & Youth projects. Anti-Bullying Strategy approved by the Safeguarding Children Board. 3. Distribution of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 Chatterboxes to 11k primary school children within Telford & Wrekin supported by an enriched curriculum. This work was nationally recognised by the Children’s Commissioner and the NSPCC. 4. Safeguarding Concertina Card consultation taken place with 5 secondary schools. The work will be implemented in all secondary schools later this year with an enriched curriculum. 5. Parents Protect Event: 72 people attended September’s events. 6. Primary School mentoring by West Mercia Police Cadets for Years 4 – 6 positive role models. 7. Trial of voluntary sector NSPCC accreditation.

Functions with Sub-groups		
5	Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CDOP Lead Nurse appointment and is now qualified in Rapid Response for child deaths . 2. Submitted CDOP national data prior to deadline (May 2011). 3. Increased partnership working with coroner.
6	Performance Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ratified: Performance Management Framework and Calendar of Reports to LSCB.
7	Policies & Procedures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Missing Children Joint Protocol has been agreed by Council and LSCB. 2. Refresh of the Schools Safeguarding and Child Protection Policies agreed by LSCB.
8	Serious Case Review	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SCR action plan submitted to Ofsted and deemed satisfactory
9	Training Sub- Group	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chair and Action Plan Lead of Training Sub Group retained giving the sub-group continuity. 2. Membership of training pool increasing. 3. Expectations of statutory agencies clearly set out and progress report process in place.
Work Streams		
10	Communication Strategy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Production of Children & Young People chatterbox communication tool. 2. LSCB Members E Site. 3. Refresh of LSCB Website. 4. Beacon Radio anti-bullying jingles broadcast – Holmer Lake School: By Children For Children.
11	Funding	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Funding for 2012-13 agreed.
12	Munro Report Response	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Summary report produced which incorporated government's response to the Munro Report. 2. Implications for T&W identified. 3. Interim Director of Children and Families has established an interagency strategic group to look at the implementation of the Munro Report within Telford & Wrekin.
13	Structure and Membership	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Induction of Community Board Members. 2. Organisational change has become a standard agenda item at both LSCB and Executive Group Meetings. 3. Membership of LSCB and the Executive Group is being monitored and maintained through organisational change.
Professional Practice Themes		
14	Cultural Competence	Theme incorporated into the LSCB Performance Management Framework.
15	'Invisible Men' The role of men in children's lives	Theme incorporated into the LSCB Performance Management Framework.

Appendix C: LSCB Involvement of children and young people

	Sub-Group/Work Stream	LSCB Involvement of children and young people
	Priority Areas	
1	Children Abused Through Exploitation (CATE) Priority	1. Bid made to Home Office by Axis for young persons advocate for victims of sexual violence and exploitation.
2	Getting The Right Help At The Right Time Priority	1. Children and young people involved in the development of the Family Connect Service through consultations. 2. Planned involvement with C&YP during the 90 day consultation of phase 2 of the restructure. 3. Representative from the Parents Forum now sits on the sub-group.
3	Missing Children Priority	1. Jigsaw have discussed service provision with children and young people, as part of this process ways of encouraging children and young people to accept a contract from an independent person have been identified.
4	Children & Young People Feeling Safe Priority	1. Anti-bullying consultations with the Care Council, Youth Play & Activity Groups, Disabled Children’s Groups, Youth Project. 2. Chatterbox Consultation: 4 Primaries & 1 Infants School. 3. Borough Primary and Secondary Schools. 4. C&YP consultations regarding the new LSCB website. 5. Police cadets ‘positive role model ‘mentoring scheme with Years 4-6. 6. Holmer Lake School delivered an anti-bullying workshop to the January LSCB.
	Functions with Sub-groups	
5	Training Sub- Group	Discussions held with a view: 1. To delivering child protection awareness sessions suitable for young people. 2. To include young people in the development of the training pack.
	Work Streams	
6	Communication Strategy	1. Communications Tool consultation with primary and secondary schools within the borough. 2. C&YP consultations regarding the new LSCB website. 3. Beacon Radio broadcast – enabled the views, thoughts and feelings of children to be heard, created into a cohesive radio broadcast which will be transmitted 62 times during the last 2 weeks of November to coincide with anti-bullying week commencing 14.11.11.

Appendix D: What difference are we making to children, young people, parents and carers?

	Sub-Group/Work Stream	LSCB What difference have we made to children, young people, parents and carers?
	Priority Areas	
1	Children Abused Through Exploitation (CATE) Priority	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of draft 5 steps model for identifying potential CATE issues in an area. Identification of potential sexual exploitation activity: intelligence about related crime and risk factors, where & how much. Range of data key sources; education & police which enables targeting of resources 2. Implementation of Independent Sexual Violence Advisory (ISVA) Service. Service available throughout Shropshire, T&W. First 7 months of operation, the service supported 30 clients, 2 full time ISVAs and 2 Sexual Violence Support Workers. 3. Support for Chalice victims and their families. Anecdotal evidence: parents report victims feel safer & parents appreciate support. Difficult to reach young people are engaging and accepting of support. Reduction in level of risk from sexual exploitation for individual young people. 4. Raised awareness of problems within the community. Regular meetings with the Muslim forum to tailor services and address local Pakistani Muslim needs. The process enables us to challenge behaviours and cultural issues.
2	Getting The Right Help At The Right Time Priority	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information sharing between Early Intervention Teams and Social Care Team. Improving informed decisions to ensure that children and families are receiving appropriate and proportionate support at the earliest opportunity. 2. Developing CAF Performance Framework to capture outcomes measures for early intervention teams 3. Pre-Birth Pathway ensures vulnerable children are identified and supported at the earliest opportunity 4. Family Connect consultation events with all stakeholders to ensure practice knowledge and opinions are captured to inform design of the service.
3	Missing Children Priority	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Missing Children data analysis of what is working well and what is not 2. Joint Regional Protocol launch - Robust mechanism for information sharing across children in care providers: private and public and link into Family Connect 3. Developing robust process for C&YP missing from care. Improved processes for Safeguarding C&YP. Return interviews will provide a forum for C&YP to express feelings 4. Involvement of Early Intervention and Cohesion services. Early identification of issues for C&YP and their families to provide relevant services/interventions early at the right time
4	Children & Young People Feeling Safe Priority	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anti-Bullying consultations with young people: Care Council, Youth Projects & Play Groups, Disabled Children's Groups. Needs & gap analysis to inform communications & anti-bullying strategy 2. Parents Protect (sexual abuse) Events. Raising parents awareness of sexual abuse 3. Primary School mentoring by West Mercia Police Cadets. Positive role models for Years 4 – 6 4. Launch of refreshed LSCB website – I Stay Safe during anti-bullying week supported by media coverage and Radio Beacon jingles created and performed by Holmer Lake School. Promotion of anti-bullying week & LSCB website to an audience of 250,000 listeners. In first week of launch 600 hits on new website 5. Consultation, Creation and delivery of anti-bullying chatterboxes by children for children. 10,500 KS1 & 2 Chatterboxes plus enrichment curriculum sponsored by LSCB. Key messages: what it is, what to do, where to seek help. Raising awareness of the multi

		facets of bullying amongst children, parents , careers and schools. Recognised by the Children’s commissioner as primary school safeguarding best practice. 6. LSCB Anti-bullying strategy - Raising awareness, long term reduction in bullying
	Functions with Sub-groups	
5	Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)	1. Child deaths have reduced since 2008. 2. Bereavement midwife post developed by SaTH – to commence September 2011. 3. Lead Nurse for CDOP panel due to workload of panel members.
6	Policies & Procedures	1.The refresh of the Schools Safeguarding and Child Protection Policies have been agreed by the LSCB
7	Serious Case Review	1.The role of significant men in children’s lives and the impact on their lives is better taken into account in assessment and care planning 2.Hospital paediatric staff better able to identify potential safeguarding issues within Apparent Life Threatening Events 3.Reduction in multiple episodes of missing YPs from single establishments
8	Training Sub- Group	1. Raised awareness of Child Protection issues and informed via the use of Child Protection procedures across the Telford & Wrekin area with practitioners in statutory organisations and the voluntary sector.
	Work Streams	
9	Communication Strategy	1. Raised awareness of safeguarding issues and the role of the LSCB. 2. Demonstrated the LSCBs desire to listen to the views of children.

Safeguarding Children Board

Executive Group

Outcomes
Priorities With
Sub-Groups

Children Abused
Through
Exploitation

Missing Children

Children &
Young People
Feeling Safe

Functions With
Sub-Groups

Child Death
Overview Panel
- Joint

Performance
Management
Inc Section 11 Audit

Policies &
Procedures

Serious
Case
Review

Training

Health
Governance

Work Streams

Communications
Strategy

Funding

Munro Report
Response

Structure &
Membership

Professional
Practice
Themes –
embedded in all
we do

'Invisible Men' The Role Of Men In Children's Lives

Cultural Competence