

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET - 8 DECEMBER 2011

**‘LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (LSCB) HALF YEAR
PROGRESS REPORT’**

REPORT OF INTERIM HEAD OF SAFEGUARDING

PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

1.1. To provide a half year update on the focus and progress of the Local Safeguarding Children Board in delivering its annual business plan

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1. That consideration be given to the focus and progress made delivering the LSCB business plan.

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Priority Plan objective(s)?	
	Yes	Children and Young People’s Plan: Keep children safe from maltreatment, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes	The objectives and actions of the LSCB Business Plan will impact across all sections of the Borough, in particular children, young people, parents and carers- including work to support and protect the most vulnerable in the community
TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE	Key milestones • Quarter 3 reporting December 2011 • Quarter 4 reporting and production of LSCB Annual Report March 2012	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendation in this report. The total budget available to fund the work of the LSCB in 2011-12 is £203,810 provided by contributions from a number of partners including the PCT and the Police. Financial reports are presented bi-annually to the LSCB and are reported yearly in the Boards Annual Report.
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 (2004

		Act) required each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).LSCB functions are prescribed by Section 14 of the 2004 Act and the Local Safeguarding Children Board Regulations 2006 (as amended) Section 14A of the 2004 Act requires all LSCBs to prepare and publish a report at least once in every 12 month period.
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	Yes	The scope of the actions in the LSCB Business Plan will impact on many aspects of the lives of children, young people, parents and carers - including work to support and protect the most vulnerable in the community
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	Yes	Borough-wide impact

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4. TELFORD & WREKIN LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

- 4.1. 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.
- 4.2. 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"*.
- 4.3. Working Together To Safeguard Children 2010 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. This can be found at http://www.telfordsafeguardingboard.org.uk/downloads/file/11/annual_report_january_2011

5. TELFORD & WREKIN LSCB BUSINESS PLAN

- 5.1. The Annual Report was used to inform the development of a 2011/12 Business Plan. The Plan has four safeguarding priorities together with a number of functions and work streams relating to the the Board and its two Professional Practice Themes:

Priority Areas

- Children Abused Through Exploitation (CATE)
- Getting The Right Help At The Right Time

- Children and Young People Feeling Safe
- Missing Children

Functions with Sub-groups

- Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)
- Performance Management
- Training Sub- Group
- Policies & Procedures
- Serious Case Review

Work Streams

- Communication Strategy
- Funding
- Munro Report Response
- Structure and Membership

Professional Practice Themes

- “Cultural Competence”
- ‘Invisible Men’ The role of men in children’s lives

5.2. Key activity relating to these priorities, work streams and professional practice themes are identified in the action plans of the LSCB Business Plan. Progress reports are received by the LSCB Executive Group quarterly. Achievements of significant milestones or difficulties overcoming barriers are reported to the LSCB by exception.

5.3. The LSCBs achievements, challenges, the involvement of children and young people in its work and how this work has impacted on children and young people, their parents and carers are summarised below:

6. SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

Achievements

6.1. Given the transformational environment in which it operates, 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.
- The new CAF Performance Information Framework provides a better understanding of trends and patterns for provision of early help.
- A Regional Joint Protocol for Missing Children to enable improved support to be given to the children, young people and families affected
- Comprehensive consultations with children and young people to ascertain views on safeguarding themes. Practical solutions have been produced for children by children including a

communications tool, a Beacon Radio broadcast and a refresh of the LSCB website.

6.2. Further examples are listed at Appendix 1.

Barriers To Achievement

6.3. Whilst operation 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. However, partner agencies have continued to monitor the effectiveness of operational child protection services through a range of mechanisms; supervision of staff, internal meetings with leads and less formal discussion with staff and young people, management and performance information, managers signing off assessments, care plans and statements for court, and case file and theme audits, sometimes on a multi-agency basis. 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.

Involvement of children and young people in the work of the LSCB

6.4. 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.
- Consultations involving 4 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.
- Beacon Radio Broadcast. The focus of which was anti-bullying. The script was created and performed by the children of Holmer Lake School and was transmitted 62 times during the last two weeks of November to coincide with national anti-bullying week.

Other examples of activities and those planned for the future are summarised at Appendix 2.

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
- Further outcomes are set out at Appendix 3.

The future

6.5. 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. Our LSCB is committed to meet these challenges in order to ensure children and young people in Telford and Wrekin stay safe. How partners collectively will continue to achieve this will be considered as part of the discussions to develop our next Annual report and the 2012-13 LSCB business plan

7. PREVIOUS MINUTES

N/A

Report prepared by Kris Woodcock,
Safeguarding Children Partnership Development Officer
Telephone: 01952 385656

LSCB Business Plan
Appendix 1: Summary of Achievements

Sub-Group/Work Stream	LSCB Achievements
Priority Areas	
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 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.
Getting The Right Help At The Right Time Priority	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Relevant recruitment to begin the new Family Connect Service. 2. Information sharing of Early Intervention Teams data with Social Care Data Team. 3. CAF Performance Information Framework completed and ready to use, which will enable patterns and trends to be identified.
Missing Children Priority	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Better understanding of what is working well and what is not. 2. Regional Joint Protocol completed which will enable better support to be provided to the client group.
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. 3. 'Chatterbox' Communication Tool consultations with children: representatives from Apley Wood, Holmer Lake, Newdale, Newport Infants & Juniors plus multicultural schools input. A chatterbox will be presented to every primary aged child throughout the borough and supported with curriculum enrichment lesson plans. 4. Staying Safe and cyber safety work in primary & secondary schools. 6. Parents Protect Event: 72 people attended September's events. 7. Primary School mentoring by West Mercia Police Cadets for Years 4 – 6 – positive role models. 8. Trial of voluntary sector NSPCC accreditation.
Functions with Sub-groups	
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.
Performance Management	Ratified: Performance Management Framework and Calendar of Reports to LSCB.

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.
Serious Case Review	SCR action plan submitted to Ofsted and deemed satisfactory
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. Inter-agency membership of training pool increasing. 3. Expectations of statutory agencies clearly defined and progress report process in place.
Work Streams	
Communication Strategy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Progress of C&YP friendly products: chatterbox communication tool. 2. Development and functioning of LSCB Members E -Site. 3. Refresh of the LSCB Website with a significant input by children and young people. 4. Beacon Radio Anti-bullying Broadcast – Holmer Lake School: By Children For Children.
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. DCS held an interagency scoping meeting to define responsibilities.
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	
Cultural Competence	Theme incorporated into the LSCB Performance Management Framework.
'Invisible Men' The role of men in children's lives	Theme incorporated into the LSCB Performance Management Framework.

LSCB Business Plan

Appendix 2: Summary of Involvement of children and young people

Sub-Group/Work Stream	LSCB Involvement of children and young people
Priority Areas	
Children & Young People Feeling Safe Priority	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anti-bullying consultations with the Care Council, Youth Play & Activity Groups, Disabled Children's Groups, Youth Project. 2. Cyber – safety awareness sessions in Borough Primary and Secondary Schools. 3. Police cadets 'positive role model mentoring scheme with Years 4-6.
Work Streams	
Communication Strategy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communications Tool 'Chatterbox' Consultations with 24 child representatives from 4 Primary and 1 Infants School. 2. C&YP consultations regarding the new LSCB website. 3. Beacon Radio Anti-bullying 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.

LSCB Business Plan

Appendix 3: Summary of what difference have we made 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	
Children Abused Through Exploitation (CATE) Priority	Victims of sexual assault and their families are better able to cope with their abuse and criminal proceedings.
Getting The Right Help At The Right Time Priority	Identified the need to create an improved information sharing spreadsheet for CAF/TAC which will improve interventions from safeguarding.
Missing Children Priority	Needs of missing children and problems addressing them better understood by key stakeholders
Children & Young People Feeling Safe Priority	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Raising the awareness of children in terms of their safeguarding environment. They are questioning their own environment and how this reflects on their wellbeing. 2. Raised awareness of cyber -Safety in schools. 3. Picking up more disclosures in schools. 4. Raising awareness across multi agency professionals, carers and parents.
Functions with Sub-groups	
Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Child deaths have reduced since 2008. 2. Bereavement midwife post developed by SaTH – to commence September 2011.
Policies & Procedures	Designated teachers are more informed and therefore better equipped to undertake their safeguarding roles
Serious Case Review	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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
Training Sub- Group	Raised awareness of Child Protection issues through the use of Child Protection Procedures across the Telford & Wrekin area with practitioners both in statutory organisations and the voluntary sector.
Work Streams	
Communication Strategy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Raised awareness of safeguarding issues and the role and aims of the LSCB amongst children and young people. 2. Demonstrated the LSCBs desire to listen to the views of children and support their ideas and solutions through practical projects: communications tool and the Beacon Radio broadcast.

