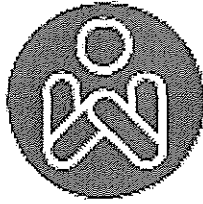


<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Report of the Wokingham Safeguarding Children Board</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	<b>Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 3 June 2013</b>
<b>WARD</b>	<b>None specific</b>
	<b>Stephen Barber, Independent Chair Wokingham Safeguarding Children Board</b>



wokingham  
safeguarding children board

# **Wokingham Safeguarding Children Board**

## **Annual Report 2011 - 2012**

## **Business Plan 2012 - 2013**

Endorsed at the WSCB Executive Meeting 6 Feb 2013

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## Introduction

The Government expects every Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) to describe what it has done each year to keep children and young people safe. The production of an annual report is one way in which politicians, the public and young people can judge for themselves whether the LSCB has been effective in keeping children safer.

This report provides an opportunity for Wokingham LSCB to be open and honest about what is going well for children in the Wokingham Borough and what needs action.

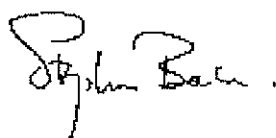
The annual report has a wide distribution and is sent to key stakeholders and partners so that they can be informed about our work and use the information in planning within their own organisations to keep children and young people safe.

This has been a challenging year for everyone in the Wokingham Borough due to cuts in public spending and the impact this has had on services, both for partner agencies and for the families our agencies work with.

The financial climate has had a negative impact on families who may already be under stress, leading to greater demand on services.

However, lots of activities and achievements have been taking place to help children stay safe and, where possible, we have listened to children and young people to get their ideas about the work we do.

Partnership working is a vital ingredient for an effective LSCB and this report contains information on some of the activities and achievements which have taken place that demonstrate this.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Barber". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

**Stephen Barber**  
**Independent Chair**

## Executive Summary April 2011 – March 2012

Wokingham LSCB has been operating in a challenging context over the last year, as the public sector and NHS have undergone significant changes due to shifts in political expectations and funding. This has impacted on many services including those delivered by the voluntary sector. The introduction of academies has also changed the landscape for Wokingham Borough's education provision.

A key focus of the past year has been the Munro Review and the Government's response which have focused on the child protection system in England. Professor Eileen Munro's key messages were that the child protection system was too bureaucratic and procedurally driven; too often the focus on the child was lost and professionals were not given enough scope to exercise their professional judgement when responding to concern in families.

Agencies need to be more systemic in their approach to organisational learning and the management of uncertainty; and measure their effectiveness and outcomes.

In Wokingham the Board experienced change in key members.

### Priorities in the Business Plan for 2011-2014

Our business plan set out the 2 key themes for action;

- **Early Intervention**
- **Domestic Abuse**

### Achievements in 2011 – 2012

- In early 2012 WSCB completed a Partnership Review into the services provided to the 'B' family. It was a successful learning review with a clear Action Plan. The lessons have been disseminated; actions are in place to ensure good peri-natal services for expectant and new mothers who may experience mental health difficulties resulting from a pregnancy or birth; closer working arrangements have been agreed between health and social care and will be monitored.
- We have changed the way we conduct WSCB meetings with focus on the Board's priorities.
- A joint LSCB meeting was held with Reading and West Berkshire LSCBs to enable better strategic planning across pan-Berkshire agencies.
- WSCB agreed the Business Plan 2012 – 2013. The Plan is attached; it sets priorities for joint work across community and mental health services and children's services. It demonstrates commitment by local agencies to work together in partnership to safeguard children
- There is now very good engagement with schools and the WSCB; schools are well represented the Board and provide effective links to school services to safeguarding the majority of the child population.
- WSCB continued to expand its range of publications. WSCB leaflets and posters are disseminated widely

They include: Private Fostering leaflets, posters and advertisements, What to do if you are worried about a child poster, "See the Adult, See the Child" poster aimed at practitioners working with adults, and the LADO poster (which explains the process for dealing with allegations against professional staff and volunteers in positions of trust).

- A protocol about bruising and immobile children was produced for professionals and a leaflet for parents. This follows recommendations from a serious case review in another area
- Wokingham LSCB has appointed Lay Members, who provide a vital link between the Board and the wider community; and who act as an additional independent challenge
- WSCB agencies provided regular updates on any pressures on safeguarding services and their likely impact on joint working to safeguard children. Wokingham Children's Trust and Safeguarding News newsletter is distributed to all WSCB members, regularly. The newsletter is well received and keeps frontline practitioners informed of key safeguarding messages and of what the Board is doing.
- The LSCB distributed the Berkshire Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) termly newsletter with information from case studies aimed at preventing child deaths, signposting undiagnosed diabetes and safer sleeping information for babies.
- A Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) task group has been set up to identify young people at risk.
- WSCB held a multi-agency practitioners event with Prof Eileen Munro to consider recommendations for Early Help and Early Intervention to enhance multi-agency practice

## Challenges facing Wokingham LSCB 2011 - 12

### Service delivery

- Making sure that the lessons learned from local partnership and serious case reviews become embedded in local practice and services – we need to improve our ways of knowing that this is making a difference in the direct work with children
- Hearing the views of children, young people and families in service audits and service planning – we are introducing a multi-disciplinary case-auditing approach which will include seeking children's and their parents' views on the services provided.
- A continuing challenge was the inability to appoint a Designated Doctor for Child Protection. The Board has expressed its concern about this and is pleased to see that health trust is working to secure someone in this essential role.
- We learned that we need better links between Children's Services and the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC); and that case information is shared appropriately and in a timely way. We are working on this.
- Rapid Response service (for unexpected child deaths) to be available out of hours
- The cessation of the National Healthy Schools programme and how this will impact on children and young people to be monitored.

- It was noted that the Police Service was not able to attend all Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) – this was challenged and there has been an improvement.

#### For the WSCB itself, inter-agency strategic planning and review

- A challenge has been maintaining links and lines of accountability with health services as their management changes through national and local restructuring, and as the new framework of Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) comes into place. The LSCB is seeking to develop a relationship with the developing CCG to ensure that safeguarding children has a priority in the planning and commissioning of services.
- Ensuring that the developing Health & Wellbeing Board (H&WB) has safeguarding of children and young people as a strategic priority.
- Reductions in Education and Children's services due to changes in public funding
- Leadership of the WSCB Subgroups must be shared across agencies more fully; and partners must ensure that staff are released to complete Subgroups' work
- Ensure Voluntary Sector representation on WSCB. The voluntary sector has experienced an impact as a result of the changes to the allocation of grants and funding to some of their services; this is being monitored.

#### Highest Priorities

- It is a challenge for agencies to ensure appropriate commitment and personnel to the Board and its work programme. The Board is monitoring this and raises it with Agency Leaders, where necessary.
- As a key responsibility Board members and partner agencies must ensure dissemination of lessons and information to ensure front line practitioners are kept up to date and supported in their work. The developing audit programme will measure levels of awareness.
- Raise awareness about the significance of bruising and injury to non-mobile infants across the children's workforce.



## Key Messages from Wokingham LSCB at the end of March 2012

### Messages for the community

- Families and members of the public are in the best place to look out for children and young people who may be at risk of harm and to raise the alarm if they are worried.
- We all share responsibility for protecting children. If anyone is worried about a child, they should do something - contact the Children's Services Referral & Assessment (R&A) Team or in an emergency contact the police.
- Children and young people – your voices are the most important of all. The Board plans to develop better ways of hearing children and young people's views about their needs and safeguarding.

### Messages for local politicians

- Local politicians represent the vulnerable children and young people in their wards, as well as adults. Councillor Rob Stanton was Lead Member for Children Service's for 2011- 2012 and Councillor Charlotte Haitham-Taylor has taken on the role of Lead Member for 2012-2013.
- The Lead Member for Children's Services provides the route for individual councillors to make sure the voices of children and young people are heard by the LSCB and for councillors to be aware of local safeguarding children priorities.
- The voluntary sector has to review and restructure its resources because of changes to funding streams. Local councillors are asked to pay close attention to any impact of this on the wellbeing of children and young people in their ward and report this to the LSCB.
- When councillors scrutinise any plans for the Wokingham Borough, they must keep the protection of children as the paramount consideration, asking questions about how any plans will impact on vulnerable children and young people.

### Messages for all agencies Chief Executives and Directors

- The LSCB needs to understand the impact of any planned organisational changes on the collective capacity to safeguard children and young people in Wokingham. It is recommended that agencies build in safeguarding impact analyses into any such restructuring.
- Every agency must ensure that it takes into account the priorities within the WSCB Business Plan and the agency's own contribution to the shared delivery of the WSCB's work. This includes meeting the duties of section 11 of the Children Act 2004 and ensuring that agencies are able to contribute to the WSCB's work programme with appropriate resources and personnel
- Senior officers must ensure that agency staff are able to attend safeguarding /LSCB training courses and learning events, as appropriate to ensure that lessons are implemented by all practitioners and to note the value of inter-agency and multi-disciplinary training; and that the agency is able to contribute to the provision of shared training.

## Messages for the children's and adults' workforce

- All paid and voluntary members of the children's workforce; and those of the adult work force who work with vulnerable parents or those who pose a risk, should know and operate the Berkshire Child Protection Procedures.
- All members of the children's workforce, from all agencies and the voluntary sector, should keep up to date with relevant safeguarding developments and research.
- The LSCB newsletter, training and procedures will assist with this. It is individual practitioner's responsibility to ensure that they maintain and update their safeguarding knowledge and skills.

## Messages for Thames Valley Probation

- Probation is asked to report to the WSCB an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) in relation to the protection of children.
- Evaluate and report to the WSCB on the effectiveness of the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) system in protecting children from domestic abuse.

## Messages for Berkshire NHS and the developing Clinical Commissioning Group

### Messages for Royal Berkshire Hospital Trust

- Introduce a system of performance information and analysis which will allow safeguarding children data to be produced by area of origin.
- Improve access by children given forensic sexual examinations to a paediatric service in Berkshire West.

### Messages for Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust

- Ensure that details of children given forensic sexual examinations are passed to relevant local authorities; and improve access by children given forensic sexual examinations to a paediatric service in Berkshire West.

## Section 1 Structure, governance and accountability

The Children Act 2004 requires local authorities to establish Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) for their area.

The LSCB is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how organisations will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

LSCBs have a duty to:

*Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by the local authority and Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advise them on ways to improve (Working Together 2010 p93)*

This report describes the way in which the Wokingham LSCB has undertaken that responsibility in 2011 - 12 and how it will do this in 2012 – 13.

### Wokingham LSCB vision for safeguarding children

We want Wokingham to be a place where children and young people can grow and develop to fullest potential within their family; where they will be safe from harm or neglect and happy. Where a child has suffered significant harm we will provide the best services we can to lessen the impact of such harm and prevent it re-occurring.

To achieve this:

Agencies will work together in multi-disciplinary partnership to plan and co-ordinate how best to safeguard and promote the welfare of children to:

- gain benefit from close working across the three West Berkshire LSCBs through joint sub-groups and other work where appropriate;
- stay in touch with national and regional developments and promote these locally;
- work with the Children's Trust & Shadow Health & Wellbeing Board to plan and monitor appropriate safeguarding services;
- offer constructive peer challenge to partner agencies with regard to safeguarding children;
- promote safe recruitment, management and appropriate training of the workforce in agencies working with children or their parents;
- commission Case Reviews (SCRs or Partnership Reviews) where these are required to learn and improve our services, where necessary;
- and monitor the quality of agency and inter-agency work with children and families to keep children safe, learn lessons, implement changes and monitor their impact.

We will also seek to have conversations about this with children & young people and their families; and with agency practitioners in order to understand their views and how best to achieve this vision.

## Meetings of the Board 2011 - 12

The Board met three times between April 2011 and March 2012. The Executive met four times. There was also a joint meeting with Reading and West Berkshire LSCBs in September 2011 to support joint working across the three Boards. Meetings were used to plan and monitor the Board's work programme and monitor the effectiveness of agencies' work to safeguard children.

The Board was well-supported by a Business Manager and Minute Taker.

## Roles & responsibilities of members

Wokingham LSCB is chaired by Stephen Barber, as Independent Chair of Reading; Wokingham; and West Berkshire LSCBs. This joint role brings consistency across the three separate LSCBs, sharing of good practice and collaborative working.

The Lead Member for Children's Services is politically accountable for ensuring that the local authority fulfils its legal responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. The Lead Member acts as 'participating observer' of the LSCB; and regularly attends Board meetings, providing leadership and challenge.

Wokingham LSCB successfully appointed 2 Lay Members in July 2011. They are both proactively involved in the work of the Board. Their role is to provide a stronger public perspective in local child safeguarding; an improved understanding of the LSCB's work in the wider community; to help make links between the LSCB and community groups; and to provide challenge to the LSCB, holding it and its members to account.

The LSCB has senior representatives from a range of partner agencies. Their role is to contribute to the effective joint work of the Board, to lead safeguarding within their own agency, to keep the LSCB informed of safeguarding issues within their agency which may have implications for multi-agency work and the monitoring role of the Board. Members are also expected to understand the responsibilities of other lead agencies and to assist the Board in holding them to account.

A full membership list for 2011 – 12 is contained at Appendix 2.

A key challenge for the Board was absence of key members or appropriate deputies of sufficient seniority at some of the meetings. The following agencies were not represented at all meetings in 2011 - 12: Connexions, Community Mental Health Team, NHS South Central, Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust, CAF/CASS, NHS Berkshire, Housing, Thames Valley Probation, Secondary and Primary Schools & Children's Services.

The Board needs to secure representation from the voluntary sector and possibly the faith sector.

## What our members say about the LSCB

"I have been a Lay Member of Wokingham's Safeguarding Children Board for about a year, and am impressed by the dedicated concentration that all the agencies involved direct toward giving children and young people the best protection possible. The position of Lay Member is still defining itself, but we aim to observe, offer a detached but concerned view of the board's proceedings with a view to being accountable to our community. Safeguarding children is the responsibility of all the members of society, and we must all work to achieve it."

*Bill Mahony, WSCB Lay Member*

Regularly attending the Safeguarding Children Board has really contributed to making sure that useful and critical connections are made between the represented professions and the Housing Needs Service. The Board leads interesting and informative sessions about initiatives and new schemes as well as reporting on and monitoring established areas of work and sharing information. The result is effective and positive.

*Jude Whyte, Housing Service Member*

## Key Relationships

### Children's Trust

The LSCB continued to work effectively with the Children's Trust. The Trust oversaw the work of partner agencies and developed the Wokingham Children & Young People's Plan 2012 – 2015. The partnership will continue to ensure that children's safeguarding and wellbeing remain high on the strategic agenda.

### Health and Wellbeing Board

The Health and Wellbeing Board (H&WB) is a new structure coming in to place as a result of the Health and Social Care Act. It will plan and commission services for both adults and children and will be responsible for co-ordinating the work of the local authority and NHS for the whole population.

In the Wokingham Borough a shadow H&WB board has been running for the past year. The LSCB has been seeking to ensure that there is a clear and well defined relationship between the two boards. Several members of the LSCB will also be members of the H&WB and will ensure that the safeguarding needs of vulnerable children and young people are represented effectively.

## Section 2 – Keeping Children Safe and Well in Wokingham

### Children in Need

The estimate for the total child and young people population of Wokingham aged 0 – 18 years at 31 March 2012 was **37315**.

The data below is based on the 'Child's Journey' from universal services to vulnerability, needing additional support, to being in need and in need of protection or care. Only Multi-Agency information is reported here.

### Early Intervention and CAF 2011-12

The data in this section is regularly reviewed on a quarterly basis by the Think Family Board. The WSCB is confident that where the Think Family Board has concerns about the implementation of local early intervention and prevention strategy that it will refer this to the WSCB for further scrutiny and discussion.

**190 children** were assessed through the Common Assessment Framework

Of these:

65 had had a previous assessment for additional support.

133 of these children were boys and 55 girls (for 2 gender was not recorded)

68 were under 6 years

60 were 6 – 11 years

41 were 12 – 14

21 were 15 – 17 (i.e. to the day before their 18 birthday)

163 children were of White ethnicity

7 were of Asian ethnicity

12 were of Black ethnicity

5 were of other backgrounds or un-recorded

**824 children** were subject of a Request for Service

Of these:

249 had previously been assessed

559 of these children were boys and 264 girls (for 1 gender was not recorded)

168 were under 6 years

300 were 6 – 11 years

237 were 12 – 14

119 were 15 – 17 (i.e. to the day before their 18 birthday)

600 children were of White ethnicity

34 were of Asian ethnicity

42 were of Black ethnicity

130 were of other backgrounds including 102 un-recorded

Referrals to social care for assessment as a child in need by referring agency

Source	Number of Referrals	% of Referrals
Adult Mental Health Unit	19	1.8%
CAFCASS	5	0.5%
Connexions	2	0.2%
Early Years (Children Centre/Nursery)	11	1.0%
Emergency Duty Team*	65	6.1%
Education Welfare	3	0.3%
Family/Carer	77	7.2%
Friends / Relatives/ Neighbour	12	1.1%
GP	8	0.7%
Health Visitor	17	1.6%
Hospital	75	7.0%
Housing	2	0.2%
Midwife	3	0.3%
Other Department of own LA or other LA	177	16.5%
Police	262	24.4%
Probation/Prison	10	0.9%
School	180	16.8%
Self Referral	13	1.2%
Any other	28	2.6%
Other Agency	71	6.6%
Other health	32	3.0%
None Recorded	1	0.1%
<b>Total Referrals 2011/12</b>	<b>1073</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* EDT referrals are secondary referrals as they would have received the original referral from another source, most likely police, hospitals or the public, out of usual work hours.

Number of these referrals which were No Further Action – 56; showing that the majority of referrals were assessed as to whether action was required.

Child protection assessments

Number of section 47 child protection assessments 234

Child protection conferences

Number of ICPCs by those which resulted in a CP Plan by category

Emotional	16
Neglect	43
Physical	10
Sexual	3
Multiple	5
	77

**Number of children made subject of Emergency Protection Orders (sec 44 Children Act 1989)**

No child was recorded as having been made subject of an EPO in the period.

**Interim Care Orders (sec 38 Children Act 1989)**

24 children were made subject of interim care orders

**Care Orders (sec 31 Children Act 1989)**

34 children were made subject of care orders

**Accommodated (sec 20 Children Act 1989)**

64 children were accommodated at some point during the year

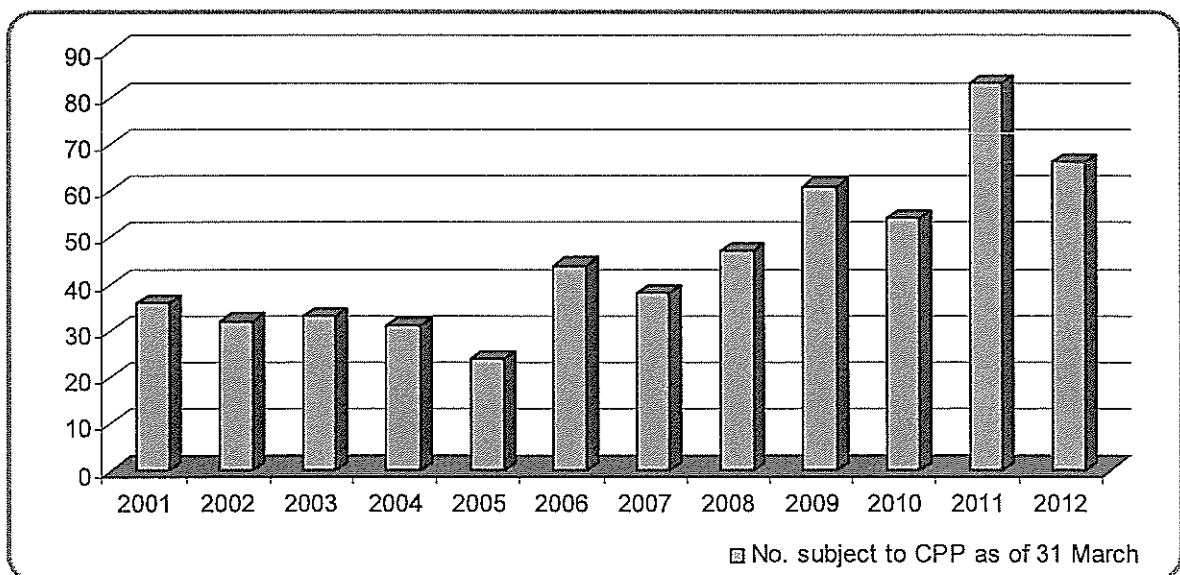
**Adoptions**

5 children were adopted

**Child Protection Data**

Number of Children and Young People subject to a Child Protection Plan by Year, at the end of the year, 31 March 2012

YEAR	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
No. subject to CPP as of 31 March	36	32	33	31	24	44	38	47	61	54	83	66





The total number of young people subject to child protection plans in Wokingham, as at 31 March 2012, was 66.

This is a rate of 18 children per 10,000 population aged under 18 which is significantly below the national average of 39 per 10,000 and below our comparator group of 26 per 10,000 (March 2011).

The WSCB will explore this rate further and satisfy itself that it is correct and that children who need protection are being protected and understand the different rate to those in comparable areas and nationally. This will be undertaken through planned work to review the multi-agency operation of the agreed Levels of Need Guidance.

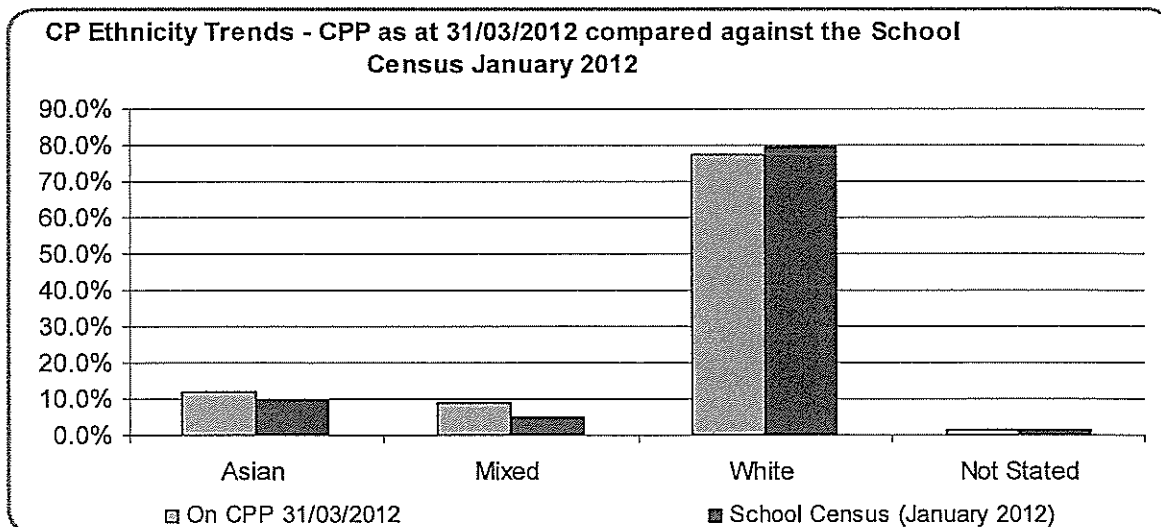
### Children subject to Protection Plans Profile as at 31 March 2012

The number of young people with a child protection plan at the end of March 2012 represents a 21% decrease (17 children) from the previous year; but an increase from the figure at March 2010.

Of the 66 children subject to Child Protection Plans, March 2012 there were 32 males (48%), 33 females (50%) and 1 unborn child (2%). Nationally, 50.2% of those subject to a CP Plan are male, 47.8% female and 2.0% unborn/unknown gender.

### Ethnic breakdown children subject to Child Protection Plans at March 2012

ETHNICITY	ON CPP 31/03/2012	%	SCHOOL CENSUS (JANUARY 2012)
Asian	8	12.1%	10.0%
Mixed	6	9.1%	5.1%
White	51	77.3%	79.4%
Not Stated	1	1.5%	1.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>		



22.3% of children subject to a child protection plan at 31 March 2012 were from an ethnic minority. This compares with 20.6% of young people in Wokingham's schools. Wokingham's figures are broadly in line with the school census.

### Age Breakdown, children subject to Child Protection Plans Mar 2012

	ON CPP 31/03/2012	%
<b>Under 1</b>	3	4.5%
<b>1 to 4</b>	14	21.2%
<b>5 to 9</b>	20	30.3%
<b>10 to 15</b>	26	39.4%
<b>16 to 17</b>	3	4.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	

### National & statistical neighbour comparisons by age & population rates

	Wokingham (2011/12)	National (2010/11)	Wokingham rate per 10,000 children (2011/12)	Comparator (S.N.) rate per 10,000 children (2010/11)	National rate per 10,000 children (2010/11)
<b>Under 1</b>	4.5%	11.0%	0.9	1.5	4.1
<b>1 to 4</b>	21.2%	32.0%	5.0	8.2	12.1
<b>5 to 9</b>	30.3%	28.5%	6.9	6.9	10.8
<b>10 to 15</b>	39.4%	26.0%	7.7	7.1	9.8
<b>16 to 17</b>	4.5%	2.4%	0.9	0.7	0.9
<b>Unknown/unborn</b>	0.0%	0.1%	-	0.5	0.8

Wokingham appears to have fewer children aged under 5 on a protection plan, and consequently shows more children aged above 10. However, when looking at the rate per 10,000 children, the rates for children aged 5 or over are in line with our statistical neighbours; the disparity is in the number of children aged under 5. As this is the most vulnerable group the Safeguarding Children Board is enquiring further into this rate to ensure that services are identifying the most vulnerable infants and toddlers appropriately.

### Child Protection Plan Trends by category at 31 March each year

CATEGORY	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>Neglect</b>	8	5	7	8	5	19	11	8	17	28	54	47
<b>Physical Abuse</b>	3	1	9	11	4	6	4	8	10	5	9	3
<b>Sexual Abuse</b>	2	0	1	4	4	2	1	3	0	1	4	1
<b>Emotional Abuse</b>	12	12	13	8	11	17	22	28	34	20	14	11
<b>Multiple</b>	11	14	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>66</b>

In 2012 Neglect was the most frequent reason for a Child Protection Plan, with this category showing a general upwards trend from 2008 to 2011, but dropping slightly in 2012 following the decrease in the number of children subject to a child protection plan.

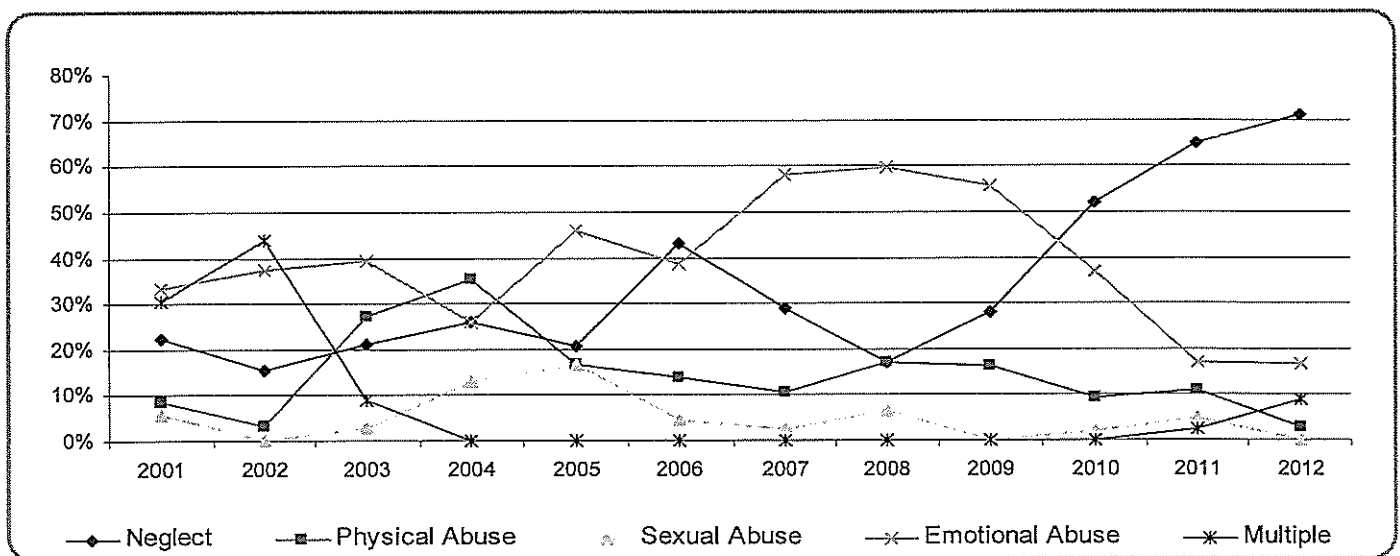
Emotional Abuse is showing a definite drop in numbers; it was the most frequent reason for a plan from 2007 to 2009, but this is now Neglect. Physical abuse also showed a decrease as being a reason for a plan; this dropped by 8 percentage points from the previous year.

In 2012 there were few CP Plans made for the category of Sexual Abuse, although it was mentioned as an aspect in several cases. It is probable that where sexual abuse has been known that children were subsequently safeguarded and therefore did not need a protection plan.

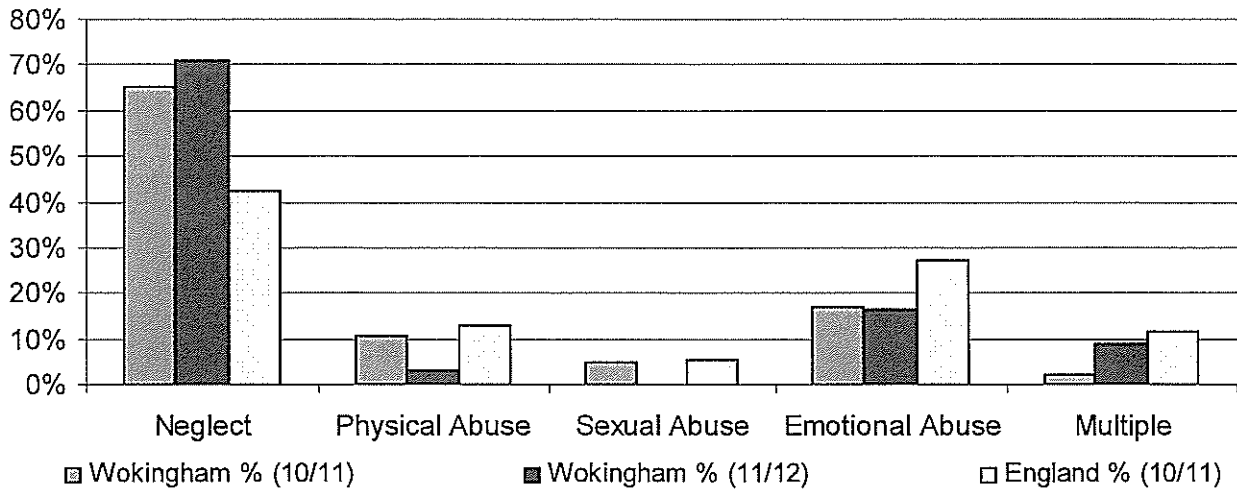
The Board will need to satisfy itself that agencies are working to identify and protect children from sexual abuse and undertake a comparison by category with our statistical neighbours. This will be explored more fully in future analyses and case audits.

### Category for CP Plan - Percentage Trends as at 31 March

CATEGORY	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Neglect	22%	16%	21%	26%	21%	43%	29%	17%	28%	52%	65%	71%
Physical Abuse	8%	3%	27%	35%	17%	14%	11%	17%	16%	9%	11%	3%
Sexual Abuse	6%	0%	3%	13%	17%	5%	3%	6%	0%	2%	5%	0%
Emotional Abuse	33%	38%	39%	26%	46%	39%	58%	60%	56%	37%	17%	17%
Multiple	31%	44%	9%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	9%
Total	36	32	33	31	24	44	38	47	61	54	83	66



CP Category Percentage Trends - Wokingham & National



The graphs compare Wokingham’s reasons for CP Plans (2010 & 2011) with National (2011) %s. Wokingham was significantly higher for Neglect.

For “Emotional Abuse”, the National figure is greater by almost 10 percentage points, with Wokingham being 16.7% compared to the national average of 27.3%.

The National figure for Physical Abuse is also greater than Wokingham’s figure by 10 percentage points; with Wokingham (3%) and National (13%).

Wokingham had only one child at the end of the year with sexual abuse considered to be the main reason for having a child protection plan. The Board will need to consider if sexual abuse is under reported or whether children who have been harmed sexually have been subsequently adequately protected and are therefore not in need of a plan.

### Children subject to a second or subsequent CP Plan

In 2011/12 2.6% children subject to a CP Plan were the subject of a second or subsequent CP Plan. This is a considerable decrease over the previous year when we reported 16.2% subject to a second CP Plan. Our previous year’s figure was above the national figure of 13.3%, but national figures for 2011/12 are not yet available for comparison.

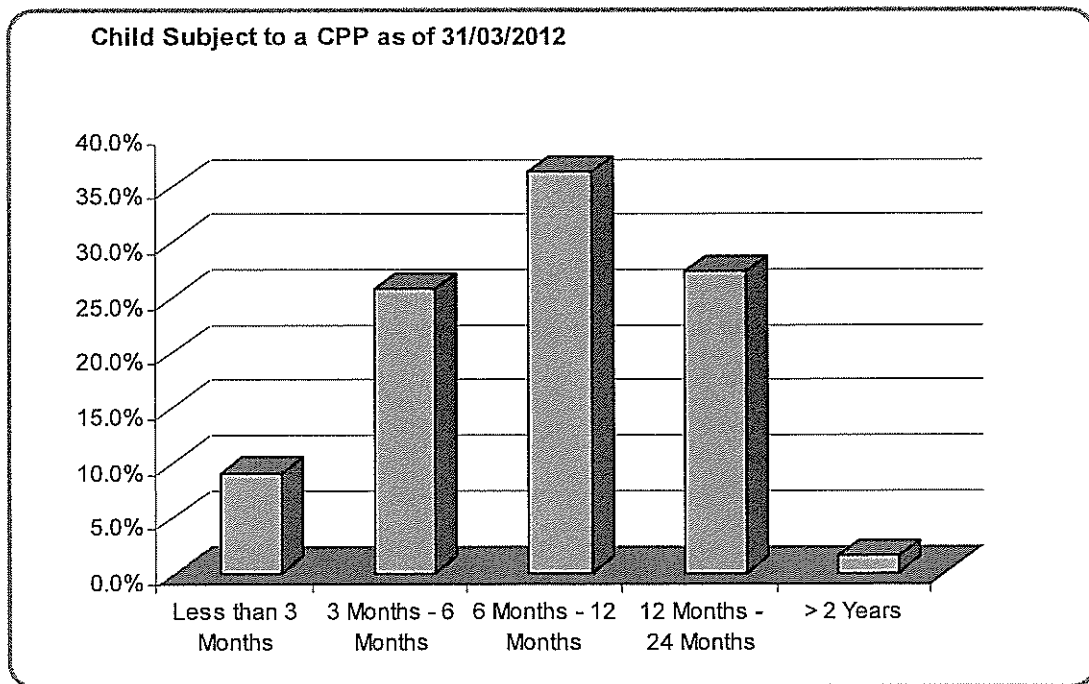
## Duration of CP Plans

There are two distinct ways of monitoring duration on CP plans:

1. By monitoring duration to date, on a fixed date i.e. 31<sup>st</sup> March
2. By monitoring how long children were subject to a plan on the date the plan ended.

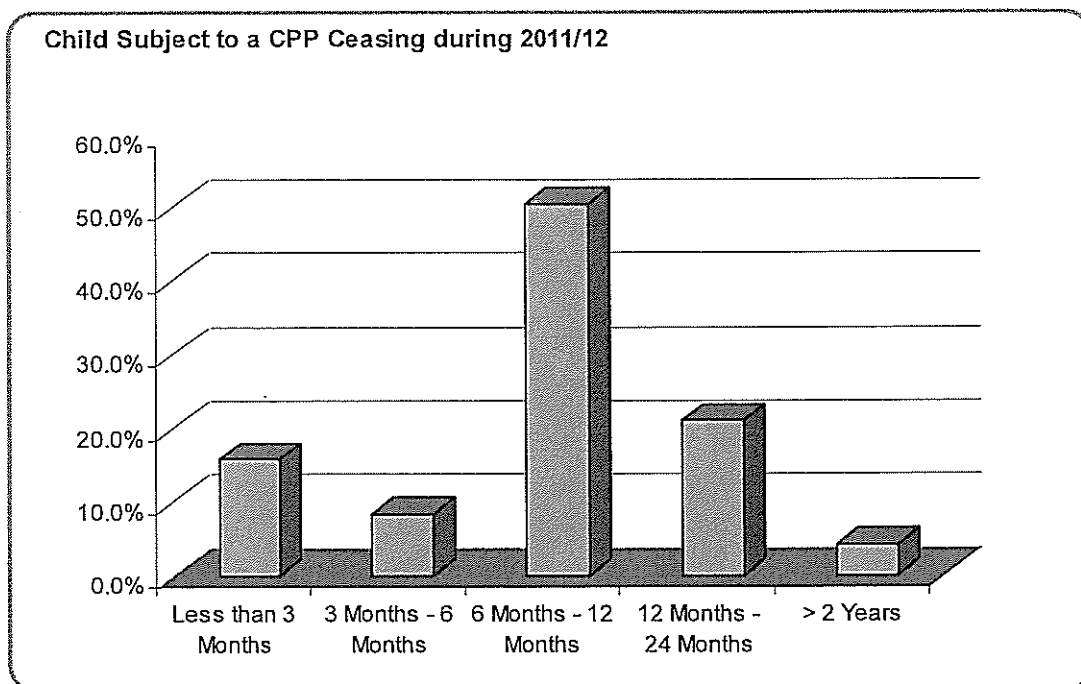
### 1. Children Subject to a CPP as of 31/03/2012

DURATION	NO. OF CHILDREN	%
Less than 3 Months	6	9.1%
3 Months - 6 Months	17	25.8%
6 Months - 12 Months	24	36.4%
12 Months - 24 Months	18	27.3%
> 2 Years	1	1.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	
<b>Average (Months)</b>	<b>9.1</b>	



### 2. Child subject to a CPP plan ceasing during 2011/12

DURATION	NO. OF CHILDREN	%
Less than 3 Months	15	16.1%
3 Months - 6 Months	8	8.6%
6 Months - 12 Months	48	49.5%
12 Months - 24 Months	20	21.5%
> 2 Years	4	4.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>95</b>	
<b>Average (Months)</b>	<b>9.8</b>	



These two methods show distinctly different results; highlighting that most children and young people remain on a plan for six to twelve months.

### Looked After Children (LAC)

A total of 109 young people were looked after by Wokingham Borough Council at some time during the year 01/03/2011 to 29/03/2012.

As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012, 72 were being looked after children, with 45 males (62.5%) and 27 females (37.5%).

### LAC Breakdown by Ethnicity

	LAC AS AT 31/03/2012	%
Asian	1	1.4
Mixed	6	8.3
White	64	88.9
Other	1	1.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	

## LAC Breakdown by Age

	LAC AS AT 31/03/2012	%
Under 1	2	2.8
1-4	12	16.7
5-9	13	18.1
10-15	25	34.7
16-17	20	27.8
Total	72	

The January 2012 school census suggests that 20.6% of our school aged population is from an ethnic minority. Although the numbers involved are relatively low, ethnic minorities appear to be slightly underrepresented within our LAC population

### **Separated Children (Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children)**

During the last year (01/03/2011 – 29/02/2012) 2 unaccompanied minors were admitted to the care of Wokingham, 1 from Afghanistan and 1 from Iran.

### **Child Protection Demographic Profile compared with Looked After Children's Demographic Profile**

Looking at the gender split across the 2 profiles, it shows that the number of children subject to a child protection plan has almost has a 50/50 (50% - males, 48% - females & 2% unborn/unknown) split between males and females, compared to the number of children looked after which has higher proportion of males compared to females (62.5% - males, 37.5% – females).

The ethnic mix between the child protection and looked after children profiles are similar in they both have the majority of children from a White ethnic background (77.3% - CPP and 88.9% - LAC), with the child protection figure being broadly in line with the school census figure of 79.4%. The Asian ethnic background percentage figure for child protection being higher than the looked after children, 12.1% compared to 1.4%; however, when compared to the school census figure, it is in line with the school census allowing for the large percentage swings due to low numbers of CPP. The Mixed ethnic background figure for child protection is almost similar to the looked after children figure (9.1% and 8.3%); however, when compared to the school census figure (5.1%), it is over representative.

The age distribution of children subject to a child protection plan is relatively similar to the age distribution of children looked after, in terms of having low numbers in the early ages (4 and under).

Almost 70% of children who are subject to a plan falling in the 5-9 & 10-15 age groups; whereas for the age profile of children looked after, almost 63% fall in the top

two age bands (10-15 & 16-17), with only about 53% of looked after children falling in the 5-9 & 10-15 age categories. This may imply that Wokingham is focusing on a slightly younger age group for children subject to a child protection plan compared to children looked after.

## Black & minority ethnic representation

According to the January 2012 school census, 20.6% of the young people attending schools in Wokingham are from an ethnic minority. The census is only of compulsory school age children and relates to those being educated (rather than living) in Wokingham. The data will be reviewed against the 2011 population census data when this is made available.

Wokingham has a lower proportion of ethnic minority pupils than the national figures and those of neighbouring local authorities. Although the numbers of both ethnic minority and English as Additional Language (EAL) pupils in Wokingham schools are low, there has been a significant increase over the last five years. There are **126** different languages spoken by children in Wokingham schools; with the most commonly spoken languages being Urdu, Punjabi and Arabic with this being consistent over the last 2 years.

The fact that the numbers of ethnic minority pupils and pupils with EAL are low presents different challenges to those pupils. The children can be quite isolated, often being the only pupil in their school who speaks that particular language or is from that specific ethnic background. The families can also be isolated with few community links. Teachers can also be in a position where their experience of teaching pupils with EAL is limited. (2,434 EAL pupils out of the total 21,395 pupils)

Most of ethnic minority pupils in Wokingham perform in line with national attainment or better. The two groups we are currently focusing on are Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) pupils, as they are the lowest attaining group in Wokingham, and Black African pupils. Black African and Black Caribbean pupils' performance, particularly for boys, has been a focus nationally. Last year, for these groups, Wokingham's results at KS2 were lower than average but as numbers of pupils are very low; the margin of error is large.



## Section 3 – Review of WSCB activity & achievements 2011-12

### Priorities over the past year

WSCB held a Business Planning session in March 2011, where members agreed on 4 priorities:

- Ensure children aged 1 – 4 are adequately safeguarded
- Neglect
- Domestic Abuse
- Parental Mental Health

Through the Business planning process these priorities were amalgamated into two agreed themes for 2011- 2012:

- Early Intervention
- Domestic Abuse

### Key areas of achievement

**Pressures on Safeguarding Activity.** The LSCB recognises the pressure on resources and capacity in the current climate and within our partner agencies. To ensure we are kept informed, a standing item has been added to the LSCB agenda, named Pressures on Safeguarding Activity, to allow members the opportunity to raise issues which may affect safeguarding within their agency or others.

**WSCB Business Plan.** WSCB have agreed the Business Plan 2012 – 2013. The Business Plan has focused priorities and the Business Planning process demonstrates real partnership engagement.

**Berkshire West joint LSCB meeting.** For some of the larger statutory partners, attendance at our meetings and the other nearby LSCBs can be challenging. As a result, in September 2011, a joint strategic LSCB meeting for West Berkshire, Reading and Wokingham was held. This meeting allowed organisations which span more than one geographical area to discuss safeguarding priorities for their organisation across boundaries. Feedback was positive and, for the larger agencies, having to attend one meeting was more practical; however it also highlighted the issues around a local agenda needing to be dealt with promptly.

**Partnership Review.** WSCB has not carried out a Serious Case Review since 2008. We initiated a Partnership Review of a case to identify lessons to be learned and any recommendations. The key lessons from the review were completed in March 2012 and reported to the WSCB in June 2012 and may be summarised as:

#### Reason for the review:

There were gaps in a pre-birth multi-disciplinary management of potential risk to a baby as a result of a mother's mental illness

#### Findings:

The multi-agency strategy meeting and multi-agency information sharing should have been more focussed.

The welfare of the baby should have been considered more fully as part of the mother's hospital discharge plan. A Core Assessment was initiated but the Health Visitor was not invited to the discharge meeting.

Children's Services was not kept informed of key developments.

Staffing problems in Children's Social Care led to the social work in the case not being effective as a result of several changes in workers. The Core Assessment was not good enough. There were differing professional views on risk and unrealistic optimism; however there was good practice by the peri-natal nurse.

**Key lessons were:**

The importance of antenatal screening for mental ill-health and its impact

The importance of linking Health Visitors in early

Poor understanding of the agreed procedure on multi-agency pre-birth assessments

There was insufficient knowledge, understanding and trust between Children's Social Care and Adult Mental Health workers for sound inter-professional work

Safeguarding the child was not sufficiently robust in the commissioning of the Mother and Baby Unit.

An action plan was agreed to embed these lessons.

**North Somerset SCR.** Lessons can be learned from SCRs undertaken by other LSCBs. An SCR published by North Somerset is an example. The case received significant media coverage following the arrest of a teacher suspected of abusing children in his care.

The WSCB reviewed the recommendations and provided all Head Teachers and Chairs of Governors of Schools in the Wokingham Borough with the full SCR report and highlighted the specific implications and recommendations for Schools. The WSCB Business Manager attended both the Primary Heads Briefing and the Chair of Governors Briefing to reiterate the main recommendations.

A Safeguarding Audit of schools was undertaken in July 2011.

**Engagement with Schools.** In 2011 – 12 WSCB established better engagement with schools in the Wokingham Borough with 2 new Secondary School representatives and regular WSCB safeguarding updates to schools.

**Monthly newsletter.** Wokingham Children's Trust and Safeguarding News newsletter was distributed to all WSCB members on during the year. Members disseminate the newsletter throughout their own agencies.

**WSCB Publications.** WSCB expanded its range of publications to include Private Fostering leaflets, posters and advertisements, What to do if you are worried about a child poster, "See the Adult, See the Child" poster aimed at practitioners working with adults, and the LADO poster (advising what to do if there are concerns about the behaviour of a professional or volunteer in a position of trust).

**Bruising Protocol for Professionals.** Following two SCRs in nearby areas, a bruising protocol for professionals was introduced to raise awareness and highlight the need for vigilance. In addition a leaflet called "What's going on" was produced to inform and reassure parents about what happens when bruising is found on an immobile child.

**Child Sexual Exploitation.** The government's initiative on Child Sexual Exploitation was developed following national high profile cases. Working collaboratively with Reading and West Berkshire, a task group was been established to review the risk locally.

**WSCB Safeguarding Event with Professor Eileen Munro** – in March 2012 WSCB held a multi-agency practitioners event led by Prof Munro, for approximately 100 practitioners. The event considered Early Help and Early Intervention (as outlined in the Munro Review) and how to ensure good quality multi-agency practice.

**Missing Children.** In 2010 a needs analysis for missing persons was conducted for the three West of Berkshire LSCB. This work is being carried forward into 2012. A joint protocol concerning children and young people who run away or go missing from home or care was also agreed between Children's Services Authorities and Thames Valley Police.

**Domestic Abuse.** The "Speak out today" Media Campaign was launched in May 2012 throughout the Thames Valley area. The campaign is to increase awareness and promote early intervention to break the cycle of domestic abuse. Most domestic abuse goes unreported. The public is encouraged to contact Crimestoppers, the police, or specialist support agencies. The Children's Trust and the Community Safety Partnership are jointly commissioning a Wokingham Borough Domestic Abuse Strategy. The WSCB is actively supporting this.

## **LSCB Sub Groups**

The sub-groups are key to ensuring our outcomes are met and demonstrate an effective LSCB. Well done to the sub-groups for their hard work. Some of the groups are co-ordinated jointly with other Berkshire LSCBs. All regularly report on progress.

## **Berkshire Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)**

CDOP's role is to analyse the causes of all child deaths (up to 18 years) and make recommendations to reduce deaths or harm.

### **Neonatal mortality**

Neonatal reviews (of children less than 28 days old) show the need for co-ordinated multi-agency action to reduce numbers of extremely premature and premature babies, who contribute to between 31%-47% of all child deaths in Berkshire. 73.9% were pre term babies, of these 34.7% were born at the edge of viability (23 weeks).

52.7% were among babies born to black African women compared to 21.7% among white/other groups.

West Berkshire's rates of neonatal and infant mortality remained below the Southeast and England rate in 2008-10.

### **Other Child Death actions**

Work has also been done in West Berkshire to inform schools of best practice in recognising children with diabetes.

Work with drug and alcohol action teams has sought to minimise harm from cannabis which resulted in two road traffic accidents and one fall in a teenager. CDOP wrote to the Royal Society for Accidents and to ABTA to encourage that travellers are advised that balconies may not be designed to recommended European Union Standards, posing a risk for very small babies who can slip beneath them.

Protocols have been established for the Out of Hours services, the new '111' service and for ambulance crews to improve management of meningitis cases in overseas students.

### **Future plans**

Multi agency action to reduce pre-term births; harm reduction among teenagers who smoke cannabis; training for staff in understanding the difference between SUDI and SID classifications; follow up training for nurses who attend rapid response courses; increasing reporting of wider recommendations; the generation of an alert system where deaths in a particular category exceed expected numbers; and much stronger monitoring of dates of notification from hospitals in the UK to ensure that early follow up by rapid response teams can be achieved, where required.

The Berkshire CDOP is one of the first to produce a newsletter of key messages for practitioners.

## **Berkshire Child Protection Policy & Procedures Sub-Group**

The groups' role is to develop policies, procedures and protocols; review research and central government guidance and ensure that Boards are advised about revisions that are needed to local procedures.

The 2011-13 work plan is largely completed and ongoing areas of development have now been commissioned through Tri-X ChildCare (an external and on-line procedure) Changes to the Berkshire Child Protection Procedures include:

- Whistle Blowing Procedure – updated July 2012
- Bruising of Immobile Infants Protocol approved and added to Berkshire CP online procedures – March 2012
- Work has continued to address areas identified through Serious Case Reviews both National and Local e.g. updating early years provider safeguarding responsibilities (Chapter 3); introducing a discharge policy from Acute care for children.

## **Wokingham Monitoring & Evaluation Sub-Committee**

The group's role is to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the work of LSCB and its partners to safeguard children. The group has a strong core membership The sub-committee focused on two main activities in 2011-12: the monitoring of a dataset of information from partner agencies, and agreeing and conducting audits of safeguarding activity.

The sub-committee received and scrutinised periodic data and reports of a number of activities undertaken by services for vulnerable children including: Child Protection Statistics, CAF data, CAMHS data, Allegations Management (allegations against people who work with children), and lessons and recommendations from Serious Case Reviews. During the year the group also received a report for the first time of the data and safeguarding arrangements for children who are electively home educated.

The following audit activities were completed and reported to the LSCB and actions agreed:

- Diversity Audit: the representation of black and minority ethnic and disabled children with child protection plans.
- Section 11 Audit for Schools, Early Years Settings and Childcare Providers focusing on their understanding, implementation and quality assurance of safeguarding practice
- Report on Childcare Providers Safeguarding Audit: the Wokingham Early Years & Childcare response to the Plymouth SCR

Additionally, the group agreed the scope and focus of a Domestic Abuse Audit, and a Pan Berks S11 audit and local equivalent for relevant agencies operating at a Borough Council level.

#### **Challenges for the sub group**

- There have been unavoidable changes in Children's Social Care QA Service management during the year; this has created challenges in fully progressing the planned work programme. The permanent appointment of a new QA manager is welcomed.
- The last annual report from this sub committee reported that there had been some difficulties with the development of a Pan-Berkshire LSCB dataset with some agencies having difficulty in supplying the data. In addition, agencies covering the West of Berkshire were stretched by the need to supply groups in each local authority with data for their datasets. These difficulties have been taken into account when finalising and agreeing the WSCB Monitoring & Evaluation Sub-committee Programme of Activity for 2012 – 2013.

#### **Activities included**

- Safeguarding Compliance: Pan Berkshire S11 Audit of Statutory Partners
- Safeguarding Compliance: Schools, Early Years & Childcare Providers re-audit – to be repeated using an online survey with targeted questions based on previous areas of concern and main recommendations from the Plymouth and North Somerset SCRs
- Diversity – a follow up snapshot of representation of specific groups of children with child protection plans to test the effectiveness of actions from 2011 audit
- An updated report on progress with the Childcare Providers Safeguarding Audit
- Case Review Programme: a multi-agency deep dive audit
- Domestic Abuse: an audit conducted by online survey to gauge the levels of knowledge and confidence of front line practitioners in identifying and reporting domestic abuse
- Child Protection conferences: an audit of attendance
- A report on the external review of the Early Intervention Strategy
- Adult Mental Health & Children's Social Care: an audit of activity following recommendations from the recent partnership review

## **Wokingham Serious Case Review (SCR) Overview Group**

During the period April 2011 to March 2012 the WSCB SCR Overview Group was convened to consider two separate cases. The decision was made on both occasions that the case did not meet the requirements for an SCR. However the decision was made to undertake a Partnership Review for one of the cases; reported above.

### **Berkshire West LSCB Training Sub-Group**

- The Sub-Group scrutinised the provision and quality of single agency safeguarding training. It also commissioned inter-agency courses.
- Work has been done to improve contribution to the group by partners.
- The Training programme was updated and now provides an effective range of courses in response to both local and national need.
- All training and learning actions from SCRs have been completed.
- The e-learning Kwango site has been updated following feedback; the WSCB sub-group lay member assisted this, ensuring the course now meets the needs of the wider work-force.
- Training officers provide reports on attendance and feedback from courses. However there has been no improvement in the attendance from the police on inter-agency training.
- PWC has been commissioned to review the provision of safeguarding training.
- Increased flexibility in booking courses for acute hospital staff has improved as a result of the recommendations from 2010-2011.

#### **Challenges for the sub group**

- The sub-group achieved actions in the 2011 work plan. This will be used as the foundation for the PWC commissioned work and will provide the sub-group with the framework and data it requires.
- The training needs of the local voluntary sector and some independent hospitals remain a challenge for the sub-group.
- The scope for the sub-group to reach and assure compliance around safeguarding children training for these groups is difficult to capture due to volume and frequent changes to service provision in fiscal times.
- The challenge is for the sub-group to build on the PWC commissioned work.

#### **Effectiveness:**

- The E learning package provided by Kwango was well used and offers value for money. It can be used as a refresher or as interim to face-to-face training. On average 50 people used this every month; this does not include health or police staff who also use it but have a separate log in.
- In addition to the safeguarding training, the LSCB has been promoting that all agencies and their staff are strongly recommended to attend Domestic Abuse training, whilst there have been some issues in coping with demand. It is disappointing to note the very low take up by the voluntary sector.
- Dental Practices were required to register with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in April 2011 and are required to meet the essential standards of quality and safety (CQC 2010). To provide assurance that dental practices are meeting the requirements for training as set down in the Berkshire West LSCB's Training

Strategy, dental and orthodontic practices across Berkshire were requested to complete a self-audit exercise in relation to child protection training completed by their staff. Dental practices will continue to be encouraged to access child protection training and the audit will be completed annually by the PCT (PCTs will cease to exist from April 2013 – alternative arrangements will be required).

Course	Target Audience	No of Courses	No of Delegates			Total No of Delegates
			WISE DATA	Externals Data (1 Apr 11-30 Nov 11)	Externals MLP Data (1 Dec 11-31 Mar 12)	
Intro Domestic Violence Awareness		1	6			6
CAF Training		1	5			5
CAF & Lead Professional		6	42	11	8	61
Disguised Compliance		4	47			47
Domestic abuse - effects on children & young people		1	5		8	13
Drug Awareness Training		1	3			3
Lead Professional Training		1	4			4
Neglect		2	34			34
Report Writing		2	12			12
Safeguarding Children - (inc Schools & Early Years)	Multi-Agency	3	18	5		23
Safeguarding Children - Child Neglect	Multi-Agency	1	3			3
Safeguarding Children - Universal	Single Agency	23	99	235	12	346
Safer Care for Children of Parents with Mental Health Issues	Multi-Agency	1	9			9
Safer care for children whose parents have a learning disability	Multi-Agency	1	5			5
Supervising to safeguard children		1	10			10
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>49</b>				<b>581</b>

### Wokingham Virtual Communications and raising awareness sub-group

To maximise the value of the time members can contribute, the group is 'virtual' in operation with the bulk of the activity commissioned by the group's Chair and quality assured by group members in correspondence.

#### Summary of activity and achievements over the year

- **Online survey** – an online survey was sent out to a wide range of practitioners and agencies to gather information on what safeguarding materials the agencies currently displayed and were aware of and where the gaps lie.
- **Private Fostering** – WSCB has the responsibility for publicising and raising awareness of Private Fostering in the Borough. Leaflets and posters are distributed to all appropriate agencies. Ongoing advertisements for Private

Fostering are also placed in relevant magazines as well as the Wokingham Borough News that goes to all households in the Wokingham Borough.

- **LADO poster** – WSCB designed a poster to raise the awareness and understanding of the role of the Local Authority Designated Officer and the relevant contact details.
- **Primary Heads Briefing & Chairs of Governors Briefing** – WSCB Business Manager attended as required to update on Safeguarding children. This ensures that safeguarding is a regular agenda item and remains a high priority for all schools.
- **WSCB website** – work has begun for the LSCB to have a new external website.
- **Monthly newsletter** – a Children’s Trust & Safeguarding News newsletter is circulated widely. It includes both national and local information. All WSCB members and Children’s Trust Partners are expected to distribute in their agencies.
- **Safeguarding Event with Eileen Munro** – on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2012 WSCB held a multi-agency practitioners event with Eileen Munro for approximately 100 practitioners.
- **WSCB posters & leaflets** – WSCB now produce a range of leaflets and posters including: Private Fostering, What to do if you are worried about a child, “See the Adult, See the Child” and LADO poster. These have been and will continue to be distributed and displayed throughout the Wokingham Borough.
- **Serious Case Reviews** – WSCB Communications sub group disseminate the main learning from recent local and national SCRs either via the monthly newsletter or direct to WSCB members.

## Task Groups

The LSCB is also supported by short term task groups whose role is to provide the LSCB with recommendations on new initiatives or take forward actions for specific areas. They provide regular reports to the LSCB on their progress.

The following task groups have met on a short term basis to develop action plans with integrated priorities for each relevant agency specific to the topic:

- **Alcohol**
- **Disabled Children**
- **Sexual Exploitation**

The Disabled Children Task Group currently has no Chair - efforts are being made to address this. A Strategy and Action Plan will be developed for Berkshire West LSCBs as soon as a Chair is in place.

Wokingham LSCB are also about to launch a Task Group for Children and Young People with higher levels of ‘Emotional Needs’.



## Section Four

### Agency reports on safeguarding achievements & challenges for 2011- 12

#### **Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust (BHFT): Children & Families Wokingham**

The merger of Berkshire Healthcare Trust with Community Health Services in both East and West Berkshire in April 2011 gave us the opportunity to develop relationships and utilise expertise across the disciplines which impacts on the safeguarding agenda for Children & Families in Wokingham.

The section 11 Children Act 2004 self-assessment for BHFT measures the Trust's compliance with the statutory duties; it is monitored and updated regularly by the Trust's named professionals/safeguarding team. All section 11 responsibilities have been assessed as 'effective'. Actions to be taken by BHFT are documented and monitored by the named professional team and the Safeguarding Children's Group.

BHFT has established a safeguarding team under the Nursing and Governance directorate providing a direct line to the board. This enables a structured approach for the dissemination of learning from Case Reviews and a forum for discussion and dissemination of best practice. BHFT has also taken the opportunity to review and merge operational policies to share best practice. There is an internal BHFT Safeguarding Children Team newsletter which all staff receive to keep safeguarding on everyone's agenda.

In Wokingham, BHFT work in partnership with Children's Social Care in a variety of ways. This includes regular network meetings between BHFT Children's Health, BHFT Mental Health, Midwifery and Children's Social Care. The Named Nurses for Child Protection and operational leads for these services attend to review and monitor joint case work.

A joint visiting protocol has been agreed between BHFT Children & Families and Children's Social Care to improve the quality of assessments and to reduce the number of times clients have to tell their story. This has been facilitated by the use of generic email addresses which are well used and speed up the sharing of appropriate information.

There has been an increase of 1.8 whole time equivalent health visitors through the Health Visitor Implementation Plan, a government initiative for more Health Visitors to work with vulnerable families. The Family Nurse Partnership has been commissioned to target teenage parents and offers an intensive visiting package from early pregnancy until the child is two years of age. Both of these evidence-based initiatives should deliver improved outcomes.

BHFT have delivered specialist training to midwives and health visitors on the parental mental health and its impacts on perinatal care. There has also been an increased mandatory training provision for safeguarding children for all BHFT employees.

There is an internal audit programme including record keeping, supervision and case conference reports.

BHFT also has appropriate representation on LSCB Executive and subgroups.

#### **Challenges:**

- How to make the best use of available resources. A requirement to provide a rapid response service out of hours is one such challenge. BHFT is at present undertaking a piece of work to address this issue.
- The School Nursing Service is undergoing a service review to establish how best to use the skills of the Specialist practitioner with a high demand for Child Protection in caseloads and the public health agenda.
- The Looked After Children's Service has had an increase of 1 whole time equivalent School Nurse to meet the increasing demand for timely assessments and good quality care plans as well as delivery on going health and advice for the most vulnerable of children. This service continues to face the challenge of increasing demand.
- BHFT is well placed to face these challenges with a range of services within the organisation, expertise and experience of staff all of whom have robust training, supervision and support to work with our partner organisations to deliver improved outcomes for children and families in Wokingham.

### **Thames Valley Police Service**

2011-12 was a period of significant re-organisation for Thames Valley Police, with the new Local Policing Model delivering a more streamlined management structure. The broad area of Protecting Vulnerable People (PVP), including children's safeguarding, has been sheltered from the full impact of the significant overall savings required due to reductions in funding from central government. This recognises the key importance placed on safeguarding by Thames Valley Police.

A single Berkshire referral centre has been created, standardising and streamlining a number of key processes to ensure we identify the most vulnerable, manage risk more effectively, work consistently and share information appropriately with our partners. Child protection and domestic abuse referrals are an important part of this process. It is a key challenge for Thames Valley Police to ensure the effective delivery of the Berkshire referral centre with the particular challenges of the county's unitary authority structures.

There has been investment of additional resources in Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). Across the force five CSE intelligence officers have been created, with two based within Berkshire. The force will develop the wider CSE strategy with our partners in 2012-13.

A multi-agency dip sampling of child protection investigations has been developed with Wokingham Children's Services; this is providing an important quality assurance mechanism and assists appropriate peer to peer challenge.

Relationships with partner agencies have been strong through the year, with good information sharing and support between the police and colleagues in child protection investigations. This provides a strong base to continue to develop and improve the police's contribution in this crucial area.

## **Thames Valley Probation Service**

Thames Valley Probation has reviewed its Safeguarding policy.

*"In all cases where there is a Thames Valley Probation involvement with offenders and victims the child's welfare will be the paramount consideration. This principle will override any responsibility or duty the Thames Valley Probation staff member may have towards the victim, offender, another family member or any other person consequent upon an Order of the Court or on release on licence from custody".*

The Probation Service works directly with offenders on their criminal behaviour, risks and needs in partnership with other agencies. Of paramount importance is supervising and monitoring offenders within their social context, as individuals who may present risks to others but can also be carers, fathers, mothers, partners, neighbours, and siblings and, at times, victims.

Understanding this social context, assessing the potential risk of harm to children, sharing information and acting to manage and minimise these risks, is key to the overall offender management practice in the community and in prison in partnership with all other agencies. In order to do this, Thames Valley Probation ensures that all staff follow statutory guidance, awareness and good practice are promoted and the workforce is safe and effective. For example, over the last 12 months 89.5% of staff within Thames Valley Probation, regardless of role or grade, have received safeguarding training. There are 7 further events scheduled before the end of the year.

There is awareness in the organisation that the number of staff who are offered access to the more specialist level 2 training should be expanded to other grades of staff rather than just to qualified probation officer. Thames Valley Probation is developing a Level 2 Probation/Inter agency in-house training which has been built on the LSCB level 2 training requirements.

Alongside training, the effectiveness of multi-agency working and information sharing is a theme that is central to good practice. Locally a significant amount of work has gone into reviewing how information is shared for Child Protection Case Conferences, including significant and relevant information on offenders who have been, but are no longer, subject to Probation Service supervision. Attendance by the

Offender Manager at case conferences is expected for all current cases and also where there are current concerns or information to suggest a child may be at risk. This continues to be actively monitored.

In Wokingham the Probation Service co-chairs two significant multi agency processes to assist in the challenge of putting all the pieces of the jigsaw together and creating a cohesive risk management plan which has children's safety at its heart: Multi Agency Risk Assessment Committees (MARAC) and Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). Although these meetings are well established and attended, their mere existence doesn't protect children – it is what people do as a result within their agencies that has an impact. There is a question of whether there is a sufficiently shared understanding across all agencies of the processes, procedures and commitment to the principles that under-pin these meetings.

HMI Probation and other inspectorates like OFSTED are planning on doing joint reviews in the future - TV Probation approach is to promote multi-agency files review/audits before the formal reviews take place as part of LSCB quality assurance plans. TV Probation are to do an internal thematic review early next year and safeguarding children is likely to be included.

**Challenges** for the next year:

- Increase the number of eligible Probation staff who have received specialist (level 2) safeguarding training.
- Review of the MARAC procedures in Wokingham to ensure that it is effective achieve its aims to reduce re-victimisation in cases of domestic abuse.
- Roll-out of further multi-agency MAPPA training events so that as many operational staff are briefed and aware of the role of MAPPA in safeguarding.
- Development in relation to disclosure - children services taking more of a lead and using MAPPA to discuss best way forward. Disclosure workshops being delivered by MAPPA coordinator.
- Safeguarding issues are at the core of decisions made at MARAC and MAPPA meetings by monitoring the membership and attendance at these meetings.

## **Wokingham Council**

### **Social Care, Safeguarding and Children in Care Services**

A full external evaluation of the key children's social care services and its ability to support and protect children, including those who are looked after was submitted to the WSCB for detailed discussion in June 2012. The paragraphs which follow are key points from that analysis.

The Head of Service commissioned a team of independent consultants to audit the work of the Referral and Assessment Team in October 2011. The same consultants audited the neighbourhood teams, the Here 4U team and DCT in February 2012.

Both audits showed that staff and teams all sought to ensure that their work was centred on the well-being of the child, and in her/his best interests. However these intentions were not routinely evident in records.

No cases of children requiring a protection plan or in care were unallocated and the work being done was appropriate to her/his care plan. In the R&A Team and the neighbourhood teams it was not always possible to detect the amount and quality of direct work that was done with the child and family. The range of suitable local placement options for children in care who cannot be placed with friends and family or who have complex needs was not sufficient so that some children were placed at a distance from their home resulting in some complex contact and visiting arrangements. The documents reviewed suggest that a good range of resources is either already available, or being developed. This would facilitate good interagency collaboration when necessary to address identified needs. All children in care will have their future accommodation needs planned for and already those leaving care and in older age groups have already had their needs assessed. There was good collaboration with local housing services to meet these needs. Similarly the health needs of children in care were satisfactorily provided for although recent changes within the provider trust have resulted in the designated LAC nurse covering three LAs, potentially diluting attention on the needs of Wokingham children and young people. The commissioning of a suitable CAMHS services is still in development.

The extent to which the views of children, young people and their families contributed to the development of CYPP and other plans and strategies was variable across teams. However their views about services informed the development of local practice, and there was an active children in care council, contributing to the Corporate Parenting Panel. Similarly families were closely involved in the development of DCT practice and resources.

Child protection and children in need thresholds continue to need further work to clarify and embed understanding across partners. For example it is not appropriate that poor housing conditions or becoming a teenage parent alone should be the formal trigger for a child protection plan, as was seen in the examination of case files during the audits.

The Child Protection Audit was conducted in December 2011. It considered the thresholds for referral and decisions taken on cases, the role of chairs and interagency partners in child protection conferences, and the increased proportion of children from Black and Minority Ethnic Groups with Child Protection Plans.

The other audits support the view that some children are placed on child protection plans unnecessarily, while others may be too quickly routed into the PLO process. The person who conducted the audit concluded that of 98 children with child protection plans, 56 did not reach the required threshold and did not need a plan. Some form of intervention was needed but at a level of a child in need rather than requiring protection. These findings have been considered by service managers and issues of thresholds and whether there is a tendency for S47 enquiries to lead automatically to a child protection conference are being reviewed.

Work has begun to review the role of child protection chairs and the LSCB has been charged with reviewing and guidance on levels of need. This is also a matter which the LSCB as well as children's social care needs to act upon. Risk aversion was noted by the audits in October 2011 and February 2012 and raised concerns about the quality of decision making in reviews of children in care and child protection conferences.

Case files are audited by Team Managers and Assistant Team Managers; the results of each audit are provided to the Service Manager. The support and challenge provided by Service Managers was seen as positive and suitably challenging by staff, particularly in relation to individual children's cases and decisions about packages of support.

There has been a lot of churn in the middle management cohort over the last few years because of the department's drive to ensure that the competence and capability of management at these tiers is of the standard required to drive continuously improving, good quality services.

The role and effectiveness of the IRO service was highlighted by the audit of Child Protection and the February audit. IRO/Conference chair performance needs to be reviewed. They do not appear to offer sufficient critique or challenge on the basis of the records of reviews and conferences that were studied in the audits and on the basis of feedback from staff. As a consequence performance on two key indicators for the stability of placements of children in care and the length of time some children stay on child protection plans is poor and below local target and the results of statistical neighbour authorities. This, coupled with concerns arising from audits about child protection thresholds and over use of PLO, means that the tendency for risk aversion hampers the quality of work, and potentially diverts resources away from early intervention.

***Proposals for a strategy for children in care*** have been completed and effectively provide a blue print for the development of a corporate approach to serving children and young people in care, care leavers and the resources and support they currently need and what will be required for the future. It has been translated into a draft Children in Care strategy, and an action plan for implementation is to be developed.

***Proposals the development of provision for children in care and care leavers' housing*** are in the early stages of implementation but contain a comprehensive set of activities designed to secure an effective range of resources to ensure that all those in the cohort have access to appropriate accommodation.

***The Children's Social Care Recruitment and Retention Strategy and Overview of Current Pressures and Priorities*** recognises the previous significant turnover of staff with serious levels of vacancies in the frontline resulted in an influx of locum staff and caused instability and uncertainty within the service. The *Strategy* is comprehensive and *prima facie* suitable for the organisations needs and the changing national aspirations for children's social care.

The establishment of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Panel is a welcome development. A report from the scrutiny board in August 2011 details some 42 recommendations and actions relating to children in care and care leavers. It would be helpful to see some reference in the framework which demonstrates how

the role of The Overview and Scrutiny Panel in driving up quality and performance and the way it has supported performance improvement.

Supervision, appraisal and personal development form a key component of this framework but, as noted above, Team Managers and in turn Service Managers need to pay more attention to ensuring compliance with procedural requirements and ensuring corporate and individual development plans are in place.

The voice of children, young people and their families was not routinely, or even usually, evident in any of the documents seen. In the spirit of good practice the impact of intervention on those receiving the services is an important way to understand how well children and young people are being served and whether the outcomes they have experienced have improved their circumstances.

Wokingham's Safeguarding and Children's Social Care services continues to improve, as evidenced in improved outcomes from Ofsted inspections since the JAR report was published in 2010. New management arrangements and the Head of Service's determination deliver improved outcomes through a capable and stable workforce, better strategy and guidance and rigorous performance management are beginning to deliver results.

There is no doubt that the service's primary focus is on the wellbeing of individual children and families and that the plans and strategies that are in place, or being developed, are likely to improve the range and quality of services including collaboration and partnership with other key partner agencies, enhance the capability and capacity of the workforce, and put in place secure performance management systems and quality assurance.

## **Early Intervention & Community Support**

- The Head of Early Intervention & Community Support is a member of WSCB and also sit on the WSCB Executive.
- The EI&CS Service is represented in the WSCB's Monitoring & Evaluation subcommittee and the Communications subgroup
- At the December 2011 WSCB meeting the YOS inspection Report & the YOS Improvement plan were presented
- March 2012 WSCB meeting – CYPP DVD was shown
- March 2012 WSCB meeting – Presentation on Parenting Courses in the Wokingham Borough
- The Service introduced a process to ensure that any safeguarding needs of children are considered in all case discussions at the CAF Panel.

## Learning & Achievement Services & Schools

- The Head of Learning & Achievement joined as a WSCB Board member.
- Learning & Achieving Service is represented in the following WSCB subgroups:
  - Monitoring & Evaluation subcommittee
  - Communications subgroup
- Learning & Achievement representative provided support to the M&E subcommittee in designing the Schools, Setting & Childcare providers online safeguarding survey in June 2011. The results of which fed into the production of an Action Plan that has also been monitored at the L&A SMT meetings.
- **North Somerset SCR.** The L&A Service was proactive in supporting the WSCB in disseminating the findings and recommendations from the North Somerset SCR to all schools in the Wokingham Borough.
- The Service has produced a model **Safeguarding Policy for use by Wokingham Borough Schools**; it includes recommendations from North Somerset SCR.
- **Secondary Designated Leads Network** is briefed regularly about the role and decisions of the WSCB. The L&A Service are also currently working with Primary Schools to also create a Primary Designated Leads Network. These networks support the School reps who are Members of the WSCB to disseminate information and messages out to all schools.
- The Service has designed a Job Description for the **Designated lead** roles with schools and Early Years settings.
- Two Secondary School representatives joined the WSCB in March 2012.
- The Service has provided support in the design of the WSCB website in relation to the information to be available to schools, settings and childcare providers.

## Early Years' Service

As reported above the Early Years' Service undertook significant work following the local review of the findings of the Plymouth Serious Case Review into a nursery education setting. Activity to promote and ensure the safety of young children was:

**Categorisation:** An annual review of Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) providers to establish the level of support required from the Local Authority. Also a methodology of checking various aspects of the setting including safeguarding

**Safeguarding audits:** In response to the Plymouth SCR a separate safeguarding audit was used in conjunction with the categorisation proforma. The findings from this were reported to the Child Protection Lead Person's Meeting in March 2011 (?). Outcomes from \* were also distributed at CPLP network meeting and the

**Common Assessment Framework:** A CAF was made a requirement of the 'Complex Needs Inclusion Subsidy'. All Staff members of the Early Years team have been trained as trainers and deliver CAF training and can offer support for the CAF process. A CAF training day was held in November 2011, 100 delegates from PVI's and childminders were trained in the CAF process. CAF and early intervention is included for potential childminders. CAF also discussed at CPLP Network meeting to keep awareness. A Senior Early Years Childcare Advisor is a CAF panel member



**Safeguarding training:** It was identified that there was insufficient relevant EY safeguarding training available in Wokingham. Four Early Years Staff attended six days training to be accredited by NSPCC.

**Safeguarding Conference:** The Annual safeguarding conference was available to all PVI's and childminders - 100 delegates. In 2011 conference the theme was protecting the adults in settings e.g. safe use of social networking sites

**Childminders:** The EY Service reviewed all childminders to ascertain the level of those with no contact with the EY service in the past three years. 100 childminders were identified.

**Early Years Information Hub:** The Information hub was developed during 2011 with a separate section on safeguarding:  
<http://www.school-portal.co.uk/GroupHomepage.asp?GroupID=1148111>

**Designated Person Training:** Training on the role Child Protection Lead Person was offered to all new CPLP's and as a refresher if a practitioner identified their own need.

**Designated Person Network:** One 2 ½ hour session was offered each term. Topics covered included: job descriptions, Training Needs Analysis (TNA) formed; increasing knowledge about child protection conferences and protocols- practical and emotional support for role offered; the role of the LADO (Local Authority designated officer); Whistle blowing and social networking best practice & policies.

**Safer Recruitment Training:** 5 hours training was offered to all settings to ensure one trained member was available to sit on every recruitment panel.

**Disguised Compliance Training:** All members of the EY, Children's Centre Centres (CC) & Play Team and some Early Years Professional status (EYPs) attended half day session.

**Supervision Training:** All members of the EY, CC & Play team and two employers attended 2 full day training sessions. Pilot to be considered in these two settings with the team providing support and guidance.

## **Adult Social Care**

### **Achievements in 2011 – 12 included:**

Implementation of the new Adult Social Care Pathway and establishing of OPTILIS as a traded company providing brokerage and long term support. This includes provision for parents with a social care need.

The Complex Risk Panel and transition protocol is in place. This is a panel for Adult and Children's Social Care to address the needs of people at risk and to manage complex transitions to Adult Services. The Adult Safeguarding Service has appointed an At Risk Coordinator who proactively engages with people at risk.

The Mental Health Service has established a Perinatal Lead who works with women with a mental health need who are pregnant or have a child under 1 year. This role interfaces with children's Social care Services and Children's Community Health services. The Lead has provided mental health training to Health Visitors.

The mental Health Service has worked with Children's Services to establish a Joint Working Protocol. It has been agreed that Children's Services and Mental Health Services will undertake joint supervision on complex cases where the parent has a mental health need. The Mental Health Service keeps a register of Parents known to the Service where the child has a child protection plan.

### **Training**

1. Training on MAPPA and MARAC is provided on an ongoing basis
2. Training on Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Harassment and Honour based crime risk assessment.
3. Training for Health Visitors on Mental Health
4. Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training. There are 2 qualified trainers in adult services to provide ongoing training for Adult Services, Children's Services and the Voluntary Sector/Partner agencies. This is to meet a target in the action plan of a Serious case Review

### **Housing Need Services**

The damaging effect of homelessness or extreme housing need on children within families is well documented nationally. The Housing Needs Service is easily accessible to members of the public and other stakeholders; providing a service where customers can receive advice and assistance as soon as they need to help us ensure that our intervention can be provided at an early stage. For example, if a family are facing the real possibility of homelessness and the consequential disruption and difficulties, our being able to help at an early stage makes the probability of homelessness being prevented much higher. For example, during 2011/12, we were able to prevent homelessness in 109 instances (compared with accepting as homeless just 10 households).

Being pro-active, but also creative in our prevention measures means that we can offer tailor-made suggestions to help customers in housing need. For example, if a family are experiencing domestic abuse (but not to the extent that they need to wholly move to another part of the country) we have been able to use our Priority Transfer scheme to help people make a fresh start for them and their children.

### **2012/13**

In 2012/13 we are reviewing our training requirements around safeguarding and also want to ensure that the Safeguarding Children Board is more frequently discussed at Senior Manager level in the Health & Wellbeing division. The WSCB representative will provide regular written updates/briefings (when appropriate) at our regular management meetings.

## **Section Five – The Future**

### **Business planning priorities for 2012 - 13**

#### **New publications and guidance**

There have been several national reviews affecting safeguarding; our business planning sessions have used these to inform our business plan and to open up discussion with members.

The main reviews which have impacted on the LSCB were:

- The Munro Review of Child Protection
- The Graham Allen Review of Early Intervention
- Review of the Early Years Foundation Stage
- Troubled Families project

#### **Munro progress report**

Eileen Munro was commissioned to review the provision of Child Protection Services. She has produced three separate reports, with the final report published in June 2011. The Government accepted the majority of her 15 recommendations which include proposals for less regulation, bureaucracy and prescription, and instead greater professionalism, self confidence and move to a learning (evidence informed) culture in Children's Services.

On 27<sup>th</sup> March 2012 on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2012 WSCB held a multi-agency practitioners event with Eileen Munro for approximately 100 practitioners. Practitioners were invited to come along to consider recommendations in relation to Early Help and Early Intervention as outlined in the Munro Review and to reflect on multi-agency practice.

#### **Wokingham Families First Programme**

Family First is a local programme with cross-departmental support from central government, to help families facing multiple disadvantages to improve their lives.

The Government has identified approximately 120,000 families in England which it considers could be supported and challenged to change their lives for the better with the help of locally led programmes. This is one such programme, aiming to help families where:

- No adult in the family is working
- Children aren't in school when they should be
- Young people are committing crime
- Family members are involved in anti-social behaviour

There are more than 100 families in Wokingham who are experiencing one or more of these issues who may also have other problems, such as alcohol or other substance misuse, domestic violence, relationship breakdown, child protection concerns, mental and physical health problems, housing issues, debt, poverty or

isolation for these or other reasons. Combinations of these factors can make it very hard for families to start resolving their problems.

Wokingham's aim for the family First Programme is for it to be a programme to change lives for the better and to put each individual family first.

The LSCB will be kept updated on the progress of this Programme.

The government has announced its intention to replace **Working Together to Safeguard Children** 2010 with a new version. Two other related guidance documents are also to be replaced. Consultation versions have been issued. These drastically reduce existing guidance and eliminate some items which the Board consider important. Final versions have yet to be issued. The Board resolved that, except where existing guidance was explicitly countermanded, that existing guidance should stand alone unless the Board set a different policy.

## **Challenges for the LSCB 2012 – 13**

The LSCB;

- must to escalate concerns and has clear communication over the needs of children and young people
- will continue to voice concerns over the lack of a designated doctor
- will maintain links and lines of accountability with health services over commissioning, within the framework of Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG)
- will ensure that Health & Wellbeing Boards (H&WB) have safeguarding of children and young people as a strategic priority
- will work with the voluntary sector to establish strong links and support for safeguarding
- will consider how the cessation of the National Healthy Schools programme will impact on children and young people and how to overcome this, where necessary
- will make sure that lessons learned from local partnership and serious case reviews are embedded in local practice and services
- will monitor any reductions in Education and Children's Services due to changes in public funding and the effect this has on children and young people
- will monitor links between the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) and Children's Services & will ask for improved and timely transfer of case information
- will continue to challenge the Child Death Rapid Response service to ensure a service is in place out of hours
- and will be persistent in seeking Chairs for sub-groups.

## **Challenges for sub-groups**

All of the sub-groups were concerned about maintaining consistent membership as lack of attendance by some agencies impacts on their work. LSCB member agencies need to ensure appropriate and consistent representation is made in order for the sub-groups to achieve their objectives. In addition, the seniority and experience of sub-group members should be considered when they are nominated.

Workload for the sub-groups is generally high and this will remain a challenge.

## **Challenges for key partners**

Ensuring that the safeguarding of children and young people remains a high priority in the work of each agency and service.

The Children's Trust has set out its plan and priorities for the coming year which reflect those of the LSCB.

The changing face of the health sector, with the introduction of Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) and Health & Wellbeing Boards (H&WB), will provide challenges as we develop protocols to set out clearly how we will communicate and work with each other. The H&WB takes on full responsibilities from April 2013 and are vehicles for partnership working and assessing local needs through Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). The LSCB must ensure that the safeguarding of children and young people remains a strategic priority for this Board and that their strategies reflect this. The LSCB Chair will be invited to a future meeting of the H&WB.

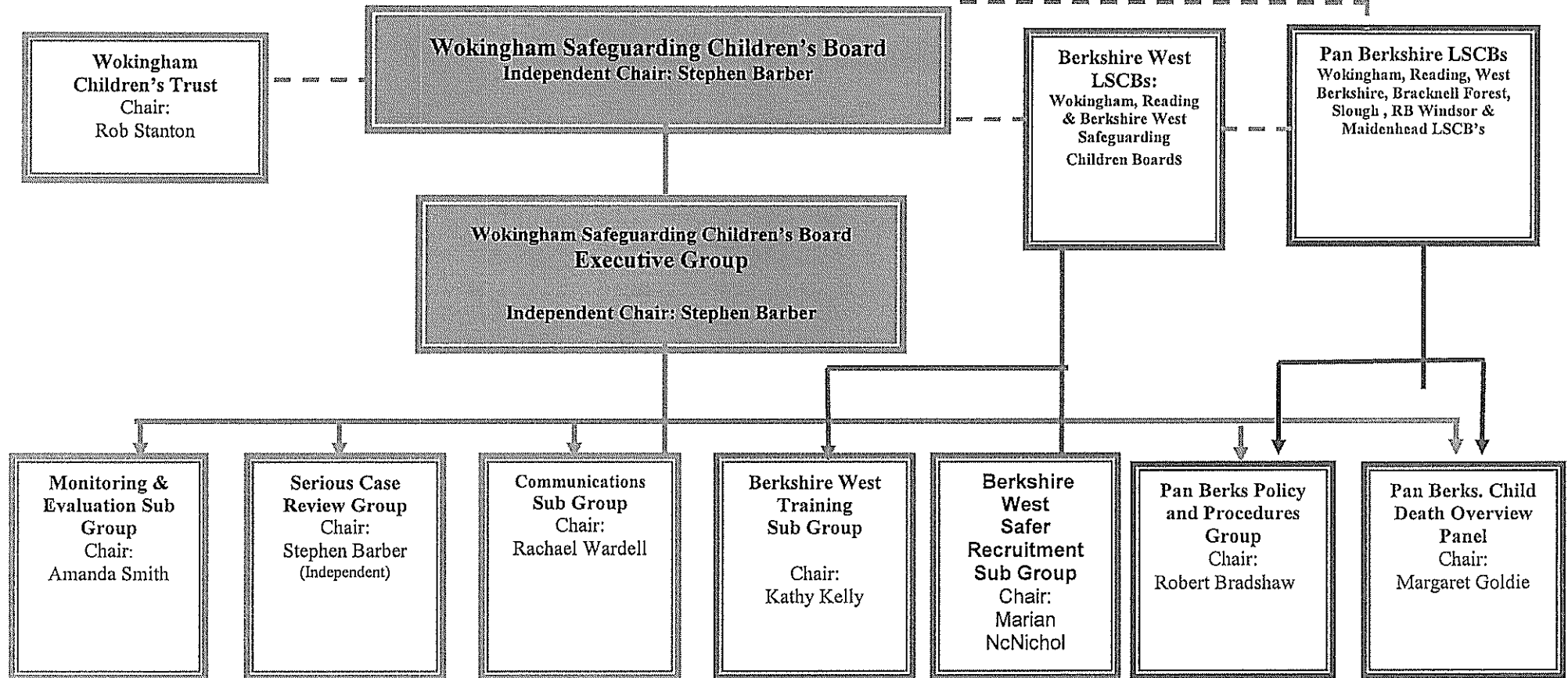
## **WSCB Business Plan 2012 – 13**

The outline plan is attached in the appendix

## WSCB Membership 2011 – 12

<b>Statutory Members:</b>	
Stephen Barber	Independent Chair, Reading LSCB
Andy Couldrick	Chief Executive
Brian Grady	Strategic Commissioner for Children, Young People & Families
Colin Poynter	Connexions Manager
Kazem Bholah/ Kathy Kelly	Manager CAMHS
Christian Bunt/ Peter Oliphant	Chief Inspector Wokingham LPA Commander
Christine Dale	Joint Head of Mental Health
Christine Etheridge	Children & Young People and Maternity Lead, NHS South Central SHA
Amanda Smith	Chair WSCB M&E Sub Committee
Claire Bright	Asst Director, Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust
Brian Harrington	CAFCASS Service Manager Berkshire Team
Guy Masters	Service Manager – Integrated Services
Patricia Pease/ Stephanie Seigne	Lead for Child Protection, Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust
Paul Startup	Service Manager Q.A. Safeguarding - WBC
Judith Ramsden	Head of Social Care and Safeguarding
Bev Searle/Jenny Selim	Director of Partnerships and Joint Commissioning
Heidi Illsley/ Fiona Slevin Brown	Head of Universal Children's Services BHFT
Rachael Wardell	Head of Strategy & Partnerships
Jude Whyte	Housing Needs Manager
Kevin Williams	Manager Thames Valley Probation
Shellye Hanson	Service Manager Early Years, Childcare & Play
<b>Standing Members:</b>	<b>Agencies and organisations who are not Statutory but are full Members and expected to attend all meetings</b>
Gareth Blunt	Vice Principal Waingels College
Dr Nicola Brock	GP and Named Child Protection Doctor
Captain Doug Devlin	Army Welfare Services
Caroline Norris	Primary Schools
Bill Mahony	WSCB Lay Member
Russell Slafford	Independent School
Cllr Rob Stanton	Lead Children's Services and Deputy Leader WBC
Peter Whittaker	WSCB Lay Member
Ian Ayre/Nick Harvey	Secondary Schools
<b>Board Support:</b>	<b>Attend all Meetings and it's Sub Groups and work on behalf of the Board</b>
Jo Jolly	Business Manager WSCB
Sherrie Newell/Alison Welch	Business Support WSCB

## Wokingham Safeguarding Children Board Structure



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**Wokingham Safeguarding Children Board**  
**Business Plan 2012-13**

Overall aim of the plan:

**To ensure the most vulnerable children & young people in Wokingham are safeguarded**

**Priorities**

**1. Early Intervention**

**1.1 Multi-agency commitment to deliver an effective Early Intervention Strategy:** Wokingham Children's Trust agrees and implements a well-researched and effective multi-agency Early Intervention Strategy, with full support from all partner agencies.

**1.2 Improved practice and procedures:** 'Communication and Raising Awareness' and 'Virtual Training' Sub-Groups deliver actions that demonstrably complement and enhance the Children's Trust Early Intervention Strategy.

**1.3 Improved practice and procedures:** Actions identified (by a 'Task and Finish Group' of the WSCB) in relation to reducing the impact of poor mental health on the development of vulnerable children and young people in Wokingham (resulting action plan, if required, will identify new outcomes and impact measures).

**1.4 Improved school practice and procedures:** Any schools based practice / referral issues are identified and appropriate actions taken by the responsible bodies. Domestic Abuse

**2. Domestic Abuse (DA)**

**2.1 Multi-agency commitment to deliver an effective Domestic Abuse Strategy:** Wokingham Community Safety Partnership agrees and implements a well-researched and effective multi-agency Domestic Abuse Strategy, with full support from all partner agencies.

**2.2 Robust prevalence data collected:** Partner agencies agree appropriate procedures for ensuring that domestic abuse incidents where there is a child or young person in the household are properly identified and recorded.



**2.3 Improved strategic alignment, policy, practice and procedures:**  
Actions identified by WSCB have a positive impact on the further development of policy, procedures and practice across the relevant partner agencies.

**2.4 WSCB has in place a robust DA performance framework** in order to exercise its scrutiny role effectively.

**3. Governance and Accountability**

**3.1 Robust WSCB Governance and Accountability arrangements,** with firm commitment from all partner agencies.

**3.2 Robust Pan-Berkshire Governance and Accountability arrangements** that complement local arrangements and have firm commitment from all partner agencies.

**3.3 Increased engagement of all Board Members** with the work of WSCB.

**3.4 Increased impact of WSCB** through a shared commitment from all partner agencies to a written protocol setting out the role and responsibilities of Partner Agencies and Board Members.

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In addition to these actions the WSCB has work plans for each of its sub groups which can be accessed via the WSCB or the WSCB website

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Wokingham Safeguarding Children Board  
Civic Offices, Shute End  
Wokingham, Berkshire  
RG40 1BN

[www.wokingham.gov.uk/lscb](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/lscb)