



# WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW  
AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** will be held in

David Hicks 1 - Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40  
1B Non **TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2017 AT 7.00 PM**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Manjeet Gill'.

Manjeet Gill  
Interim Chief Executive  
Published on 6 November 2017

The role of Overview and Scrutiny is to provide independent “critical friend” challenge and to work with the Council’s Executive and other public service providers for the benefit of the public. The Committee considers submissions from a range of sources and reaches conclusions based on the weight of evidence – not on party political grounds.

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# **WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **Our Vision**

A great place to live, an even better place to do business

## **Our Priorities**

Improve educational attainment and focus on every child achieving their potential

Invest in regenerating towns and villages, support social and economic prosperity, whilst encouraging business growth

Ensure strong sustainable communities that are vibrant and supported by well designed development

Tackle traffic congestion in specific areas of the Borough

Improve the customer experience when accessing Council services

## **The Underpinning Principles**

Offer excellent value for your Council Tax

Provide affordable homes

Look after the vulnerable

Improve health, wellbeing and quality of life

Maintain and improve the waste collection, recycling and fuel efficiency

Deliver quality in all that we do

## **Appendix Acronyms**

CPD	Continuous Professional Development
EYFS	Early Years Foundations Stage
FGB	Full Governing Body
KS1	Key Stage 1
KS2	Key Stage 2
MAT	Multi Academy Trust
NLE	National Leader of Education
NLG	National Leader of Governance
RI	Requires Improvement
RSC	Regional Schools Commissioner
SDP	School Development Plan
SEF	Self Evaluation Form
SIB	School Improvement Board
SIO	School Improvement Officer
SLT	Senior Leadership Team
TSA	Teaching School Alliance
WLP	Wokingham Learning Partnership

## MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

### Councillors

Pauline Helliar-Symons  
(Chairman)  
Kate Haines  
Bill Soane

Laura Blumenthal (Vice-  
Chairman)  
Ken Miall  
Shahid Younis

Parry Batth  
Beth Rowland

### Substitutes

Lindsay Ferris  
Chris Smith

Emma Hobbs

Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey

### Parent Governor Representatives

Vacancy, Parent Governor Representative  
Vacancy, Parent Governor Representative

### Diocesan Representatives

Vacancy, Roman Catholic Representative  
Vacancy, C of E Representative

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
26.		<b>APOLOGIES</b> To receive any apologies for absence.	
27.		<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b> To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 September 2017.	7 - 14
28.		<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b> To receive any declarations of interest.	
29.		<b>PUBLIC QUESTION TIME</b> To answer any public questions.  A period of 30 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions submitted under notice.  The Council welcomes questions from members of the public about the work of this committee.  Subject to meeting certain timescales, questions can relate to general issues concerned with the work of the Committee or an item which is on the Agenda for this meeting. For full details of the procedure for submitting questions please contact the Democratic Services Section on the numbers given below or go to <a href="http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions">www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions</a>	

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|------------|--|------------------|
| <b>30.</b> | <b>MEMBER QUESTION TIME</b><br>To answer any member questions.   |                  |
| <b>31.</b> | <b>CHILDREN'S SERVICES KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</b><br>To receive a report containing the most up to date key performance indicators.  | <b>15 - 22</b>   |
| <b>32.</b> | <b>POLICY UPDATE FROM EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b><br>To receive a policy update from the Executive Member for Children's Services.  | <b>23 - 24</b>   |
| <b>33.</b> | <b>JOINT TARGETED AREA INSPECTION PLAN</b><br>To receive and consider a report outlining the action plan that was designed as a result of the Joint Targeted Area Inspection.  | <b>25 - 30</b>   |
| <b>34.</b> | <b>LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S BOARD ANNUAL REPORT</b><br>To receive a report containing a review of the work undertaken by the Local Safeguarding Children's Board.   | <b>31 - 76</b>   |
| <b>35.</b> | <b>CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT</b><br>To receive a report giving details of the work undertaken by the Corporate Parenting Board.  | <b>77 - 108</b>  |
| <b>36.</b> | <b>SCHOOL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND OFSTED REPORTS</b><br>To receive a report containing schools performance information and reviews of recent Ofsted reports.  | <b>109 - 116</b> |
| <b>37.</b> | <b>FORWARD PROGRAMME</b><br>To consider the forward programme for the Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.   | <b>117 - 120</b> |
| <b>38.</b> | <b>EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC</b><br>That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act as appropriate. |                  |
| <b>39.</b> | <b>SCHOOLS CAUSING CONCERN</b><br>A report indicating schools that are causing concern and the actions being undertaken to improve their performance will be discussed in a part 2 session.  | <b>121 - 138</b> |

**Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent**

A Supplementary Agenda will be issued by the Chief Executive if there are any other items to consider under this heading

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## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 12 SEPTEMBER 2017 FROM 7.00 PM TO 8.30 PM

### **Committee Members Present**

Councillors: Laura Blumenthal (Vice-Chairman), Parry Bath, Ken Miall, Beth Rowland and Shahid Younis

### **Other Councillors Present**

Councillors: UllaKarin Clark

### **Officers Present**

Luciane Bowker, Democratic and Election Services Specialist  
Lisa Humphreys, Head of Social Care and Intervention  
Judith Ramsden, Director of People Services  
Jane Winterbone, Interim Head of Learning and Achievement  
Caroline McKenna, Interim Quality, Assurance and Safeguarding Manager

### **14. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Kate Haines, Pauline Helliarsymons and Bill Soane.

### **15. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 20 June 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **Matters arising**

Members welcomed the paper that was circulated prior to the meeting containing a list of all schools in the Borough and their current Ofsted ratings. It was agreed that this list was very useful and should be included as a standing item in future agendas.

#### *Child Care Sufficiency 2017 – page 10 of the agenda*

Judith Ramsden, Director of People Services agreed to provide a response to the questions raised in relation to the mechanism for payment to providers and the falling numbers of childminders in the Borough.

#### *Peer Review Report – page 11 of the agenda*

Judith Ramsden explained that the Joint Targeted Area Inspection, which was statutory, superseded the Peer Review and this would be discussed during the meeting.

#### *Glossary of acronyms – page 12 of the agenda*

Jane Winterbone, Interim Head of Learning and Achievement explained that she had included full names in the body of the report. However, after a brief discussion, Members asked that a glossary of acronyms be included, as well as full names in the report.

### **16. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

A declaration of interest was submitted from Councillor Beth Rowland on the basis that she was a governor at Highwood Primary School.

### **17. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions.

## **18. MEMBER QUESTION TIME**

There were no Member questions.

## **19. CHILDREN'S SERVICES PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

The Committee received the Children's Services Performance Indicators report which was set out in agenda pages 13-22. The Chair invited Members to comment and raise questions.

During the discussion of the item the following comments were made:

- Councillor Younis was interested to understand the criteria for selecting the indicators;
- Judith Ramsden explained that some indicators were set nationally and others were local targets set by the senior leadership team. She informed that there was now an opportunity to update the indicators, discussions had already started at Executive Briefing;
- Judith Ramsden believed that the Committee had been provided the rationale behind the selection of indicators in previous meetings. Members felt that it would be useful to include a brief explanatory note in the report;
- Members agreed that it would be useful to differentiate between national and local targets in future reports;
- Councillor Younis was curious to know how often the targets were reviewed and how they linked to the 21 Century Council;
- Judith Ramsden stated that it was important to set targets and to allow time to analyse the statistics. She explained that much more detailed information was available to the leadership team and this information was used to understand the local needs. She offered to bring an explanation about the target setting to enable the Committee to consider it;
- In response to a question Lisa Humphreys, Head of Social Care and Intervention informed that in relation to Social Care, real time information was already available. The system was refreshed on a 12 hour cycle, accurate information was obtainable anytime, this was not linked to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Council programme;
- Officers recognised that the information contained in the Key Performance Indicators reports was produced quarterly and therefore it was not always the most recent set of data being presented to the Committee. It was suggested that in the future, meetings should be scheduled to coincide with the production of quarterly data to enable the Committee to analyse the most recent set of data;
- Councillor Miall expressed concern over the *%Child Protection visits due in the period that were on time (within 10 days of the previous visit)* indicator. Lisa Humphreys explained that the statutory duty was 42 days, but the local target was 10 days. Members were informed that part of the reason this indicator was 'red' was due to Social Workers having difficulty accessing the children, this related to two families. Members were assured that all appropriate and proportionate steps were being taken to safeguard the children in accordance with the level of risk and the children's plan. Lisa explained that Social Workers did not have a legal right to see the children without parental consent, therefore sometimes a visit may have taken place but if the child was not seen by the Social Worker, this visit could not count as a CP visit. Lisa assured Members that the children were well protected and that clear guidelines were followed;
- Lisa stated that with regards to referrals, following a notification, in the majority of cases a visit was undertaken within two to three hours, the requirement in law was for 24 hours;

- Councillor Miall sought clarification on the Local Authority's responsibility in relation to children from neighbouring authorities who moved into Wokingham. Lisa Humphreys stated that this depended on the arrangement and where the referral had been generated. Usually the authority where the child lived remained responsible even when the child had to be placed with different authority. If the family moved and the child was subject to a child protection order, there would be an arrangement to move the responsibility;
- Councillor Blumenthal questioned why Care Leavers were included in the *Permanency 1* indicator. Lisa Humphreys explained that there had been much debate amongst Officers to try and cut the data in different ways. However, because this related to such small numbers, it was very difficult to cut the data differently;
- Judith Ramsden stated that it was important to have continuity of indicators to enable its analysis over a period of time. The regulator should be able to see the performance and the narrative would give a more rounded view, where 'red' was identified this meant the service was curious about it and looking to promote improvement;
- Members noted the achievement of an 'outstanding' Ofsted rating by one of the primary schools and asked that a letter of congratulations be sent to the school;
- In response to a question Jane Winterbone informed that it was expected that Northern House would be inspected sometime in the next two years.

**RESOLVED** That:

- 1) Future meetings of Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be scheduled to coincide with the production of the key performance indicators quarterly reports;
- 2) An explanatory note about the criteria used for setting key performance indicators will be included in future reports and the indicators will be marked 'national' or 'local' and
- 3) The report be noted.

**20. SCHOOL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND OFSTED REPORTS**

The Committee considered the School Performance Indicators and Ofsted Reports which were set out in agenda pages 23-28.

Jane Winterbone informed that since the production of the report, Ofsted inspection results of two schools had been released. These were: Colleton Primary which achieved 'good' and Willowbank Infant which also achieved 'good'.

Members were pleased to note the outstanding result achieved by Evendons Primary and were interested to know if it was rare for a new school to achieve outstanding at its first inspection. Jane Winterbone stated that it was rare but not impossible. Jane explained that generally new schools often found it difficult to sustain good results as the school expanded and more school years were added. However, in relation to this particular school, the School Improvement Officer felt that they had obtained a secure outstanding and there were no concerns identified by Officers. The school was now in a position to support other schools.

Councillor Blumenthal pointed out that the Holt school had had its last inspection in 2008 and was curious about it. Jane explained that it could take a long time between inspections when a school held an outstanding rating and their results were consistently good. Jane stated that in such cases it was important to encourage schools to carry out

regular self-evaluations. In response to a question Jane stated that it was impossible to predict when a school would be inspected.

In response to a question Jane stated that it was very difficult for large secondary schools to achieve outstanding under the current inspection regime. In order for a school to achieve outstanding, it was necessary to obtain the same level of progress in all cohorts, which was extremely difficult. It had been observed that outstanding schools were located in less socially deprived areas.

Jane was pleased to point out that there were many schools that had moved from 'require improvement' to 'good'.

Members confirmed that they would like the Ofsted ratings of all schools in the Borough to be included as a standing item in every agenda. Members were aware that this report was subject to last minute changes but felt it would still be preferable to receive the report in advance and be given updates at the meeting if necessary.

**RESOLVED** That:

- 1) A list containing current Ofsted reports of all schools in the Borough would be included as a standing item in all agendas of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee and
- 2) The report be noted.

## **21. SOCIAL WORK - RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION**

The Committee received the Social Work – Recruitment and Retention report which was set out in agenda pages 29-32.

Lisa Humphreys addressed the Committee stating that Social Worker recruitment and retention remained a high priority for the service. She reported that the workforce was currently stable, with more than 80% of permanent staff with tenure of 18 months or more.

Councillor Batth asked if the workforce stability was still considered a challenge. Lisa explained that it was important to maintain this as priority and to continue offering incentives such as work life balance, competitive pay and benefits in order to retain and recruit Social Workers. Lisa also stated that the pool of recruitment was very small in the area. Judith Ramsden confirmed that the situation could rapidly change if this was not considered a priority. It was important to note that Wokingham teams were very small, if only two people left there would be a significant impact on percentages.

Councillor Younis stated that Social Worker recruitment and retention was a challenge for other Local Authorities too, and that the market was competitive. He stated that this situation was unlikely to change.

Councillor Blumenthal asked how Wokingham compared to its neighbours. Lisa Humphreys stated that an 80% permanency in staff workforce was the national expectation. However, it took a lot of effort to keep this figure.

Councillor Blumenthal noted that the service used the 'Step Up' programme in partnership with Winchester University and asked why Reading University was not being used. Lisa explained that there were various pathways to becoming a Social Worker and the

Winchester University's 'Step Up' course was nationally recognized for its quality of training. It had been useful for Wokingham to partner with Hampshire who was a national pilot and in favour with the Department of Education around learning and development of Social Work training. Hampshire had organised the partnership for the south coast and Wokingham had benefited from some of their resources.

Lisa stated that the service was considering expanding the partnership with Bucks University which also focused on the Step Up programme in this area. Reading University offered Social Work training but did not have a recognised Step Up programme.

Lisa explained that the Step Up programme was for post graduate students who had demonstrated academic ability and also vocational intention.

In response to a question Lisa stated that nine students were being supported by Wokingham this year, not all were 'Step Up' students.

In response to a question Lisa stated that there was no intention at the moment to recruit Social Workers from Australia, the focus was on developing a progression programme and improving retention.

Councillor Younis asked if Officers expected an impact on the workforce as a result of Brexit. Judith Ramsden stated that there could be a 'pinch point' and it was important to be aware of that.

**RESOLVED** That the report containing information on the actions taken by Children's Social Care and HR to manage the workforce and recruit staff permanently be noted.

## **22. JOINT TARGETED AREA INSPECTION**

The Committee considered the Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) report which was set out in agenda pages 33-38.

Judith Ramsden stated that the Joint Targeted Area Inspection was an inspection of an area by four inspectorates, Ofsted (who led the inspection), the Care Quality Commission, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation. Together they looked at the arrangements to safeguard children and for this inspection they undertook a deeper investigation into 'children experiencing neglect'. The inspection was not graded, but its outcomes would be published nationally in the form of a letter.

Judith Ramsden stated that the inspection had offered reflections on how to improve performance.

The Committee was informed that the team had been suitably trained for the inspection.

Caroline McKenna, Interim Quality Assurance and Safeguarding Manager informed that she had chaired the JTAI action plan meeting. The meeting had had full attendance and work was being undertaken to compose an action plan. She emphasised that it was important to make sure the plan was robust and that it would stand up to scrutiny before its submission. She stated that another meeting was scheduled to finalise the action plan. It was important to make sure partners were clear of what was expected of them.

Members felt that the report was ambiguous in relation to the partnership with the Police. Judith Ramsden stated that she had raised this issue with the regulator and asked

Members to see through the language. Judith ensured that there was commitment amongst all the partners.

In response to a question Judith Ramsden stated that the findings contained in the report validated the service's own self-assessment. Judith stated that she had not agreed with one of the comments around quality assurance and performance management and she had shared her view with the regulator.

In response to a question Caroline McKenna informed that Peterborough's report was already available online and that there would be seven other local authorities undergoing similar assessments.

When questioned about why Wokingham had been chosen for this inspection, Judith explained that it was due to the fact that some Local Authorities had recently undergone other inspections and the availability of senior Officers to undertake an inspection.

Judith Ramsden wished to record her gratitude to her team for their work during the inspection, which had been completely unexpected.

**RESOLVED** That the report be noted.

### **23. SEND AND DISABILITY SELF ASSESSMENT**

The Committee received the SEND and Disability Self-Assessment report which was set out in agenda pages 39-42.

During the discussion of the item the following comments were made:

- Lisa Humphreys confirmed that a date had not yet been set for an area SEND Ofsted inspection, but this was anticipated in the near future;
- Councillor Blumenthal questioned the drop in the numbers of Education and Health Care Plans (EHCP) from 776 in 2016 to 561 in July 2017. Lisa Humphreys explained that all existing Special Educational Needs Statements (SEN) were in the process of being converted to EHCP. The target was to complete all conversions by March 2018 and this was on track to be achieved;
- When questioned about the 20 week deadline to complete assessments, Lisa Humphreys explained that this was a national target. Members were informed that the process involved consulting the family and various professionals in Health, Social Care and Education. Officers felt confident that 20 weeks was a reasonable target due to the complexity of the process. Members were informed that a child would be referred for an EHCP when the school was not able to meet the child's needs.

**RESOLVED** That the report be noted.

### **24. FORWARD PROGRAMME**

The Committee considered the Forward Programme for the remainder of the 2017/18 municipal year.

The following items were added:

14 November 2017

- Joint Targeted Area Inspection Action Plan
- Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report

- Schools Performance – a report analysing A-Levels, GCSE and Key Stage 2 2017 results

20 March

- Update report on the development of the Childcare Sufficiency Report

The annual report of Corporate Parenting Board will be included to the forward plan, the exact date is to be confirmed.

## **25. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of the Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act as appropriate.

## **26. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS: SCHOOLS CAUSING CONCERN**

This item was considered and discussed in a Part 2 session.

**RESOLVED** That the contents of the report be noted.

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<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Children's Services Performance Indicators</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 14 November 2017
<b>WARD</b>	None Specific
<b>STRATEGIC DIRECTOR</b>	Judith Ramsden, Director of People Services

## **OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY**

Children's Services performance indicators underpin the council's priorities and principles to focus on every child reaching their potential and looking after the vulnerable.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Children's Services performance indicators be noted.

## **SUMMARY OF REPORT**

The timing of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee means that the latest indicators available for formal reporting this cycle are the Quarterly indicators reported at the end of September 2017.

The report also includes information on how performance targets were chosen for 17-18.

## **Background**

A set of information on performance indicators is provided to the Corporate Leadership Team and the Executive on a regular basis. The most recent report, providing information for Children's Services covering the quarter to September 2017, is provided as Annex 1 to this report.

Information about the rationale for chosen performance targets can be found in Annex 2.

## **Analysis of Issues**

In 17/18 Q2 there are nine green indicators, three amber indicators, and one red indicator.

Information on performance rated "Red" and "Amber" is given below.

## Red

### **1. Percentage of child protection (CP) visits due in the period which were completed on-time (within 10 days of the previous visit)**

The statutory minimum frequency for visits to children subject to a Child Protection Plan is every 42 days. A challenging target has been set locally of 10 working days to ensure that ambitious, high quality of work with children at risk of significant harm is planned and delivered. Whilst the target of 10 days was missed in Q2, 94.4% of visits took place within 15 working days of the previous visit. Service Managers and Assistant Directors are aware of the children who were not seen within 10 working days and the reasons for this. All children have been seen.

## Amber

### **1. Percentage of children in care at the end of the period who were placed more than 20 miles from their home (excluding unaccompanied asylum seeking children, children placed with parents and children in receipt of short breaks support).**

This is an improving picture. The aim is to place children as close as possible to home to maintain important links with their local community. Where children are in placements further away and are settled, we would not seek to move them closer to home. However, as children coming into care are placed closer to home, and those placed further from home leave care, we expect to see this indicator gradually improve.

### **2. Percentage of primary schools with a current Ofsted rating of “Good” or better; and**

### **3. Percentage of secondary schools with a current Ofsted rating of “Good” or better.**

No school inspection outcomes have been published this quarter, and so there has been no change in performance for these indicators.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION**

***The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.***

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	Not applicable		
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	Not applicable		
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	Not applicable		

**Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision**

None

**Cross-Council Implications**

n/a

**List of Background Papers**

None

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**Version No.** 1

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## 17-18 Corporate Indicators -- Target Rationale

## Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 14th November

Indicator	Previous Period		2017/18 Target	Statistical Neighbours	Target Rationale
	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Actual			
Percentage referrals in 17/18 which are repeat referrals within 12 months of a previous referral to Children's Social Care <b>(National Indicator)</b>	18.96%	21.30%	<b>20% or Less</b>	<b>22.10%</b>	Target chosen with the aim of maintaining local performance and to aim to perform better than our statistical neighbours.
Percentage of children who became subject of a Child Protection Plan (CPP) who are subject to a CPP for a second or subsequent time within 24 months <b>(Local Indicator)</b>	10.10%	18.90%	<b>Less than 10%</b>	<b>N/A - Local Indicator</b>	Target to remain the same as 16/17 with active work with the chairs of conference and operational teams on cases.
Percentage of children who became subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time ever <b>(National Indicator)</b>	14.90%	34.80%	<b>20% or Less</b>	<b>19.63%</b>	Target reflects aim to improve performance so that it is in line with or better than statistical neighbours. Following a sample review of these cases in spring 2017, a more robust approach is being taken where PLO is being considered as opposed to another period of child protection planning.
Percentage of Looked After Children living within 20 miles of Berkshire West - Geographical area of Reading, Wokingham and West Berkshire (excluding unaccompanied asylum seeking children, children placed with parents and children in receipt of short breaks support) <b>(Local Indicator)</b>	N/A	61.20%	<b>70%</b>	<b>N/A - Local Indicator</b>	Target chosen with the aim of improving performance compared to 16/17.
Percentage of children who entered Care in the period who were placed more than 20 miles from their home (excluding unaccompanied asylum seeking children, children placed with parents and children in receipt of short breaks support) <b>(Local Indicator)</b>	23.50% (8 of 24 children)	19.00% (4 of 21 children)	<b>14% or less</b>	<b>N/A - Local Indicator</b>	The target is set with the aim of reducing the number of children coming into care placed over 20 miles from home by 1 (4 in 2016/17 down to 3 in 2017/18), based on the prediction that the number of children entering care will remain the same as 2016/17.
Percentage of children in care at the end of the period who were in a placement more than 20 miles from their home (excluding unaccompanied asylum seeking children, children placed with parents and children in receipt of short breaks support) <b>(National Indicator)</b>	36.00%	40.00%	<b>35% or less</b>	<b>27.40%</b>	To improve against 2015-16 performance of 36%.
Permanency 1: Percentage of children leaving care who achieved permanence (adopted, returned home or a special guardianship order is granted) <b>(National Indicator)</b>	73.30% (22 of 30 children)	61.30% (19 of 31 children)	<b>65% or more</b>	<b>70.80%</b>	Target is set with the aim of improving performance compared to 2016-17 and to bring our performance more in line with our statistical neighbours.
Permanency 2: Percentage of children currently in non-residential care who have been in care for more than three months who are in a permanent placement <b>(Local Indicator)</b>	57.80%	63.00%	<b>63% or more</b>	<b>N/A - Local Indicator</b>	Target set with the aim of improving performance compared to 16/17.

Annex 2

Indicator	Previous Period		2017/18 Target	Statistical Neighbours	Target Rationale
	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Actual			
Percentage of CP visits due in the period which were completed on-time (within 10 days of the previous visit) <b>(Local Indicator)</b>	80.00%	79.30%	<b>82%</b>	<b>N/A - Local Indicator</b>	Target is set with the aim of improving 16/17 performance. Commentary for this indicator must provide assurance that all children are visited regularly, within prescribed timescales and any delays in visiting timescales only occur up to a maximum of 5 working days with a justifiable reason, approved by Service Managers.
Percentage of primary schools with a current Ofsted rating of "Good" or better <b>(National Indicator)</b>	86%	92%	<b>Improvement or 100%</b>	<b>National Performance at 31st March 2017: 91%</b>	Target set with the aim of improving performance compared to 16/17, or maintaining it at 100%.
Percentage of secondary schools with a current Ofsted rating of "Good" or better <b>(National Indicator)</b>	89%	89%	<b>Improvement or 100%</b>	<b>National Performance at 31st March 2017: 79%</b>	Target set with the aim of improving performance compared to 16/17, or maintaining it at 100%.
Percentage of special schools with a current Ofsted rating of "Good" or better <b>(National Indicator)</b>	100%	100%	<b>Improvement or 100%</b>	<b>National Performance at 31st March 2017: 94%</b>	Target set with the aim of improving performance compared to 16/17, or maintaining it at 100%.
Percentage of children who attend a Wokingham school (Primary, Secondary or Special) which has an Ofsted rating of "Good" or better <b>(National Indicator)</b>	90%	89%	<b>Improvement or 100%</b>	<b>National Performance at 31st March 2017: 87%</b>	Target set with the aim of improving performance compared to 16/17, or maintaining it at 100%.

## Extract of Corporate Performance Report Q2 17-18

## Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 14th November

Indicator	Director/ Executive Member	Previous Period		Current Reporting Period			RAG	Direction of Travel	Commentary
		2016/17 Actual	Q1 2017/18 Actual	2017/18 Target	RAG Thresholds	Q2 2017/18 Actual			
Percentage referrals in 17/18 which are repeat referrals within 12 months of a previous referral to Children's Social Care <b>(National Indicator)</b>	Judith Ramsden/ Mark Ashwell	21.3%	16.6%	<b>20% or Less</b>	<b>Green</b> 20% or less <b>Amber</b> 20.1% - 22% <b>Red</b> Over 22%	19.0%	<b>Green</b>	Deteriorating	Re-referrals are reviewed by the Team Managers on a monthly basis and whilst there has been a slight deterioration over quarter 2, the re-referral rate remains in the expected range, with thresholds consistently applied.
Percentage of children who became subject of a Child Protection Plan (CPP) who are subject to a CPP for a second or subsequent time within 24 months <b>(Local Indicator)</b>	Judith Ramsden/ Mark Ashwell	18.9%	4.0% (1 of 25 children)	<b>Less than 10%</b>	<b>Green</b> Less than 10% <b>Amber</b> 10-15% <b>Red</b> Over 15%	4.0%	<b>Green</b>	No change	Quarter 2 percentage actual represents 1 out of 25 children.
Percentage of children who became subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time ever <b>(National Indicator)</b>	Judith Ramsden/ Mark Ashwell	34.8%	20.0% (5 of 25 children)	<b>20% or Less</b>	<b>Green</b> 20% or less <b>Amber</b> 21-30% <b>Red</b> Over 30%	12.0%	<b>Green</b>	Improving	Quarter 2 percentage actual represents 3 out of 25 children.
Percentage of Looked After Children living within 20 miles of Berkshire West - Geographical area of Reading, Wokingham and West Berkshire (excluding unaccompanied asylum seeking children, children placed with parents and children in receipt of short breaks support) <b>(Local Indicator)</b>	Judith Ramsden/ Mark Ashwell	61.2%	64.1% (41 of 64 children)	<b>70%</b>	<b>Green</b> 70% or more <b>Amber</b> 64-69.9% <b>Red</b> Less than 64%	72.1%	<b>Green</b>	Improving	Quarter 2 percentage actual represents 49 out of 68 children.
Percentage of children who entered Care in the period who were placed more than 20 miles from their home (excluding unaccompanied asylum seeking children, children placed with parents and children in receipt of short breaks support) <b>(Local Indicator)</b>	Judith Ramsden/ Mark Ashwell	19.0% (4 of 21 children)	11.0% (1 of 9 children)	<b>14% or less</b>	<b>Green</b> 14% or less <b>Amber</b> 15% to 25% <b>Red</b> Over 25%	0%	<b>Green</b>	Improving	None of the 7 children who came into care in quarter 2 were in a placement more than 20 miles from their home. This reflects the results of work to secure localised resource to ensure children are placed close to home.
Percentage of children in care at the end of the period who were in a placement more than 20 miles from their home (excluding unaccompanied asylum seeking children, children placed with parents and children in receipt of short breaks support) <b>(National Indicator)</b>	Judith Ramsden/ Mark Ashwell	40.0%	42.2% (27 of 64 children)	<b>35% or less</b>	<b>Green</b> 35% or less <b>Amber</b> 35.1% - 40% <b>Red</b> Over 40%	36.2%	<b>Amber</b>	Improving	Quarter 2 percentage actual represents 25 out of 69 children.
Permanency 1: Percentage of children leaving care who achieved permanence (adopted, returned home or a special guardianship order is granted) <b>(National Indicator)</b>	Judith Ramsden/ Mark Ashwell	61.3% (19 of 31 children)	10.0% (1 of 10 children)	<b>65% or more</b>	<b>Green</b> 65% or more <b>Amber</b> 60% - 64.9% <b>Red</b> Less than 60%	100%	<b>Green</b>	Improving	All of the 7 children leaving care for Quarter 2 achieved permanence.
Permanency 2: Percentage of children currently in non-residential care who have been in care for more than three months who are in a permanent placement <b>(Local Indicator)</b>	Judith Ramsden/ Mark Ashwell	63.0%	75.0% (39 of 52 children)	<b>63% or more</b>	<b>Green</b> 63% <b>Amber</b> 57% to 62% <b>Red</b> Less than 57%	69.8%	<b>Green</b>	Deteriorating	Quarter 2 percentage actual represents 37 out of 53 children.
Percentage of CP visits due in the period which were completed on-time (within 10 days of the previous visit) <b>(Local Indicator)</b>	Judith Ramsden/ Mark Ashwell	79.3%	76.4%	<b>82%</b>	<b>Green</b> 82% or more <b>Amber</b> 78% - 81.9% <b>Red</b> Less than 78%	72.1%	<b>Red</b>	Deteriorating	94.4% of visits took place within 15 working days of the previous visit. Whilst the number of visits completed in 10 days is down, visits completed within 15 days remains consistently high. Underperformance is related to the holiday period when some families are away. Although the local target of visits completed within 10 working days is not currently being achieved, the statutory minimum requirement for visiting is 42 days. A challenging target has been set for 2017-18 for Wokingham locally. Hence timescales are ambitious since the team wish to ensure that they are working towards a high standard of quality and have a good managerial perspective for our children at risk of significant harm. This indicator is a proxy measure to monitor that children are seen in accordance with risk and their plan. Wokingham borough has a low number of children subject to child protection plans (an average of around 16.9 per 10,000 population compared to 38.8 amongst statistical neighbouring authorities). Service Managers and Assistant Directors are aware of the children who were not seen within 10 working days and the reasons for this. All children have been seen; majority of which are seen within 15 working days.

Annex 1

Indicator	Director/ Executive Member	Previous Period		Current Reporting Period			RAG	Direction of Travel	Commentary
		2016/17 Actual	Q1 2017/18 Actual	2017/18 Target	RAG Thresholds	Q2 2017/18 Actual			
Percentage of primary schools with a current Ofsted rating of "Good" or better (National Indicator)	Judith Ramsden/ Mark Ashwell	92%	92%	Improvement or 100%	Green 100% or improving Amber Less than 100%, no change Red Deteriorating	92%	Amber	No change	
Percentage of secondary schools with a current Ofsted rating of "Good" or better (National Indicator)	Judith Ramsden/ Mark Ashwell	89%	89%	Improvement or 100%	Green 100% or improving Amber Less than 100%, no change Red Deteriorating	89%	Amber	No change	
Percentage of special schools with a current Ofsted rating of "Good" or better (National Indicator)	Judith Ramsden/ Mark Ashwell	100%	100%	Improvement or 100%	Green 100% or improving Amber Less than 100%, no change Red Deteriorating	100%	Green	No change	Northern House School is not included in the performance figure as it has not been inspected yet.
Percentage of children who attend a Wokingham school (Primary, Secondary or Special) which has an Ofsted rating of "Good" or better (National Indicator)	Judith Ramsden/ Mark Ashwell	89%	89%	Improvement or 100%	Green 100% or improving Amber Less than 100%, no change Red Deteriorating	90%	Green	Improving	The one percentage point improvement reflects the balance of pupils shifting towards a greater proportion in good or better primary and secondary schools compared to the last quarter, rather than being the result of school inspection outcomes this quarter.

Annex

## **Executive Members – Lines of Enquiry**

### **Introduction**

In order to assist the Committee in their discussions we have created some indications on the lines of questioning we wish to pursue. These are not exclusive and we reserve the right to look at any other areas which emerge during the discussion. It would be helpful to the operation of the Committee if all answers are as brief as possible.

### **Line of Enquiry 1 - Policies**

Can you please inform the Committee of any creation or deletion of policies for the next fiscal year? Can you also cover any planned amendments of existing policies for the next fiscal year?

### **Line of Enquiry 2 – Arrangements**

Can you please inform the Committee of how you plan to develop these over the next fiscal year? Will backbenchers be involved – e.g. a working party? Will this involvement be cross party? If a working party will the Chairman be independent?

### **Line of Enquiry 3 – Consultation**

Can you please inform the Committee of any consultations planned for any of these?

### **Line of Enquiry 4 – Timescales**

Whilst accepting that timescales have to be flexible what is the target completion of these activities? If there are any intermediate steps (e.g. consultations) can you include them in the timescales.

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<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Joint Targeted Area Inspection</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 14 November 2017
<b>WARD</b>	None Specific
<b>STRATEGIC DIRECTOR</b>	Judith Ramsden, Strategic Director of People Services

## **OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY**

Joint Targeted Area Inspection is an inspection of an area by four inspectorates, Ofsted (who led the inspection) the Care Quality Commission, Her Majesties Inspectorate of Constabulary and Her Majesties Inspectorate of Probation. Together they look at the arrangements to safeguard children and undertake a "deep dive" into a specific area, which, for this inspection, was children experiencing neglect. The inspection is not 'graded' but its outcomes are published nationally in the form of a letter.

The inspection took place in May 2017 and focused on the multi - agency front door to children's social care, the "deep dive" theme of multi-agency response to abuse and neglect and the leadership and management arrangements as a partnership.

The outcome of such an in-depth inspection provides a window into the quality and functioning of the multi-agency system and the services provided and are a learning opportunity for agencies to identify areas for improvement.

The findings were produced in a letter to the Director of People's Service on the 14<sup>th</sup> July 2017 and found 'the partnership is well established and partners are clearly focused on driving improvements to ensure appropriate recognition and response to neglect of children'. A range of areas for improvement were identified and a number relate to the early response to neglect, in particular, the multi-agency risk assessment and better engagement between the police and children's social care when risk is first identified

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Overview and Scrutiny were made aware of the JTAI having taken place in May 2017 and attached is the action plan sent to Ofsted on 16<sup>th</sup> October. It outlines what partners are required to do to make the improvements recommended by the inspectorates.

## **SUMMARY OF REPORT**

The partnership letter on the outcome of the Joint Targeted Area Inspection into the area of neglect has identified a number of areas for partners and the local authority.

This report summarises the outcome of the inspection and its implications for the authority. The report outlines the strengths which the inspectors noted across the partnership and in relation to social care, and describes the partnerships plans to address the areas for development which were identified.

### **The “Front Door” to services for children**

This element of the inspection looked at how children are dealt with at the first point of contact with all agencies across the system.

:

#### **Strengths:**

- The development of the multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH), is ensuring that professionals receive the support and advice they need to refer concerns about children to children’s social care. Most children experiencing neglect have their needs promptly assessed and appropriate services provided, including support for families while social work assessments are being completed.
- The WSCB commissioned a team of external consultants to review the ‘front door’ (MASH) in November 2016. This has resulted in focused work to drive improvements in areas of work such as ensuring the timely management of contacts to the MASH.
- Frontline practitioners across agencies report that the creation of the MASH has had a positive impact, meaning that children experiencing neglect have their needs promptly assessed and appropriate services provided, in the vast majority of cases
- The social work team offers a high level of service, such as advice to parents and professionals, child protection enquiries and brief interventions while assessments are ongoing so that children do not have to wait for a service
- The health professional within the MASH is vigilant in identifying risk and is aware of additional vulnerabilities when assessing neglect,
- There is timely and effective communication between the YOS and the MASH to appropriately share information about children at risk

#### **Areas for development :**

- Further work is needed to ensure a consistent, and considered multi-agency approach to joint risk-assessment and decision- making in cases of neglect.
- Joint investigation between the police and children’s social care should have taken place in a small number of cases but were not and CSC completed these alone
- A risk-assessment form should be completed by police in the MASH when a child is referred to children’s social care.
- identifying needs and risk, including risk of neglect among minority populations, is not routinely assessed

## **Leadership within Children's Services and the LSCB**

### **Strengths**

- strong and visible leadership by the Wokingham director of children's services is evident in promoting a clear and shared direction with partner agencies
- Wokingham leaders across the partnership are ambitious for all local children. They actively seek to learn from research and have welcomed external scrutiny of their safeguarding practice.
- Scrutiny and challenge by the WSCB is having an impact and the board recently commissioned the LGA to undertake a Peer Review on neglect
- the senior management team in children's social care clearly demonstrate their commitment to driving improvements in social work practice through investment in staff to develop a well-qualified, skilled and experienced workforce
- Thames Valley Police have made an unambiguous commitment to the development of improved multi-agency working. They have worked closely with the local authority to ensure appropriate staffing levels in the MASH
- Designated and named safeguarding professionals provide strong leadership and direction to help to strengthen the recognition of neglect.

### **Areas for development**

- There is a lack of management oversight and joint ownership of responsibility in partnership working to ensure that situations of neglect improve and a lack of drive by agencies to ensure that plans progress at an appropriate pace
- Across the partnership, supervision is not consistently regular or robust
- the need for the partners to better engage and work together to ensure multi-agency participation in decision making at an early stage
- The WSCB does not have a shared multi-agency data set to enable member agencies to jointly review and oversee performance at the 'front door' of services.
- The neglect strategy action plan is underdeveloped and the action plan is too vague to be measured
- Staff working in substance misuse services do not have the required level of safeguarding training for their work with children and families
- Within NPS, CRC, and the YOS, consideration of neglect is not sufficiently integrated into effective and holistic safeguarding practice. Current training packages for CRC, NPS and the YOS do not explicitly provide sufficient neglect coverage and, in supervision meetings

## Background

The Joint Targeted Area Inspection process was implemented in January 2016 in response to the need to better assess the quality of the multi-agency work with children and families across the whole of partnership.

Its identified focus is upon “arrangements and services for children in need of help and protection in local authority areas in England”.

Each inspection has two related aspects:

1. The quality of multi-agency work within the ‘Front Door’ to children’s services.
2. The quality of multi-agency work in relation to a specific “Deep Dive” theme which changes each six months.

Over the 2 year period from January 2016, those specific themes were set out as:

- ◀ *Children at risk of CSE and / or Missing from Care, Home or School*
- ◀ *Children Living with Domestic Abuse*
- ◀ *Children subject to Neglect*
- ◀ *Children subject to sexual abuse in the family*

The JTAI in Wokingham in May 2017 focussed upon the local authoritys multi-agency work within the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (The “MASH”, or “Front Door”) and multi-agency work with children living with neglect.

The scope of inspection was wide including: interviews with elected members and senior officers; attendance at and observation of multi-agency meetings; close scrutiny of individual cases undertaken with the workers involved and, importantly, feedback from a selection of children, young people and parents / carers who are the recipients of the services we provide.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

*The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.*

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	Not applicable		
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	Not applicable		
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	Not applicable		

### Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

None

### Cross-Council Implications

n/a

### List of Background Papers

None

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**Telephone No**

**Date** 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017

**Service** Children's Services

**Email**

**Version No.** 1

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<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Local Safeguarding Children’s Board</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 14 November 2017
<b>WARD</b>	None Specific
<b>STRATEGIC DIRECTOR</b>	Judith Ramsden, Strategic Director of People Services

**OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY**

The WSCB annual report is a statutory requirement under the statutory requirement of the Children Act (2004). In order to fulfil its statutory functions under Regulation 5 an LSCB should use data and, as a minimum, should:

- assess the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families, including early help;
- assess whether LSCB partners are fulfilling their statutory obligations set out in this guidance;
- quality assure practice, including through joint audits of case files involving practitioners and identifying lessons to be learned; and
- monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of training, including multi-agency training, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children

The attached report sets our key priorities, achievement and areas for development in Wokingham and is a public document.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the report is noted.

**SUMMARY OF REPORT**

The WSCB partnerships role is to oversee, co-ordinate, challenge and scrutinise multi agencies to assess the effectiveness of work by professionals and organisations to keep children in Wokingham safe. Business planning meetings identified the following three priorities: **PREVENT SEXUAL ABUSE AND CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION:** We will help professionals who work with children to understand the circumstances in which sexual exploitation might arise and to recognise the signs of children suffering from this kind of abuse. We also want to work with professionals to build effective multi-professional arrangements to respond to needs identified by children at risk of or suffering from sexual abuse/sexual exploitation

**2. ENHANCE EMOTIONAL WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH:** Children and young people are supported to develop resilience and are able to access good quality mental health services at an early stage to both support their emotional wellbeing and prevent mental health difficulties, enabling them to fulfil their potential. Particular attention will be paid to the impact of bullying on children and young people.

**3. KEEP CHILDREN SAFE WHILE PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES CHANGE:**

Monitor safeguarding practices and procedures whilst service redesign takes place, for example monitoring the impact of the new social care front door and how it is embedded.

**What has been achieved:**

- A refreshed Multi-Agency Information Sharing Protocol across Berkshire.
- Multi-agency practice learning case review subgroup.
- Members agreed and signed up to the WSCB Member Compact with an understanding of the Wokingham LSCB member's collective roles and individual responsibility to promote the effectiveness of the WSCB to meet its duties, which are prescribed in statute and national guidance, and agreed locally as set out in the WSCB Terms of Reference
- Adopted the learning and improvement framework to embed a culture of continuous improvement
- WSCB 2016/17 'Keeping Children Safe' Business Plan
- Domestic Violence and Abuse endorsed strategy
- endorsed a Neglect Strategy
- Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy refresh
- Communication and Engagement Strategy
- Refreshed WSCB Business Plan 2017/18
- Berkshire West Training & Development Strategy 2015/20

**What we need to improve on:**

- Clearer focus on communication between subgroups.
- Develop an efficient Learning pathway from audits.
- Reporting to evidence the impact for children
- Develop the WSCB website

**Background**

LSCB's have been required to provide an annual report on the effectiveness of interagency arrangements to safeguard children. This has to include arrangements for monitoring agencies effectiveness and provide an honest appraisal of the capacity to provide strategic inter-agency arrangements that ensure children and their families are supported and safeguarded. It is authored by the independent chair of the LSCB to provide independent scrutiny of these arrangements including the financial contributions agencies make towards the running costs of the Board. These are included in the budget statement of the WSCB.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION**

***The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.***

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	Not applicable		
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	Not applicable		
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	Not applicable		

**Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision**

None

**Cross-Council Implications**

n/a

**List of Background Papers**

None

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**Version No.** 1

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35

Keeping children in Wokingham safe

Wokingham Safeguarding Children Board

# ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17



wokingham  
safeguarding children board

## Forward

Welcome to the Annual Report of the Wokingham Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) for April 2016 to March 2017. I am delighted to write the Chair's introduction to this year's annual report as I really believe that local children's services and partnership working in Wokingham have turned yet another important corner in the last year and the Board itself has reached a more mature phase. Both are now well placed to take on even more ambitious challenges and further innovation over the year to come. The recent Ofsted Joint Targeted Area Inspection gave us external assurance that partnership working locally is strong and that overall children are effectively having their needs assessed and appropriate plans and services put in place. The Inspection also helpfully identified some further areas where we can focus our collective effort to improve outcomes for children even better. The closer involvement of Head Teachers and Schools, across sectors, in the work of the Board has also helped deliver significant improvement and connectivity that benefits children across the Borough.



In last year's report we were able to set out all the changes and activity that the Board had driven or supported. However, we weren't able to fully evidence this in terms of the difference it was making for children. I am delighted that in this year's report we are able to evidence the impact of our work over recent years and this has now been recognised more formally by Ofsted. Examples include listening to the child's voice and strengthening their involvement in the LSCB; reducing waiting times for children's mental health services; improving the timeliness of responses to contacts and referrals to children's social care; ensuring more children in care have their health needs assessed and reviewed. This report identified many other examples.

36 We have had some challenges too with changes in some key staff and LSCB sub-group chairs. However, despite the pressures on all public services the Local Authority and agency partners have been able to maintain their financial and other support for the LSCB partnership. We have also strengthened joint working with the other LSCB Board in the West of Berkshire to reduce duplication, share best practice and deliver better value and impact.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all the partners who have given so much commitment to helping the LSCB make a real difference for children, also to front line staff across the partnership who are the ones who have actually delivered these improvements. We all value the extra mile which so many staff go to help children and young people in Wokingham.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fran Gosling Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fran Gosling Thomas  
Independent Chair, Wokingham Local Safeguarding Children Board

# Contents

1.	The Wokingham Safeguarding Children Board	Page 4 - 10
2.	Work to the WSCB Priorities	Page 11 - 20
3.	The Wokingham Multi-Agency Practice Framework	Page 21 – 25
4.	The work of the WSCB Subgroups	Page 26 – 30
5.	Wokingham Safeguarding Snapshot	Page 31 – 37
6.	Appendices	Page 38 - 42



# Our Board

The Wokingham Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) is the key statutory mechanism for ensuring the effectiveness and co-ordination of multi-professional partnership activity to safeguard, protect and promote the welfare of children and young people in the Borough.

WSCB priorities are driven by Local Safeguarding Children Board functions as set out in the Children Act 2004 and the related statutory guidance in Working Together 2015; priorities identified in the Wokingham Children and Young People's Plan; learning from national and local (serious) case reviews; learning from local audits of practice; analysis of partnership safeguarding data and consultation with children and young people.

Wokingham is one of six Unitary Authorities in Berkshire (Pan Berkshire) and the Board endeavors to work collaboratively with our neighbours to ensure a more joined up approach to safeguarding children. This is particularly important where a number of agencies deliver services across the county. Partner agencies and the LSCBs work together, to agree a common approach and response to specific safeguarding and child protection issues such as emotional wellbeing and child sexual exploitation.

Pan Berkshire LSCBs work closely together and many partners are represented on all six Boards. There are three sub-groups of the Board which operate across the whole of Berkshire, and two which focus on the west of Berkshire (Wokingham, Reading and West Berks). Wokingham has specific sub groups for Quality Assurance and Performance, Child Sexual Exploitation and Communication and Engagement in order to maintain a local focus on current issues. Our LSCB Structure chart can be found on page 33.

WSCB Business Managers and Chairs from across Berkshire meet regularly to share and discuss specific issues; protocols and developments, along with examples of learning and good practice.

The WSCB has a protocol to work with the Health and Wellbeing Board, Safeguarding Adults Board, Corporate Parenting Board, the Children & Young People's Partnership and the Community Safety Partnership.

The LSCB has initiated a series of 'challenge' sessions for partners on early help, child sexual exploitation, domestic abuse, learning and development and emotional wellbeing. This has enabled it to inform itself about agency compliance with policy and process as well as practice and whether practice is making a difference to children and young people. These are a valuable opportunity for the Board to assure itself of agency understanding and activity in relation to safeguarding issues and encourage challenge and learning from partners.

The WSCB partnerships role is to oversee, co-ordinate, challenge and scrutinise multi agencies to assess the effectiveness of work by professionals and organisations to keep children in Wokingham safe. Business planning meetings identified the following three priorities.



# Our Priorities

- 1. PREVENT SEXUAL ABUSE AND CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION:** We will help professionals who work with children to understand the circumstances in which sexual exploitation might arise and to recognise the signs of children suffering from this kind of abuse. We also want to work with professionals to build effective multi-professional arrangements to respond to needs identified by children at risk of or suffering from sexual abuse/sexual exploitation
- 2. ENHANCE EMOTIONAL WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH:** Children and young people are supported to develop resilience and are able to access good quality mental health services at an early stage to both support their emotional wellbeing and prevent mental health difficulties, enabling them to fulfil their potential. Particular attention will be paid to the impact of bullying on children and young people.
- 3. KEEP CHILDREN SAFE WHILE PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES CHANGE:** Monitor safeguarding practices and procedures whilst service redesign takes place, for example monitoring the impact of the new social care front door and how it is embedded.



## 39 The Impact and Effectiveness of the WSCB

### What have we achieved?

- ✓ A refreshed Multi-Agency Information Sharing Protocol across Berkshire.
- ✓ Multi-agency practice learning case review subgroup.
- ✓ Members agreed and signed up to the WSCB Member Compact with an understanding of the Wokingham LSCB member's collective roles and individual responsibility to promote the effectiveness of the WSCB to meet its duties, which are prescribed in statute and national guidance, and agreed locally as set out in the WSCB Terms of Reference
- ✓ Adopted the Learning & Improvement Framework to embed a culture of continuous learning and improvement across agencies that work together to safeguard children.

### As a Board we monitor and track multi-agency concerns that could impact on safeguarding children this work includes:

- ✓ The recruitment/retention challenges in the social work and midwifery workforce.

### Endorsed Strategies/Plans:

- WSCB 2016/17 'Keeping Children Safe' Business Plan
- Domestic Violence and Abuse
- Neglect Strategy
- Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy refresh
- Communication and Engagement Strategy
- Refreshed WSCB Business Plan 2017/18
- Berkshire West Training & Development Strategy 2015/20

- ✓ Implemented the refreshed Induction Pack and Terms of Reference
- ✓ Agreed to the Pan Berkshire incident learning review and notification process.
- ✓ An annual private fostering audit is completed across multi-agencies to assure the WSCB that children who may be in private fostering arrangements are identified and notified to children's social care for the appropriate assessment and support which increased referrals to 5.
- ✓ The annual schools safeguarding survey is completed by all schools in Wokingham. The collated results are reported the WSCB to assure the WSCB that schools are fulfilling their safeguarding requirements.

## What we need to do next:

- Progress the priorities as set out in the 2017/18 WSCB Business Plan
- Develop the WSCB website to ensure it is accessible for all
- Propose a LSCB redesign post Wood review (2016) and Social Work Act (2017)



40

The Board participate in an annual self-assessment where each member is asked what they consider the strengths of the WSCB to be and where we can improve:

### What we do well:

- ✓ Good standard of challenge and curiosity of Board
- ✓ Infrastructure strengthened between Sub Groups
- ✓ Good monitoring of procedures and practice.
- ✓ Priorities clearly laid out in the Business Plan

### What we can do better:

- Clearer focus on communication between subgroups.
- Develop an efficient Learning pathway from audits.
- Reporting to evidence the impact for children
- Develop the WSCB website

## How we make a difference by scrutiny and monitoring of work to safeguard children across partner agencies in Wokingham:

Examples include:

- ✓ The improvement in timeliness of Looked after Children health assessments.
- ✓ Domestic abuse notifications are now routinely being received by schools.
- ✓ The timeliness of reports to Child Protection Conference are shared well in advance of the meeting.
- ✓ The reduction in waiting times for children and young people accessing Tier 3 Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).
- ✓ The reduction in risk levels for children affected by CSE.
- ✓ A Safeguarding video produced jointly with Safeguarding Adult Board on how to report a concern is now shown in GP surgeries, council offices and community settings.
- ✓ The improvement in staffing for children's social workers and midwifery.

41

## How we hear the child's voice:

- ✓ Consultation with children and young people by senior leaders to develop the pledge and contribute to the Board's priorities (e.g. bullying, emotional health)
- ✓ Children and young people's version of the Board annual report with help from schools
- ✓ Children and young people's views and journey are integral part of multi-agency audits and reviews
- ✓ Attendance of children and young people at Board meetings to present the peer support programme in schools
- ✓ Involvement of Young People's commissioners in reporting to the Board and leading aspects of the Board's work plan e.g. bullying
- ✓ Consultation with children and young people about the development of the children's zone within the website development

## WSCB Challenge Sessions

To demonstrate leadership and governance the Wokingham Safeguarding Children Board requested a series of 'Challenge Sessions' this year to enable partners to share good practice and to scrutinise any systematic or organisational changes necessary to enable professionals to protect children with confidence and competence.

### WSCB Domestic Abuse Challenge Session

A multi-agency challenge session focused on one of the priorities: '**Reducing the Impact of Domestic Abuse**'. Key partners were invited to attend the session and each organisation was asked to address five key lines of enquiry. This included presentations from Public Health, Children's Social Care, Thames Valley Police, Berkshire Women's Aid and Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust.

#### Some excellent examples of multi-agency working were highlighted:

- ✓ The Co-location of a BWA member of staff in the Early Help Hub
- ✓ The Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) and the Domestic Abuse Risk Identification Matrix (DARIM) are working well
- ✓ Public Health (PH) funded Kick Fit class set up at a local Children's Centre in one of Wokingham's most deprived areas. PH Outcomes Framework ward data and work with local schools and survivors of domestic abuse identified this area as requiring support. It was promoted as a keep fit class but it included self-protection tips and advice about staying healthy and protected. The group is now running itself after the initial six week period. The group is open to everyone but it helped to identify 13 new people at risk of domestic abuse in the Borough.
- ✓ Signs of Safety having an impact on how children's social staff identified domestic abuse in families – example given of a young child who drew pictures describing domestic abuse taking place in their home.
- ✓ Berkshire Women's Aid (BWA) specifically trained a male worker to deliver the perpetrator programme to families where a child is living with domestic abuse. Less than 5% of the perpetrators reoffended. Anecdotally 75% completed the programme
- ✓ Examples of good multi-agency working to resolve individual cases where the victim would not receive help from a particular agency.
- ✓ One 'survivor' of domestic abuse cited the excellent help they had received from Thames Valley Police (TVP).

#### What do we need to do next?

- Further work required to understand the difference between police incident data figures and referral figures to Berkshire Women's Aid (BWA).
- Test the outcomes of domestic abuse. awareness raising and new 'Rio' flag system with health professionals to encourage referrals into MARAC.
- The Board to ensure re-commissioning of voluntary sector services by Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) already underway incorporate recommendations from this 'Challenge Session' into any service specifications

#### Berkshire Women's Aid (BWA) Helpline and Refuge

Callers to BWA from Wokingham during 2016/17 = 707

This is an increase in of 84% compared to 2015/16  
(n=384)

A 4% increase in the number of referrals to BWA from  
Wokingham Children's Services 2016/17 = 98

## WSCB Emotional Health and Wellbeing Challenge Session

The WSCB hosted a challenge session in April 2016 to focus on the Emotional Health and Wellbeing priority. This session was attended by a wide range of partners including; the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust (BHFT) and the Local Authority.

The Emotional Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy has a key focus on good mental health – with an emphasis on support for the most vulnerable children and young people. Agencies were asked to provide a brief presentation capturing existing strengths, areas for development and steps that will be taken to reach these goals.

Through the challenge session a number of very positive programmes and examples of practice were showcased, this demonstrates Wokingham Borough's commitment to emotional wellbeing (see Priority 2).

### Private Fostering

Regulation 5 (1) (a) (v.) of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006 sets out the LSCB's responsibility for developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority, including policies and procedures in relation to safety and welfare of children who are privately fostered.

**Aim:** The identification, referral, assessment and support of children in private fostering arrangements reduce the level of risk and need, and therefore, helps safeguard and promote the welfare of children. All agencies complete an annual audit to assure the Board that they take the necessary actions to raise awareness of the existence and definition of Private Fostering arrangements, and that they do all they can to identify children who are privately fostered. Assurance is also given that these arrangements are referred to social care.

	LA Code Private Fostering (PF)	872
1.	Number of notifications of new private fostering arrangements received during the year in accordance with regulation 3 etc.	5
2.	Number of cases where action was taken in accordance with the requirements of regulation 4 etc.	5
3.	Of those in q2, the number of cases where this action was taken within 7 working days of receipt of notification of the private fostering arrangement	5
4.	Number of new arrangements that began during the year	3
5.	Number of new arrangements that began during the year where the visits were made at intervals of not more than 6 weeks	3
6.	The number of PF arrangements dating from before 1/4/15 continuing into 2015/6	0
7.	The number of PF arrangements dating from before 1/4/15 continuing into 2015/6, where the visits were completed within required timescales	3
8.	The number of PF arrangements finishing during the year	0
9.	The number of children in a PF arrangement at the end of the year 31.3.16	0

## A Lay Member's Perspective

Paul Brown

I am relatively new to the board, having been a lay member since July 2016. I find the Board meetings to be challenging across the agencies. There is time in the meeting to give and hear partner views to improve safeguarding outcomes for children; and as a consequence, they are rewarding to attend. I am very pleased to be able to report that my experience of the WSCB board meetings is that they are well structured and attended with a clear focus on outcomes for children.



I regard it as a privilege to be a member of the Safeguarding Children Board as my role in the voluntary sector is working with many young people in Wokingham. My views are welcomed and listened to with respect. During the past year I have been able to attend all the board meetings and I am also a member of the Communication and Engagement Sub Group. The sub-committee under the new leadership of the Chair Dave Allen has developed a far more focused action plan and this is to be established in line with the WSCB priorities for 2017/18.

There remain some challenges that the WSCB need to address one being the web site to update it frequently and make it more user friendly. Analysis of the web site shows that lots of people do visit the website although 80-90% of the web site visits don't progress through the second page. Interestingly, 25% of site visits are not from the UK and visitors are not spending more than a minute on the website. Therefore, visits are not purposeful and we are not reaching the right cohort of people. The long term work for the subgroup needs to ensure the target audience for the website is reached and I am sure we will achieve this in the coming year.

Paul Brown  
Lay member WSCB

# Priority 1

**PREVENT SEXUAL ABUSE AND CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE)** – we will help professionals who work with children to understand the circumstances in which sexual exploitation might arise and to recognise the signs of children suffering from this abuse. We also work with professionals to build effective multi-professional arrangements to respond to needs identified by children at risk of or suffering from sexual abuse and sexual exploitation.

**The WSCB CSE and Missing Strategic Subgroup** update the WSCB and provide quarterly and annual reporting updates, as to the progress in developing effective practice in Wokingham as well as providing national and local CSE context. This enables the Board to monitor the local response to CSE. The board receives at each meeting data underpinning this area of work via the performance and quality sub-group as well as periodic strategic updates

- 45 ✓ A Child Sexual Exploitation indicator tool has been developed and endorsed by the WSCB. The CSE tool can be used by any professional working with children under the age of 18. Boys as well as girls are abused through child sexual exploitation (CSE).

This Indicator Tool aims to help practitioners to focus on the specific CSE indicators and determine whether further investigations are needed by Children's Social Care and Thames Valley Police. This tool therefore informs both assessment of need and referrals to Children's Social Care. Often, children themselves do not recognise themselves as victims, or that they are being groomed, and as a result disclosures of such abuse can be unlikely. Therefore, this indicator tool aids the identification of CSE.

- ✓ The West of Berkshire Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Subgroup have developed a Vision Statement which was endorsed across the West of Berkshire LSCB's.
- ✓ The FGM toolkit has been developed in order for professionals to understand, identify and respond to FGM.
- ✓ The FGM awareness raising event launched the FGM toolkit to support a robust multi-agency and community approach to safeguarding children and females at risk of FGM.

Recommendations and actions from audit and data reporting are tracked via the WSCB Quality & Performance Subgroup (Q&P) and outcomes and findings are reported to the Board.

- ✓ On behalf of the WSCB Q&P Subgroup an independent audit was undertaken of the practice response to Child Sexual Exploitation. The task set for this review was to evaluate
  - The Sexual Exploitation and Missing Risk Assessment Conference (SEMRAC) operations meetings over the past year.
  - The process of child protection enquiries (CPEs) is being considered correctly and the child's voice is heard.

A summary of comments in an independent audit commissioned by the WCSB in July 2016.

*'We noted a basic level of good practice in identifying and responding to CSE concerns in Wokingham and feel that – on the whole – current practice is correctly treading the delicate line between not sufficiently recognising CSE concerns and over-reacting to them. It will be important that all professionals working in this important area continue to do so in the months ahead and also continue to feel able to bring constructive assistance and challenge to partners as and when necessary.'*

46

- ✓ *Funded the purchase of laptops and training for multi-agency professionals to deliver 'Lottie' to young people to raise awareness and provide insight into the CSE grooming process and the implications for young people.*
- ✓ *Refreshed CSE Strategy to include the wider exploitation of children and young people.*
- ✓ *The Borough now has a well embedded process to identify, tackle and monitor CSE risk and missing children – with strong buy in from across the partnership and a commitment to continuing to improve and develop the processes and interventions.*
- ✓ *The SEMRAC Panel meets monthly to consider children and young people who go missing and are vulnerable to CSE. For those young people at risk of CSE referrals are made to the SEMRAC Panel via the Duty, Triage and Assessment Team (DTA).*
- ✓ *Children who have been missing 3 times in 90 days and/or for 24 hours or more, are automatically referred to the SEMRAC Panel together with those children who have been assessed as high risk but who may not have met the Panel criteria.*
- ✓ *All missing children reports are received by the DTA team and treated as contact/referrals. If children have been missing for over 24 hours or have gone missing 3 times in 90 days, or where there are risk factors present a return home interview and child and family assessment is offered.*
- ✓ *Work with schools has resulted in CSE awareness raising and Wokingham's schools have developed safeguarding policies and procedures to include PREVENT, CSE and FGM.*
- ✓ *Risk to children has been reduced through intervention; Operation Ostrich provides a strong example of effective local intervention where offences are identified*

**Between March and December 2016, 20 young people have been discussed at the CSE Panel; those at risk are female between the ages of 12 and 17 years.**

**As at January 2017 - 10 young people were discussed at SEMRAC as they were reported as missing from home or care for over 24 hours or 3 times in 90 days**

### What we need to do next

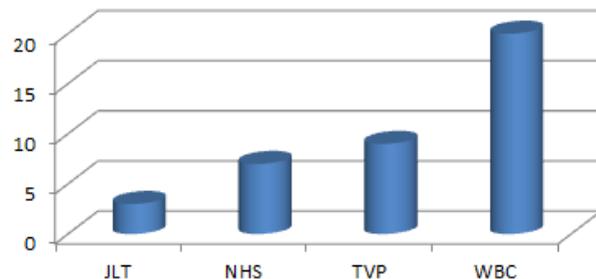
- After a successful training bid, we will roll out 'Lottie' training for professionals and 'Chelsea's Choice' sex and relationship education programme to all secondary schools in Wokingham.
- Develop processes for reviewing the effectiveness and impact of CSE awareness raising and training (to include parents and carers).

47

### Impact

- ✓ Data is provided by the CSE operational group, and the ongoing development of the process means that data is now considered by both the Strategic CSE and WSCB Performance & Quality sub groups. The data report for the period from March 2015 to March 2016 shows the reducing level of risk for those young people identified and overseen by the CSE panel.

**Lottie trained staff**



## Lottie

### Multi-agency CSE Champions



Lottie is a modern interactive simulation addressing the serious issues of online grooming and exploitation for professionals working with young people. The interactive 'Lottie' workshop has been designed to raise awareness and provide insight into the grooming process and implications for young people. Lottie features the 'boyfriend' style groomer, and tackles the complexities of this seemingly normal online relationship, providing unprecedented insight into perspectives of both groomer and victim of CSE.

Through the use of a social media style interface, professionals are able to learn about grooming by tracking the behaviour of the groomer and see the implications for the victim.

## Priority 2

**ENHANCE EMOTIONAL WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH:** children and young people are supported to develop resilience and are able to access good quality mental health services at an early stage to both support their emotional wellbeing and prevent mental health difficulties, thus enabling them to fulfil their full potential. Particular attention will be paid to the impact of bullying on children and young people.

- ✓ Student volunteers have become peer mentors and hold Restorative Justice Practitioner roles in St Crispin's secondary school. The project is aimed at helping children who struggle with school attendance and those who feel bullied. Mentors help to build social skills leading to 40 students being helped to date and approximately a 50% reduction in challenging behavior from students.
- ✓ Improvements to children and parental mental health. Noting 50% reduction in referrals to CAMHS. An improvement in the 'Emotional Wellbeing' indicator within the Family Star tool used by Family Workers and Social Care and improved parental scores around depression and anxiety which will impact upon their ability to parent and thus a positive impact upon the child.

48



### Impact

The emotional wellbeing of parents has a significant impact on children's lives and as a result of the Early Help offer of the Triple P parenting programme and the Incredible Year's courses.

As part of the Triple P parenting programme the parental wellbeing, depression, anxiety and irritability are scored as part of the evidenced based adult wellbeing scale.

- ✓ Out of the 22 parents within the same time frame 50% had an improvement in depression scores.
- ✓ 69% experienced improvement in feelings of anxiety.
- ✓ Parenting improved across three dysfunctional disciplines (laxness – 73%, over-reactivity - 78% and hostility – 65%). A reduction in these dysfunctional discipline styles would lead to a positive impact upon the emotional wellbeing of both the child and the parent.

### Within the Incredible Years Courses

- ✓ 54% of families coming through reported an improvement in adult wellbeing with 80% having made positive changes in their parenting style

## Case Study

A 15 year old boy who is not attending school was reported to be aggressive towards his mother and sibling. His father has mental health difficulties and his mother sought help through the GP who suggested that she refer to Children's Services first as there is a waiting list for CAMHS.

Audit found that there was no report of mental health symptoms. The outcome of triage meeting was for the Targeted Youth Support service for assessment and support thus resulting in the diversion of a CAMHS referral.

## Case Study

A 14 year old boy had reacted to the death of a parent three years ago by displaying extreme aggressive behaviour within the home and had refused counselling.

By completing an Early Help assessment and referral to the Berkshire Women's Aid for support from a male counsellor and the Youth Support Service diverted a CAMHS referral.

## The WSCB Emotional Abuse challenge

Wokingham hosted a multi-agency challenge session to seek assurance that work to our key focus on good mental health – with an emphasis on support for the most vulnerable children and young people to present the strengths and areas for development and what steps that will be taken to reach these goals. Agencies showcases positive programme of support and examples of practice were showcased; this demonstrates Wokingham Borough's commitment to emotional wellbeing.

### Emotional health and wellbeing support in Wokingham Schools

- ✓ The School Link Project is partnership work with Primary Child & Adolescent mental Health Service (PCAMHS) and the Local Authority to develop a stepped care "whole school" approach to mental health support in schools.
- ✓ School Health Champions pilot.
- ✓ Pocket booklet with self-help information.
- ✓ Anxiety workshops run by ARC.
- ✓ ARC Youth Counselling services.
- ✓ Educational Psychologists and Nurture Assistants.
- ✓ BWA support children who are living with D.A. by visiting them in school.

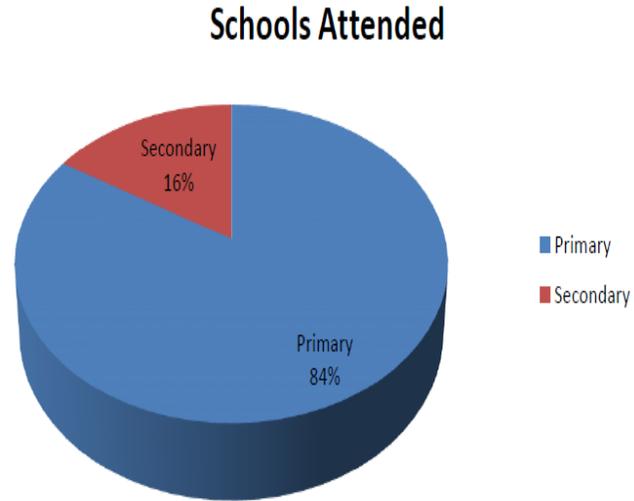
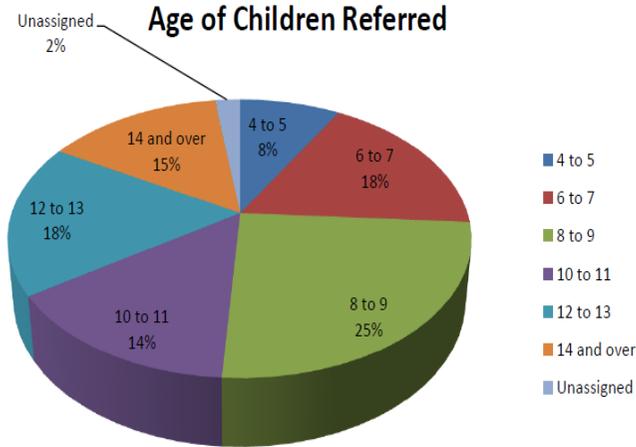
### What difference has it made?

- ✓ A reduction in CAMHS tier 2 referrals in 2016/17
- ✓ Reduced waiting times for services from PCAMHS

**Impact** — *'I am really enjoying being back in the team and am really happy with the confidence that Jamie has showed in me so far by giving me the captains armband'*



## Children who live with domestic abuse are supported in schools by Berkshire Womens Aid



51

### What is domestic abuse?

Domestic abuse is any type of controlling, bullying, threatening or violent behaviour between people in a relationship. But it isn't just physical violence – domestic abuse includes emotional, physical, sexual, financial or psychological abuse.

Abusive behaviour can occur in any relationship. It can continue even after the relationship has ended. Both men and women can be abused or abusers.

Domestic abuse can seriously harm children and young people. Witnessing domestic abuse is child abuse, and teenagers can suffer domestic abuse in their relationships.

Children living with domestic abuse may suffer from neglect and be put in danger or not be protected from physical or emotional harm. They may not get the love, care and attention they need from their parents/carers.

A child who is neglected will often suffer from other abuse as well. Neglect is dangerous and can cause serious, long-term damage - even death.

# Anti-Bullying

In response to a youth survey Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) Young Commissioners launched the Anti-Bullying peer programme, this is a campaign that will work to raise awareness and empower pupils of primary and secondary age to stand up and speak out against bullying. The anti-bullying campaign delivers workshops to primary and secondary schools. This pilot will cover many aspects of bullying including what strategies children and young people can use to stand up against bullying, cybercrime and recognising who children can go to if they feel unsafe.

## Data in Wokingham:

The Youth Survey is published every year to schools in the Borough. The data below is from the 2015 survey and 2,597 pupils responded.

- 36% of pupils have experienced at least one form of bullying in the past 12 months, and more pupils identified that they had been bullied or threatened in school than out of school.
- 7.2% of year 7 pupils indicated that they felt fairly unsafe or very unsafe at school.
- Options with the highest number of respondents indicating that they have experienced this in the past 12 months included verbally bullied and bullied or threatened in school.

52

84 pupils had been bullied via the internet or social media.  
52% didn't tell anyone.

308 pupils had been verbally bullied.  
40% didn't tell anyone.

188 pupils had been physically bullied.  
42% didn't tell anyone.

## Storyboard Anti-bullying

### Objective

To enrol a series of workshops in Primary Schools revolved around what bullying is, where children can go for help and how to tackle bullying in the classroom.

### What are the issues?

Initial feedback received from the first version of the presentation workshop. This has been resolved.  
The LSCB Quality and Performance Sub-Group bullying consultation audit will inform future workshops to meet the needs of children and young people.

### What have we done?

Using feedback from the presentations to schools we have created a new style setting with new information.  
This included a presentation a group reading exercise of a case study with tips and strategies for dealing with bullying and lots of chances for the pupils to answer questions and to understand and 'teach themselves' what bullying actually is.

### Where are we now? - Outcomes

There has been really positive feedback saying that the workshop was pacey and all children had the opportunity to speak.  
The presentation gave the children time to think about bullying and understand what it actually is.  
Also how accusing someone of bullying when they haven't can have serious consequence for that child.  
Children were given an opportunity to say what they felt about bullying and how it made them feel in an environment that made them feel safe to speak out.

## Priority 3

**KEEP CHILDREN SAFE WHILE PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES CHANGE** as the Signs of Safety (SoS) approach and the Practice Framework continue to be embedded across multi agency work; to ensure that children and families are provided with a timely service and receive advice and brief intervention to improve their life chances.

All partners, including the voluntary sector, have access to the Signs of Safety (SoS) awareness and Restorative Practice training. GP's, Thames Valley Police (TVP), charities and Schools have accessed workshops which introduces the concept of the Signs of Safety and Restorative Practice Framework.

Wokingham have developed a Single Front door for all contacts and referrals to request a service either from Children's Social Care or Early Help services. A dedicated team of social workers and multi- agency professionals contribute to the 'triage process' making judgements about a child's level of need and risk; in a fair and consistent manner using the LSCB Levels of Need guidance; whilst ensuring compliance with statutory duties.

### What we have achieved

- ✓ The WSCB Quality & Performance Subgroup has commissioned independent audits. The audit found that practice at the 'Front Door' is good and auditors agreed with the thresholds applied to 90% of the cases (it was noted there is always some decision subjectivity and as such, no problems or concerns were identified).
- ✓ Review of Pre-birth assessment procedures with the production of tool kits and training provision.
- ✓ The Family Star tool used by Family Workers and Social Care measured improved parental scores around depression and anxiety, which will impact upon the carers ability to parent and thus positive impact upon the child. A notable area of improvement has been seen with child and parental mental health leading to a 50% reduction in referrals to CAMHs.

The WSCB has been consulted with and will continue to receive reporting updates to scrutinise and track the development of new procedures in line with statutory responsibilities whilst the Signs of Safety and practice framework are embedded.

The challenge to the LSCB will be the ability to step away from the traditional Working Together 2015 model to a procedure which is less about the professional process and more upon the delivery of service.

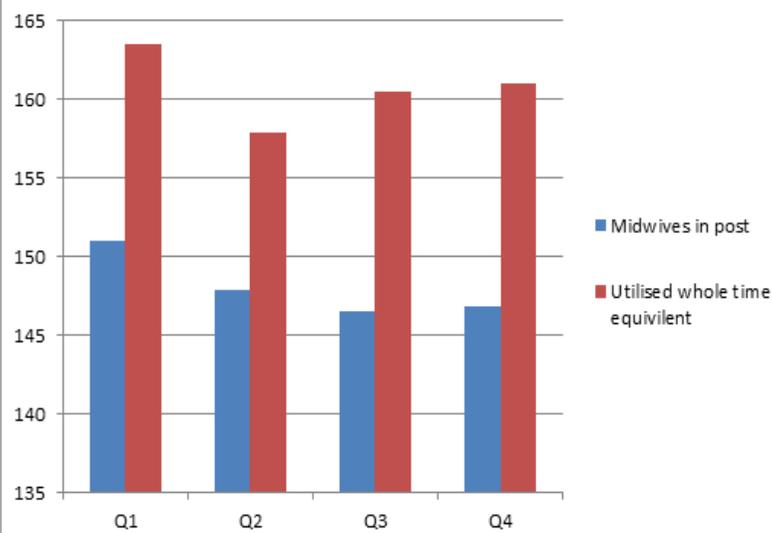
Child and Family Assessments completed within 45 working days		
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
85.7%	79.9%	83.1%

A stable professional workforce across partner agencies provides a multi skilled service who are practiced in the agreed systems and frameworks, to deliver a consistent and quality intervention to children and their families/carers in Wokingham

SOCIAL WORK (SW) STAFFING MIX & VACANCY RATE		Q1 as at 30.6.16		Q2 as at 30.9.16		Q3 as at 31.12.16		Q4 as at 31.3.17	
		Headcount	%	Headcount	%	Headcount	%	Headcount	%
SW's & Senior SW's	Employee	46	73%	46	73%	47	74.6%	43	64.18%
	Agency	8	12.7%	9	14.3%	6	9.5%	5	7.46%
	Totally Vacant	9	14.3%	8	12.7%	10	15.9%	19	28.36%
	<b>TOTAL SWs</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Midwifery Staffing 2015 -2016

To mitigate the shortfall in staffing vacancies in whole time equivalent (WTE), staffing rosters are increased. Predicated work and staffing is reviewed weekly to cover vacancies.



# Early Help

Providing early help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later.

”Effective early help relies upon local agencies working together. The Early Help Hub (EHH)

Hold multi-agency meetings to share information to:

- Identify children and families who would benefit from early help;
- Undertaken an assessment of the need for early help; and
- Provide targeted early help services to address the assessed needs of a child and their family which focuses on activity to significantly improve the outcomes for the child.



All contacts and referrals received by the Duty, Triage and Assessment team (DTA) are ‘mapped’ using our Signs of Safety (SoS) practice framework and decisions made at this point as to whether an early help offer with a discussion at the EHH is indicated. Discussions in EHH are recorded using the practice framework with a focus on safety, wellbeing or success planning as opposed to service planning. Audit and inspection activity indicates that the practice framework is being applied and that there is evidence that it is shaping and changing practice and showing the journey of the child.

We have seen an increase in work allocated to our Early Help Services and audit and inspection activity gives a clear indication that the levels of need are understood and applied appropriately.

**An Integrated Early Help** service has amalgamated a number of Early Help services to provide a more holistic and family centred approach to our service delivery. This is aligned to the key principles of the Eileen Munro review in respect of – “Early intervention needing to be early intervention”; “Providing the right service at the right time” and the notion of “Bringing together a co-ordinated approach to multi-agency support”. In addition to this, the proposed approach adds to a developing ‘front door’ of services in WBC, designed to provide timely early help to those vulnerable families within the borough.

The Lead Professional using the streamlined approach would fulfil the single family worker role and bring together multi-agency support in a coordinated and timely way across agencies that will enhance outcomes and provide greater coordinated support for improved resilience and stability for families.

Streamlining the early help offer as an Integrated Early Help service consisting of: The Family Resource Team, Youth Offending Service and Targeted Youth Service working with the 12-19 age group.

- Children's Centres (CC) to work with families 0-5 and where applicable older children
- Create an Edge of Care, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder – (ADHD) and an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) response
- To establish an 'Out of Hours' duty system
- A clear standard of practice towards service delivery
- An Early Help performance framework

**PART 2: REACH**

**Definition:** Reach is defined as a count of the number of individual children (unique visits), aged between 0-4 years, seen at any Children's Centre within Wokingham borough who live in the reach area.

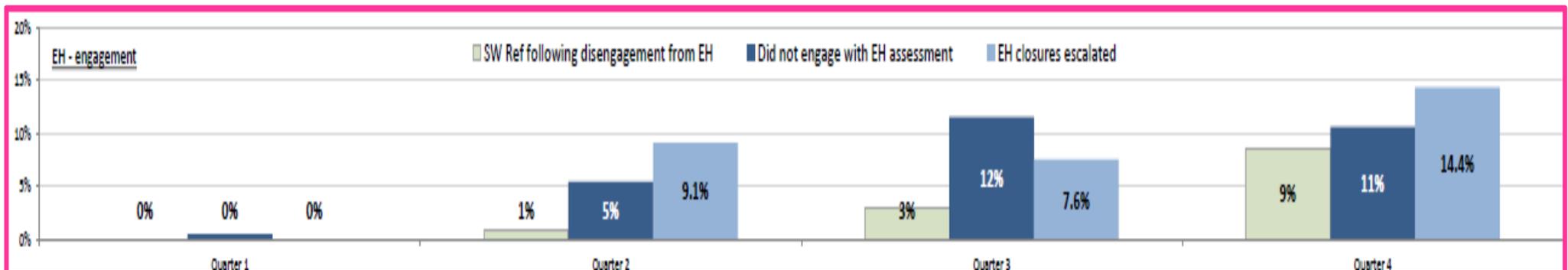
Children aged 0-4 years living in the reach area seen at any Children's Centre

Children's Centre Reach Area Group	Population estimate	No. of children reached			Direction of Travel
		Dec-16	Feb-17	Apr-17	
Ambleside	5,422	4,492 82.8%	4,318 79.6%	4,499 83.0%	Improving ↑
Brambles	4,726	3,875 82.0%	3,913 82.8%	3,907 82.7%	No change →
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,148</b>	<b>8,367 82.4%</b>	<b>8,231 81.1%</b>	<b>8,406 82.8%</b>	<b>Improving ↑</b>

**Commentary:** The figures quoted above reflect a rolling 12 month period (e.g. Apr 17 figures are for the period May16-Apr17). Reach figures continue to rise at both Children's Centre Group areas. The Ambleside Group did see a drop in reach during February 2017 however, since then figures continue to increase.

**Impact:**

- ✓ In the preceding 6 months of operation the Service has worked with just under 500 family referrals
- ✓ A performance framework
- ✓ CC's reached 70% of families with a child under 5
- ✓ Achieved our target to "Turn around" Families as part of the Troubled Families Programme
- ✓ Reduction in re-referrals or escalations to Childrens Social Care
- ✓ More Childrens Centres (CC) priority families 'reached' 80% of children registered and 65% reached
- ✓ More children's social care families supported as the percentage of children referred into Early Help who did not engage with Assessment has increased over each reporting period
- ✓ Provision of more Parenting groups for parents
- ✓ More families supported in the community via formal Contact Supervision Arrangements



# Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

- ✓ The MASH was launched 12 months ago. A range of partners to include Thames Valley Police and Health are present in the MASH with Housing, Probation and CRC having virtual links and supported by the Virtual School. There are information sharing agreements in place across partner agencies and all Wokingham schools able to share information through the MASH process to safeguard children.
- ✓ In February 2017 the sharing of Police domestic abuse notifications with schools was launched. Enabling schools to understand the child's lived experience and offer additional support.

## Signs of Safety (SoS)

The Signs of Safety model is an innovative strengths-based, safety-organised approach to child protection casework. SoS is an integrated framework for how to do children's services work - the principles for practice; the disciplines for practitioners' application of the approach; a range of tools for assessment, planning, decision making and engaging children and families; with processes where the work undertaken with families and children includes partner agencies.

Creating good outcomes for vulnerable children relies on depth of practice. Growing the depth of practice with the effective application of all aspects of Signs of Safety principles and disciplines guiding assessment and planning, safety planning specifically, and working with children.

The training strategy has been robust and ambitious, ensuring that all partners, including the voluntary sector have access to Signs of Safety awareness and introductory training. GP's, Thames Valley Police, Charities and Schools have all been able to access the half day workshop which introduces the concept of Signs of Safety. All staff in Children's Services and Partners are able to access the two day introductory training to Signs of Safety which is run quarterly.

### Impact and Outcomes

The Signs of Safety model has significant impacts in keeping Wokingham Borough's young people safe and staff value the training:-

*'I am in love with social work again'*

*'We are proud of the way we work with families, giving them the responsibility to show us they can keep their children safe'*

*'It is useful to have a framework and model to work to, and the families we work with are able to see very clearly why we are worried and what is going well for the family.'*

Signs of Safety multi-agency training April 2016 Training type	No. of staff trained Under EIP
2-day Basic	316
5-day Advanced (Public)	10
5-day Advanced (EIP localised)	122

# Attachment Theory

Attachment theory is focused on the relationship and bonds between people, particularly relationships between people and children. Attachment is described as a "lasting psychological connectedness between human beings." By receiving Attachment theory training, practitioners develop an understanding of the separation anxiety and distress that children experience when separated from their parents and primary care givers. The training is offered to social workers and foster carers.

## Impact

*'This had a brilliant impact in areas that I would have not noticed before. I am now able to observe the reactions of babies who exhibit specific behaviour with carers they do not feel safe with'*

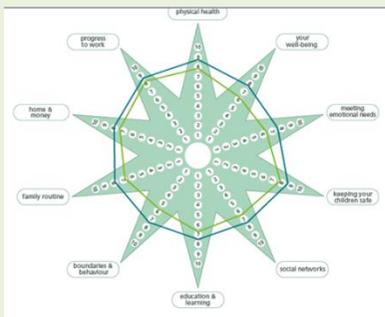
# Family Star

The Family Star Plus model measures outcomes of a child's journey through various indicators in relation to wellbeing. The Star is completed at the start and end of the journey enabling families to track their outcomes throughout their journey giving goals and measurable aspirations. The 'my star' element of this captures the voice of the child, their needs, their perspective on the changes they are experiencing and acts as a reference point to check the changes made by parents are enabling their children to thrive.



## Impact

Scores for pre and post intervention for Family star for the whole of Children's Services. The greatest change was seen in improving boundaries and behavior, parental wellbeing and meeting the emotional wellbeing of the child.



Element of the Star	Initial	Final	Change
Physical health	7.6	8.4	0.8
Your well-being	6.1	7.5	1.4
Meeting emotional needs	6.3	7.4	1.1
Keeping your children safe	7.6	8.4	0.8
Social networks	6.3	7.3	1
Education and learning	6.7	7.5	0.8
Boundaries and behaviour	5.7	7.4	1.7
Family routine	6.7	7.7	1.1
Home and money	7.1	7.7	0.6
Progress to work	8	8.3	0.3
Average	6.8	7.8	1

## Impact –

### Case Study of the Practice Framework alongside Social Care

A mother and four children (age ranging from 3 – 9 years) had a history of violent relationships. A children's centre practitioner worked with the family to help improve the outcomes using the practice framework.

Social services worked with the mother to identify the strengths the family had, this included them wanting to spend more time with each other and the mum wanting the best for her children. The social worker supported the mum to give evidence in court in a way that didn't leave her feeling intimidated, the worker also empowered the mum to explain to her children why their dad was absent in a way that didn't confuse them. Within the home the social worker showed mum how to prepare and store food safely, leading to the children eating healthier meals, as well as bringing about a number of changes to promote a healthier lifestyle. The mum was helped to plan activities better through the use of an activity planner to help reduce the stresses and bad behaviors amongst the children.

This led to a number of positive changes covering both physical and emotional wellbeing. The children had more energy due to the healthier foods. Clear routines helped with their attendance at school (90% +) and the morning, afterschool and evening routines which led to better bed times and less complaints from neighbours around the use of bad language. One of the children is making friends at school and the mum is actively engaging in this through setting up play dates and interacting with other parents. The family spend more time together and have started swimming every Friday with the use of the CAN card. Finally the number of violent outbursts from one of the children has reduced and mum has a clear routine for when they occur so she can keep the younger children safe from harm.

**Restorative Practice** helps families to be responsible for their own goals, behaviours and thoughts by helping them to reflect on this and work with professional

Social Workers told us -

*'This training has enabled us to realise that there is a better way of working. A value system whereby we use a common language, encouraging families to work out for themselves how they will deal with various situations and relationships they are struggling with.'*

*'We help families to be responsible for their own goals and behaviour and thoughts by helping them to reflect on them. In the ideal world with our support they learn to problem solve themselves, there is a less likely chance of the need for our services where applicable'*

## WSCB Quality & Performance Subgroup (Q&P)

Scrutiny by the Q&P Subgroup identifies challenge with exception reporting and highlighting risk to children and young people to the Board. Single agency and multi-agency audit provides learning and good practice to disseminate across multi agencies. The Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) play an important role in challenging safeguarding practice and assessing how effective these services are by endorsing and monitoring multi-agency action plans to challenge and improve practice.

### What we have achieved:

- ✓ Achieved the audit programme for 2016/17.
- ✓ Agreed audit programme for 2017/18 to include a single agency and independent audit where multi-agency working is a safeguarding theme.
- ✓ The subgroup scrutinise and analyse the WSCB data set. Any exceptions are reported to the Board and will inform future audit and enquiries for the group.
- ✓ The Wokingham Q&P joined the LSCB groups from West of Berkshire, LSCBs, Leads within Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust (BHFT) and the Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning (CCG) Future In Mind group to undertake an audit of children and young people with significant emotional health needs, requiring the support of other statutory partner agencies to test the applicability of the THRIVE model in supporting enhanced inter-agency early identification, intervention, assessment and planning to improve outcomes for children.
- ✓ A West of Berkshire neglect audit using an appreciative enquiry approach to finding out what worked with neglect cases. There were contributions from front line practitioners.



[Link to Q&P Annual Report](#)



### Pre-Birth audit (Single Agency) Wokingham Children's social Care

A pre-birth audit looked at the focus and practice for the unborn child. This resulted in the creation and publication of pre-birth guidance for front line workers to prioritise assessments early in pregnancy to identify risk sooner and provide timely involvement by professionals to safeguard the unborn child.

### Independent audits commissioned by the WSCB:

- CSE Practice
- Review of Early Help and Children's Social Care Interface
- Domestic Abuse
- Children's Social Care 'Front Door'

### What we need to do next?

- Consolidate the audits completed so far and ensure that the lessons learnt from these are being embedded
- Ensure that agencies include the audit actions in the Section 11 scrutiny of services

## WSCB Communication and Engagement Subgroup

The role of the Communication and Engagement Subgroup is to increase the understanding and knowledge of children, young people, parents, carers, the general public, professionals, partner organisations and WSCB members. We will raise awareness of safeguarding issues, with a particular focus on the Boards priorities and the responsibility of people to safeguard children; giving them the knowledge and means to report concerns. To help professionals and partners to do their job. We will add value for practitioners by providing easy and effective communication channels that meet their needs.

### What we have achieved:

- ✓ Safeguarding messages are included in Wokingham Borough News, a newsletter received by all Wokingham residents.
- ✓ WSCB Briefing for Professionals and Volunteers including TVP's social media guidance
- ✓ Community awareness raising event for partners and the voluntary sector - Children's Safeguarding – 'It's everyone's business' to look at the local picture on national issues and what support is being delivered in Wokingham
- ✓ CSE Awareness Day
- ✓ Social media campaigns and retweeting messages from partners
- ✓ Safeguarding messages posted on our Facebook page and WBC News microsite with a focus on:
  - Child Sexual Exploitation
  - Female Genital Mutilation
  - PREVENT
  - Emotional Health
  - Bullying & Self Harm
  - Domestic Abuse
  - Private Fostering
  - Safer Recruitment
- ✓ The promotion of partner events:
  - Domestic Abuse and Crime (Voice of the Child) campaign
  - Stand up against Female Genital Mutilation in February 2017
  - Child Sexual Exploitation awareness in March 2017

### What we need to next:

- Develop the WSCB website
- Create a forward plan of key messages 2017/18
- Fulfil the actions set out in the communication strategy and action plan – [Link to plan](#)



## West of Berkshire Subgroups

Wokingham, Reading and West Berkshire Local safeguarding Boards work together to share resources and gain a wider partnership learning to support and develop multi-agency practice to improve safeguarding outcomes for children and young people.



## West of Berkshire Learning & Development (L&D) Subgroup

### What we have achieved:

- 62 ✓ Multi-agency training needs assessment and audit across multi-agency partners to inform the training programme to meet the WSCB priorities and needs of professionals.
- ✓ Course evaluations are completed by all delegates at the end of each LSCB training course. All 3 West of Berkshire authorities use the same evaluation template for consistency. Any training provider concerns are responded to and resolved.
- ✓ LSCB Learning Forums are hosted by each L.A. to respond to current learning from S.C.R's and meet local training need across agencies.
  - CSE
  - Disguised Compliance
  - Learning from Serious Case Reviews
- ✓ The L&D group has agreed a standard impact evaluation template. Delegates will be asked to complete the evaluation 3 months after attending an LSCB course. The evaluation aims to identify the difference training has made to professional practice and to identify any organisational barriers to implementing learning.

### What do we need to do next:

- Ensure training reflects all the 2017/18 priorities and improve attendance at courses
- Embed the agreed and developed standard training impact evaluation.
- The Subgroup to quality assure trainers and courses.

The audit returned for Wokingham by the Learning & Development team in January 2017 evidenced that for 2016/17 to date the following safeguarding children specific courses have taken place:

- Signs of Safety – 41 delegates.
- Nurturing Attachments – 48 delegates.
- Safeguarding Children Universal – 52 delegates

21 delegates from Wokingham and 10 Private, Voluntary and Independent workers had accessed LSCB courses

- ✓ Adult and children's multi agency joint annual conference

## Pan Berkshire Subgroups

### Wokingham, Reading, West Berkshire, Slough and Windsor & Maidenhead



Bracknell Forest  
Local Safeguarding  
Children Board



**Policy & Procedures Subgroup.** The purpose of the Pan-Berkshire Policy and Procedures subgroup is to ensure that:

- ✓ The six Berkshire LSCBs develop and maintain high quality safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures.
- ✓ Safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures remain in line with key national policy and legislative changes.
- ✓ A Pan Berkshire Information Sharing Agreement has been endorsed by all six LSCBs. This will provide a clear framework for information sharing between agencies across Berkshire to safeguard children.
- ✓ The sub group routinely asks if any audits, inspections or reviews have identified changes to current procedures. The last SCR in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead has led to the creation of the pan Berkshire Escalation Policy.

#### What we need to do next:

- Learning from ongoing CSE operations and local SCRs will be considered by the group when they become available

**S11 Section Subgroup.** S11 of the Children Act 2004 places duties on a range of organisations and individuals to ensure their functions and any services that they contract out to others are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

The Section 11 Panels purpose is to oversee and assess the S11 self-assessment returns across Local Authorities and organisations that provide services to children in Berkshire to support the improvement of safeguarding children.

- ✓ Set clear expectations with the LSCBs and those organisations about the timeframe and process for submission of self-assessment section 11 audits, and ongoing development towards compliance.
- ✓ Review and evaluate S11 returns to make an assessment of the agencies' compliance with their duty to safeguard children and to identify and share good practice and learning.
- ✓ Review and evaluate those organisations' mid-term status of compliance against the three yearly full audits and provide support as needed.
- ✓ Report progress and scrutiny to the LSCB's every 6 months.

Berkshire LSCB Procedures Manuel on line <http://berks.proceduresonline.com/wokingham/index.html>



## West of Berkshire Case Review Subgroup

The LSCB Case review group is the lead for potential Serious Case Reviews (SCRs), cases are referred to them by any partner agency to identify and disseminate any potential learning to safeguard children

- Agree that the criteria have been met to undertake a SCR as defined in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015).
- Initiate/recommend individual agency reviews or small scale audits of individual cases which give rise to concern but which do not meet the criteria for a SCR.
- Review out of area serious case reviews for potential learning for the West of Berkshire LSCBs.

In the event that a Serious Case Review or other form of partnership review is recommended by the group, the group will be the conduit for communicating the outcome of the review and the lessons learnt.

### What we need to do next:

- The restructure of the Case Review Group by the new Chair.
- Focus on the timeliness of disseminating learning across agencies from serious case reviews

## Pan Berkshire Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

The purpose of the CDOP (as required by the Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006) is to collect and analyse information about each child death with a view to identify any changes that we can make or actions we can take that might help to prevent similar deaths in the future.

The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) started in 2008 and meets quarterly to review all child deaths and share lessons learnt to prevent further deaths. The panel consists of representatives from all six Berkshire Local Safeguarding Children Boards, i.e. Health, the Police, Coroners, Social Care and the Voluntary sector.

### What we have achieved:

- ✓ Multi-agency training day; Saving Children's Lives
- ✓ Refreshed CDOP website  
<http://www.westberkslscb.org.uk/professionals-volunteers/cdop/>
- ✓ Induction pack

### What we need to do next:

- Update WSCB website to include information from CDOP



# Local Context

## The Journey through Services in Wokingham

Early Help in Wokingham means taking action to provide multi-agency help and support for children, young people, their families and/or carers when there are concerns, need or if safeguarding risks have been identified. Early Intervention will help to prevent escalation into more serious problems for children and young people and we do this by building on people's existing strengths, helping them to achieve good outcomes so that individuals, families and communities achieve their full potential.

A single point of contact for help and support in Wokingham Children's Services is the 'front door' where multi-agency professionals and practitioners discuss each referral and share information where appropriate. They will discuss any concerns, consider the level of need and risk to the child taking into account any protective factors for each individual case. Using the LSCB agreed **Levels of Need** and Intervention Thresholds, they will assess whether the child and family's needs can be met by Universal Services, Early Intervention, Targeted or Specialist Services to safeguard the child and protect their wellbeing. This is achieved by working within our Policies and Procedures using the practice framework Signs of Safety, Family Star, Restorative Practice and Attachment Theory.

Wokingham has many indicators of prosperity, success and high educational attainment with some isolated pockets of deprivation in its community; it is estimated that approximately 6.33% of children are living in poverty before housing costs and 10.44% after housing costs (Oct-Dec 2015 estimates).



# Wokingham Safeguarding Snapshot 2016/17



The population in Wokingham is 160409 (2015 mid-year estimates)  
 4075 children and young people 0 – 19 years 10148 children under 5 years

- 10.44%** of children are estimated to be living in poverty
- 12.3%** of pupils in Wokingham are eligible for Pupil Premium
- 68%** of eligible vulnerable 2 year taking a place with early years provider/child minder
- 5.7%** of pupils are entitled to free school meals
- 11** Children were permanently excluded from school
- 4** Teenage pregnancies
- 6300** Contacts to the 'Front Door'
- 955** Referrals made to Children's Social Care
- 985** Child and Family Assessments were carried out
- 910** Children were referred to Early Help for support
- 151** Children were subject to a Child Protection Plans (CPP)
- 78** Children were looked after by the Local Authority
- 51** Children who are looked after live outside of the Borough
- 3** Children were adopted
- 3** Children were living in Private Fostering Arrangements
- 8** Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers
- 776** Children with Special Education Needs (SEN)
- 156** episodes of missing or absent children
- 446** Incidents of Domestic Abuse
- 73** Cases discussed at MARAC
- 776** Children with Special Education Needs (SEN)
- The proportion of children and young people with English as an additional language.  
 17% in Primary Schools (the national average is 20%)  
 14.6% in secondary schools (the national average is 15.7%)



# Child Protection

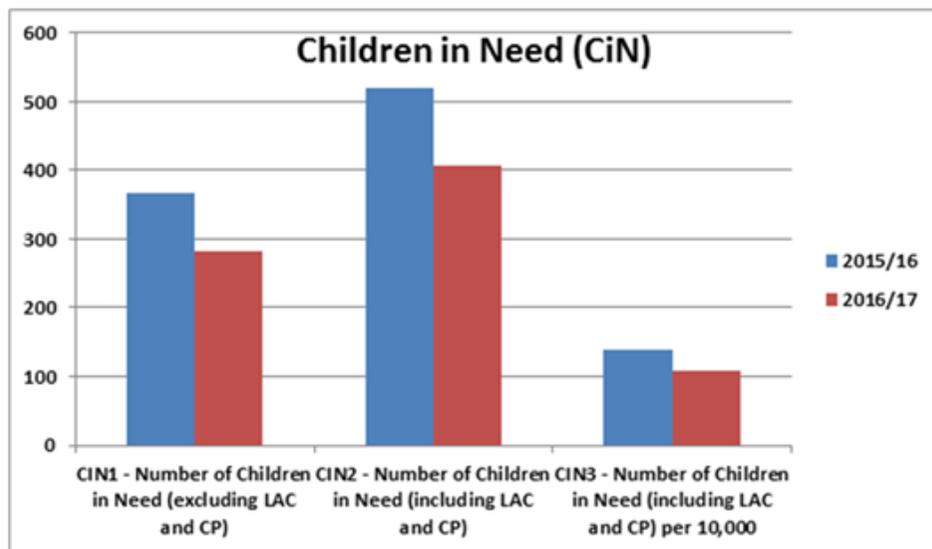
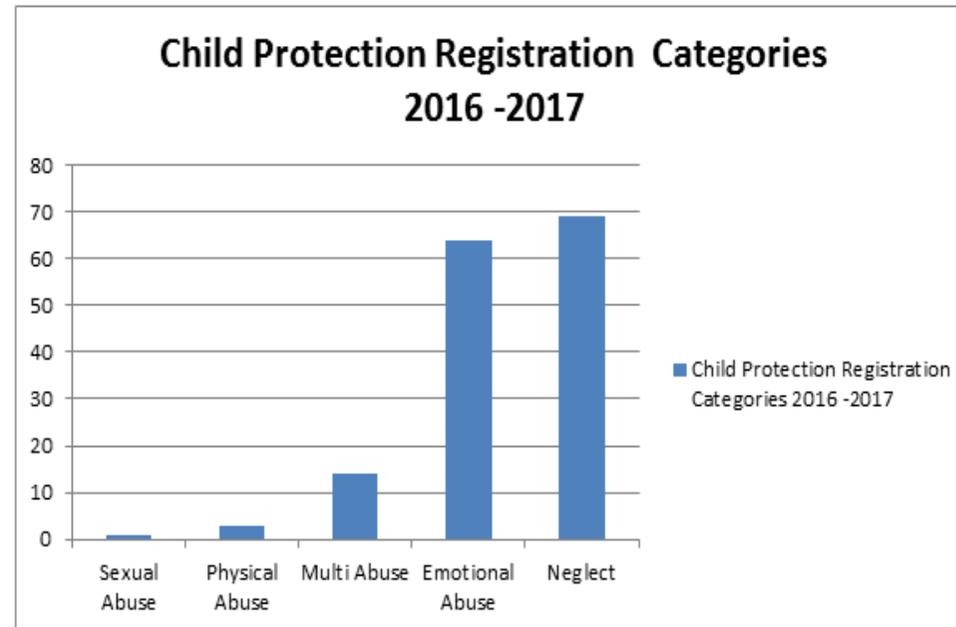
As of 31 March 2017 - 912 children had been identified through assessment as being in need of a specialist children's service intervention. This is a reduction from the 1034 carried out during 2015-16.

46 children were subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP), this is a reduction from the 66 children subject to a CPP in 2015 -16. In the last two quarters there were more children subject to a plan for a second or subsequent time.

As at 31 March 2017 there were no children living in a privately arranged foster placement. This is a decrease from the previous year of one child in a private fostering arrangement.

No Serious Case Reviews have been undertaken in the last reporting year.

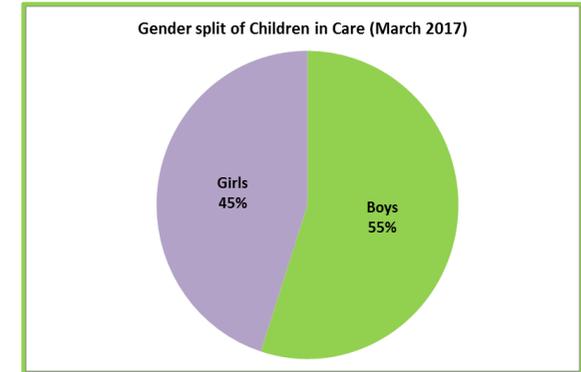
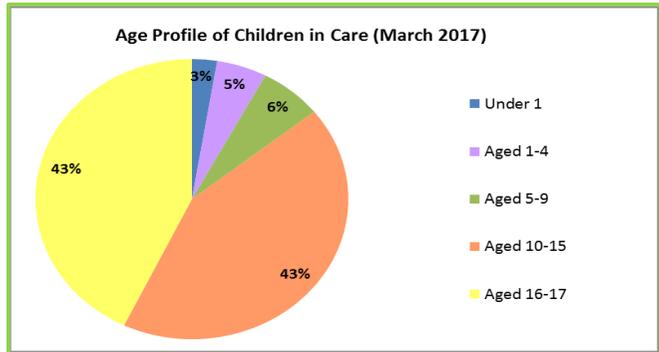
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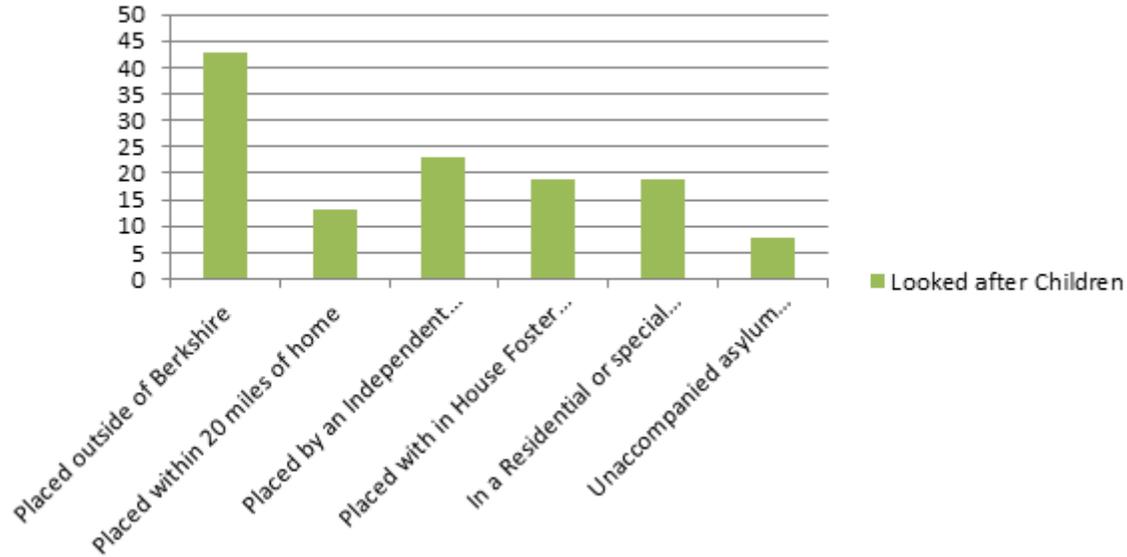
Initial category of abuse - CPP 2016-17	Gender		
	F	M	U
Emotional abuse	34.4%	65.6%	0.0%
Emotional abuse, Neglect	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Emotional abuse, Physical abuse	75.0%	25.0%	0.0%
Emotional abuse, Sexual abuse	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Neglect	44.9%	49.0%	6.1%
Neglect, Physical abuse	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Neglect, Sexual abuse	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Physical abuse	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Sexual abuse	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>43.0%</b>	<b>53.5%</b>	<b>3.5%</b>

## Looked after Children in Wokingham

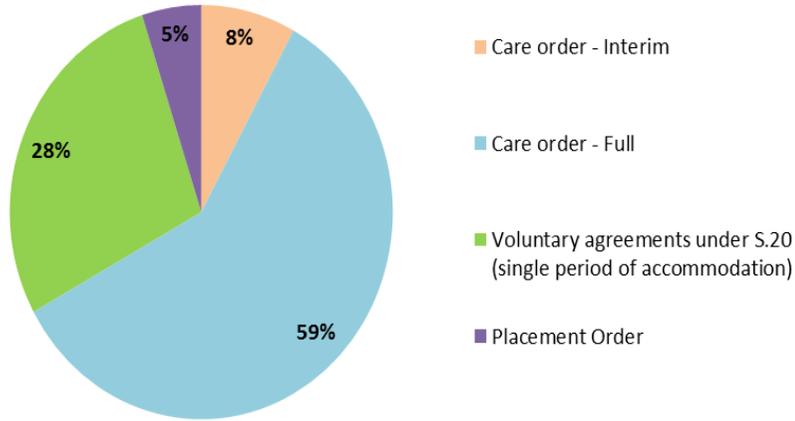
As of 31 March 2017 there were 78 children being looked after by the local authority (a rate of 20 per 10,000 children). This is a reduction from 83 children being looked after by the local authority at the end of March 2016 (a rate of 22.3 per 10,000 children). The average number of children in care in 15/16 was 75 and the average number of children in care for 16/17 was 81. The numbers started to increase in December 2016



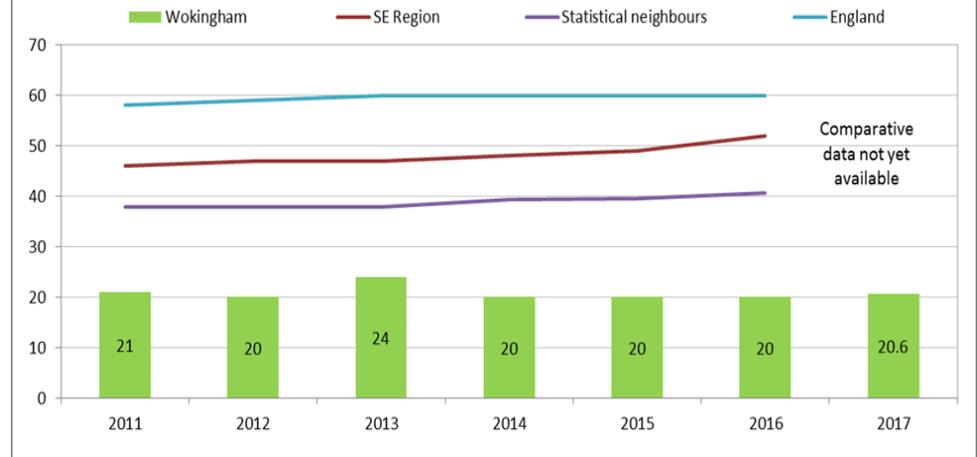
## Looked after Children



### Legal Status of Children in Care (March 2017)



### Children in Care per 100,000 child population (March 2017)



69



### Children in care: Rate per 10,000 child population

Area	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Wokingham	21.0	20.0	24.0	20.0	20	20	20.6
SE Region	46.0	47.0	47.0	48.0	49	52	Not available
Statistical neighbours	37.9	37.8	37.9	39.4	39.6	40.6	Not available
England	58.0	59.0	60.0	60.0	60	60	Not available

PCAMHS have three experienced mental health practitioners who work within Early Intervention (Tier 2) and offer time limited therapeutic

interventions (approx. 8-10 sessions) to children and young people within the Wokingham area only, with mild to moderate mental health difficulties / disorders.

## CAMHS Tier 2 referrals

### 1. Incidence of Neglect as the Primary Reason for Concern at Initial Child Protection Conference

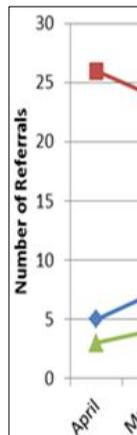
Wokingham Borough				National
13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	15/16
60%	31%	22%	60%	44.8%
89 of 13 children	19 of 61 children	27 of 123 children	52 of 86 children	28,360 of 63,310

### 2. % Referrals with a Primary Reason for Concern recorded where Neglect was the reason for concern

Wokingham Borough				National
13/14	14/15	15/16		15/16
14%	16%	15%		51%
90 of 633 referrals	75 of 464 referrals	86 of 560 referrals		199,720 of 394,400 recorded against "Abuse or Neglect"

### 3. % Re-referrals with a Primary Reason for Concern recorded where Neglect was the reason for concern

Wokingham Borough				National
13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	
19%	15%	22%		Not available
43 of 224 re-referrals	24 of 160 re-referrals	27 of 123 re-referrals		

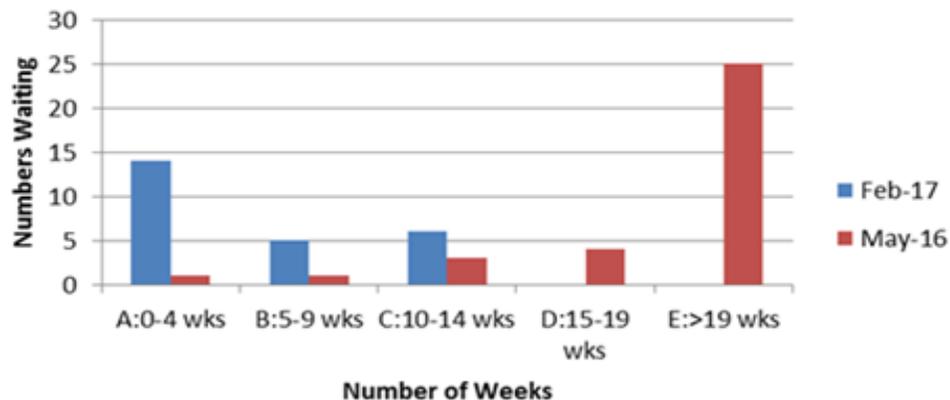


Month of Referral

1/15  
1/16  
1/17

### Waiting Times for PCAMHs

May '16 compared with Feb '17



**WSCB Member Attendance to Board meetings:**

Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust /Urgent Care Group / Named CP Nurse / Designated Professional for Child Death		66.60%
Berkshire West CCG		100.00%
Berkshire Women's Aid		33.30%
CAMHS & Community Mental Health Services		66.60%
Children, Young People and Families		100.00%
Peoples Services - Head		83.30%
Children Services - Lead Member - Observer		83.30%
Early Years		66.60%
Housing		50.00%
Lay Member		100.00%
Learning and Achievement		66.60%
Probation - National Probation Service		50.00%
Probation - Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company		83.30%
Schools Independent		66.60%
Schools Primary, Secondary and Special Needs		83.30%
Social Care and Early Intervention		66.60%
Thames Valley Police		100.00%

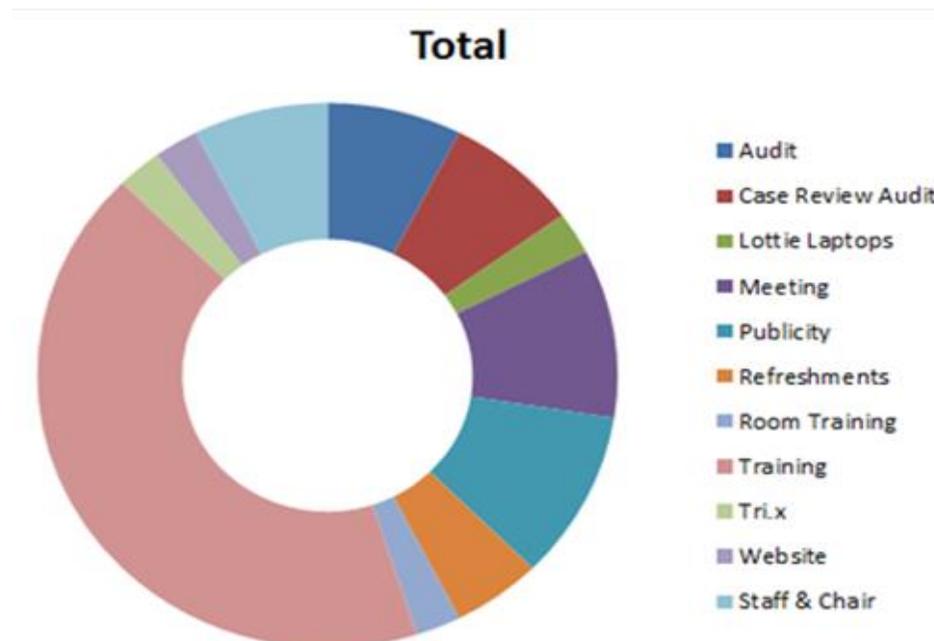
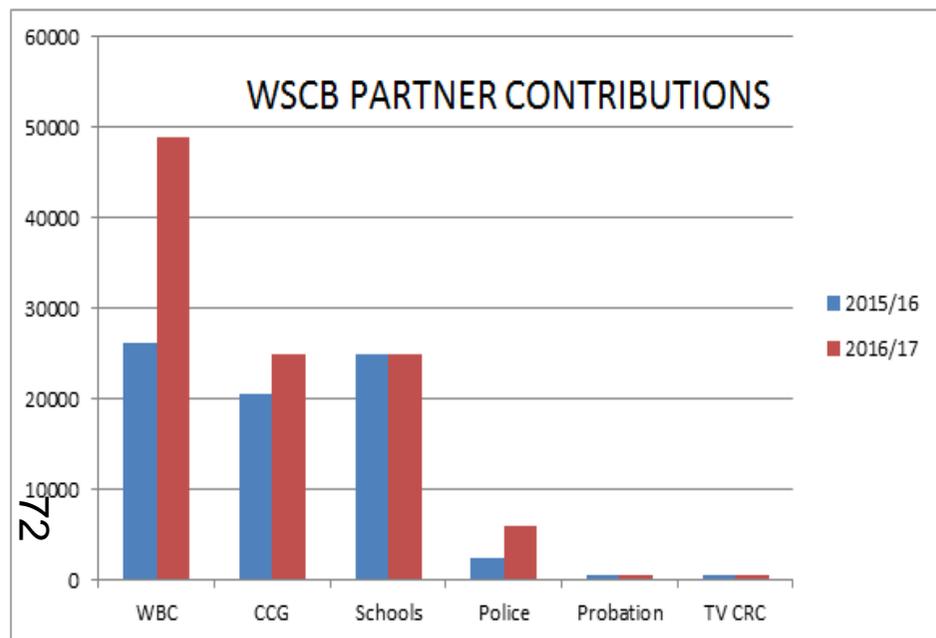
**The Wokingham Safeguarding Board Children Board**

has committed members who meet bi-monthly throughout the year. Membership is quorate with membership made up of representatives from all statutory partners. We welcomed a new Lay Member to the Board in 2016



# Financing the WSCB

Working Together 2015 (WT2015) requires that all partner organisations have an obligation to provide LSCBs with financial support to ensure that the LSCB has the necessary resources required to operate effectively and that there is inter-agency agreement as to their use.



## FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

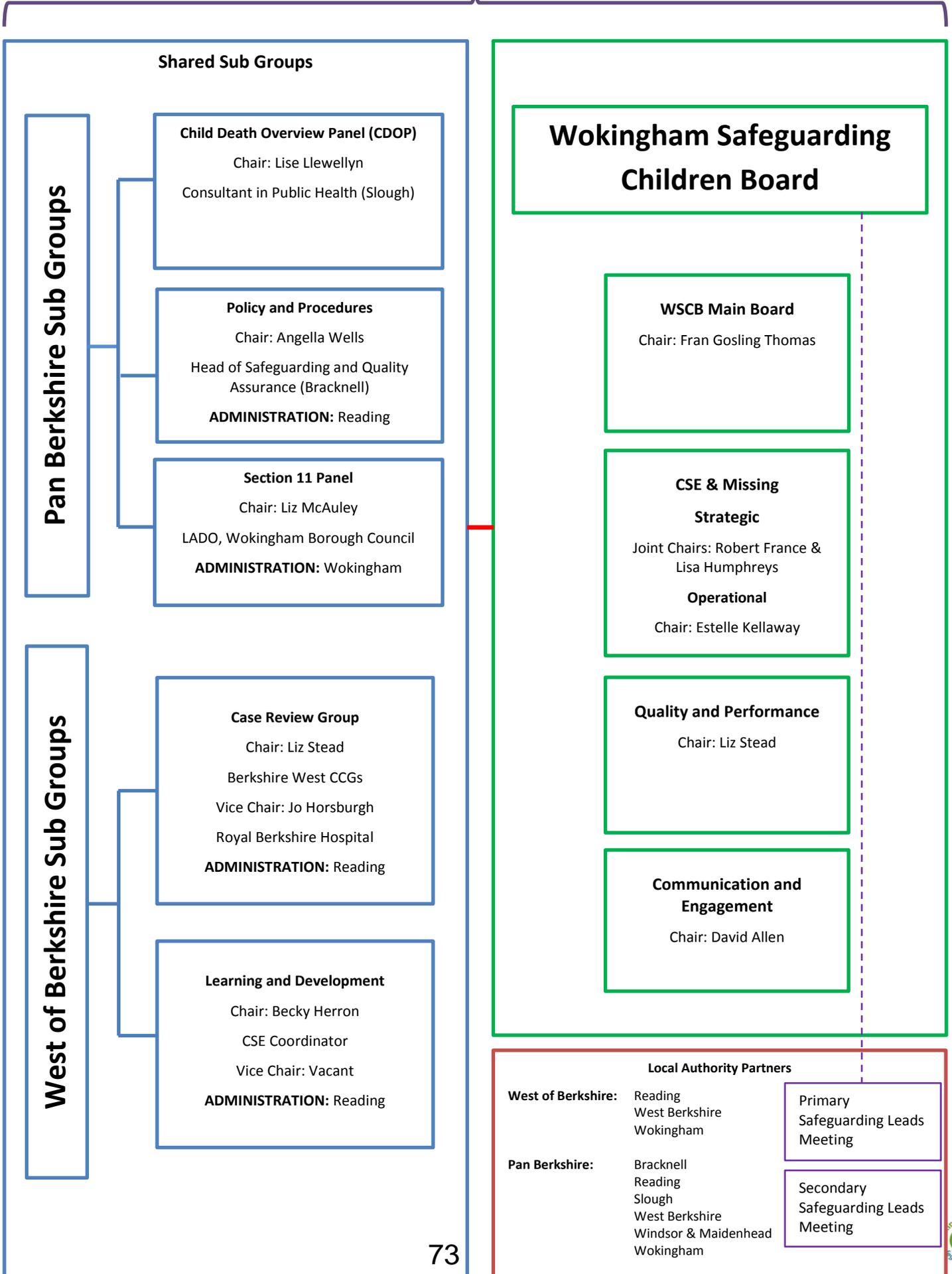
Partner agencies continued to contribute to the WSCB's budget for 2016/17.

**Agency contributions totalled £105,895.00**

This income virtually covered the cost of running the WSCB with a £3000 overspend.

There will be budget challenges for all agencies in 2017/18.

# Wokingham Safeguarding Children Board Structure



# Wokingham Safeguarding Children Board

## 'Keeping Children Safe' Plan 2017/18

### Priorities - [Link to Plan](#)

1. **CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION:** An expansion on the 2016-17 priority to explore the definition of CSE in the wider sense and to include bullying.
2. **NEGLECT (INCLUDING DOMESTIC ABUSE):** Neglect is applied as an umbrella term for various themes and our focus will be on assessing the impact neglect has on a child who lives in an environment where they are exposed or experience Domestic Abuse and how the continuous cycle of neglect results in the child not meeting innate potential.
3. **INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF FRONT-LINE PRACTICE:** Understanding and being clear about risk and how we evidence best practice through innovation and development.

74



Visit our website <http://www.wokinghamlscb.org.uk/>

## Glossary

<b>BHFT</b>	Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	<b>EHH</b>	Early Help Hub
<b>BME</b>	Black and Minority Ethnic	<b>MAPPA</b>	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements
<b>BWA</b>	Berkshire Women's Aid	<b>MARAC</b>	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
<b>CAF</b>	Common Assessment Framework	<b>NEET</b>	Not in Employment, Education or Training
<b>CAFCASS</b>	Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service	<b>ONS</b>	Office of National Statistics
<b>CAMHS</b>	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services	<b>PP</b>	Pupil Premium
<b>CCG</b>	Clinical Commissioning Group	<b>PCAMHS</b>	Primary Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
<b>CDOP</b>	Child Death Overview Panel	<b>PSCHE</b>	Personal, Social Care and Health Education
<b>CC</b>	Children's Centres	<b>RBFT</b>	Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust
<b>CIC</b>	Child/ren in Care	<b>SAPB</b>	Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board
<b>ciN</b>	Child in Need	<b>SARC</b>	Sexual Assault Referral Centre
<b>CMoE</b>	Children Missing out on Education	<b>SCR</b>	Serious Case Review
<b>CP</b>	Child Protection	<b>SEN</b>	Special Educational Needs
<b>CPC</b>	Child protection Conference	<b>SERA</b>	Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessed
<b>CSC</b>	Children's Social Care	<b>SoS</b>	Signs of Safety
<b>CQC</b>	Care Quality Commission	<b>TVP</b>	Thames Valley Police
<b>CSC</b>	Children's Social Care	<b>VCF</b>	Voluntary, Community and Faith
<b>CSE</b>	Child Sexual Exploitation	<b>WBC</b>	Wokingham Borough Council
<b>CYP</b>	Children & Young People	<b>WSCB</b>	Wokingham Safeguarding Children Board
<b>DA</b>	Domestic Abuse	<b>SEMRAC</b>	Sexual Exploitation Missing Risk Assessment Conference
<b>DARIM</b>	Domestic Abuse Risk Identification Matrix	<b>WT</b>	Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015
<b>DBS</b>	Disclosure and Barring Service	<b>WYOS</b>	Wokingham Youth Offending Service
<b>DfE</b>	Department for Education	<b>YOT</b>	Youth Offending Team
<b>DV</b>	Domestic Violence	<b>YOS</b>	Youth Offending Service
<b>EHCP</b>	Education, Health and care Plan	Author: Sherrie Newell, WSCB Business Manager August 2017 v3	

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<b>TITLE</b>	<b>ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
<b>DATE</b>	14 November 2017
<b>STRATEGIC DIRECTOR</b>	Judith Ramsden, Director for People Services

## **SUMMARY**

Wokingham Borough Council is committed to becoming an "outstanding" Corporate Parent. It has a legal responsibility to children in care and those leaving care. The Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report provides assurance that we are making progress towards that goal.

This report sets out how Wokingham Borough Council has worked to fulfil its responsibilities over the last year using both qualitative and quantitative data and the feedback of the children and young people in our care and those who are currently leaving care.

## **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To present the Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2016/7 as part of our assurance to Corporate Parenting Board of delivery and impact for Children in Care and to recommend updated Strategic Priorities for 2017-18.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Agree and endorse the annual Corporate Parenting report
2. Note the recommendations and strategic delivery action plan
3. To agree the new strategic priorities for 2017-18
4. Request six monthly updates on the progress of the 2017/2018 action plan
5. It is recommended that all Corporate Parenting Board agenda items and minutes reference which priority it relates to in order to easily identify minuted progress against the priorities.

# Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report and Impact Statement 2016 – 2017

## 1. Introduction

Wokingham Borough Council is committed to becoming an “outstanding” Corporate parent, and has a legal responsibility to children in care and those leaving care. As Corporate Parents we must replicate the care and support provided by a ‘good parent’. We do not underestimate the challenges this poses but we know that for our children in care and care leavers, their experiences in childhood and through their teenage years are critical in shaping their future happiness and setting the foundations for what they can achieve throughout their adult lives. Good parenting is vital, which is why the role of Corporate Parent is one of the central responsibilities of the Council. As an innovative council we must provide good opportunities for the children and young people in our care to fulfil their potential.

This report sets out how Wokingham Borough Council has worked to fulfil its responsibilities over the last year using both qualitative and quantitative data and the feedback of the children and young people in our care and those who are currently leaving care.

The Children in Care Council reviewed the council’s delivery of the Pledge and reported on this to the Corporate Parenting Board.

The report provides the rationale for the Corporate Parenting Board’s strategy in 2017/18.

## 2. Key information

**Corporate Parenting** is the term used to refer to the responsibility of the Council to provide the best possible care and protection for children and young people who are in care. At the core of this responsibility is the duty to provide the type of support that any good parent would provide for their own children.

**The Legal Framework:** Legislation and statutory and non-statutory guidance covering the responsibilities of local authorities and their partners for children in care is extensive. The legal framework covers all aspects of a child’s journey through care, including health, education and ensuring the child’s voice is heard in the care process. The framework also includes regulations and guidance relevant to children’s homes and fostering services providers. The below pictorial representation of this framework rightly places the child in care at the centre:



### 3. Our strategic priorities 2016 - 2017

Our strategic priorities in 2016-17 were:

- i. To ensure the strength and effectiveness of the role of the Corporate Parenting Board thus its impact on the Corporate Parenting function of the Council as a whole
- ii. To strengthen the voice of children in care and care leavers in planning, reviewing and decision making
- iii. To consolidate progress and continue to improve the timeliness of permanency for children in care across the range of permanent options
- iv. To improve provision for care leavers in Wokingham
- v. To improve educational outcomes for children in care and care leavers in Wokingham
- vi. To improve health provision for children in care and care leavers in Wokingham

This report is structured under the heading of each of these priorities to outline what has been achieved in the last year.

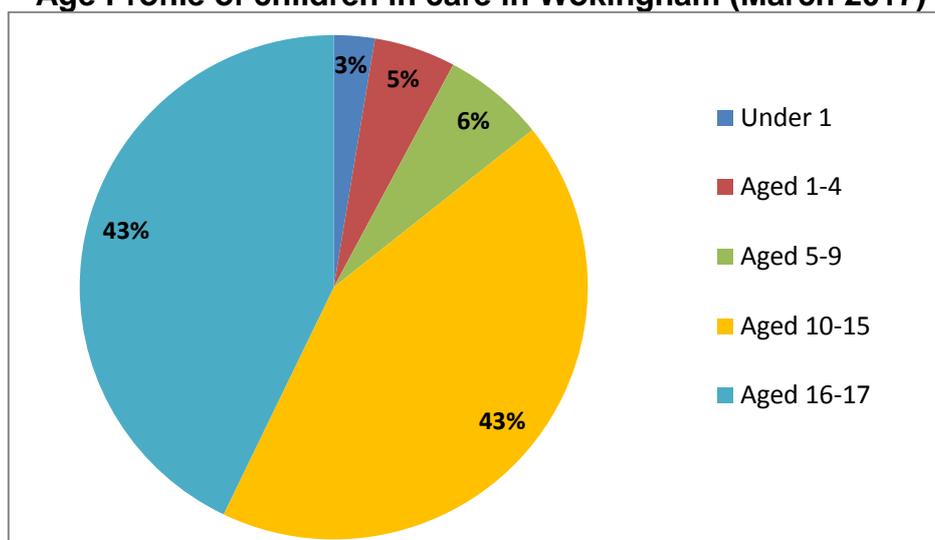
#### 4. Contextual information on the children in care

Headline data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017, we were the corporate parent to 75 children in our care and 138 care leavers.</li> <li>We continued to care for significantly fewer children per 10,000 than our statistical neighbours, the SE region or England - there is no evidence that this is the 'wrong rate for Wokingham'</li> <li>We had significantly more boys in our care in the age group 10-17</li> <li>Adoption rates are low</li> </ul>

The number of children in care in Wokingham has remained relatively stable for the past few years with the highest number being 81 as at March 2016, and the lowest being 74 as at March 2015. As at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017, we had 75 children in our care and a further two children in care in receipt of short breaks. Wokingham was also responsible for 33 former relevant care leavers aged under 21 as at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017.

Children in care: Rate per 10,000 Children							
Area	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Wokingham	21.0	20.0	24.0	20.0	20	20	20.6
SE Region	46.0	47.0	47.0	48.0	49	52	Not available
Statistical neighbours	37.9	37.8	37.9	39.4	39.6	40.6	Not available
England	58.0	59.0	60.0	60.0	60	60	Not available

**Age Profile of children in care in Wokingham (March 2017)**



Updated 10/5/17

Wokingham has noticeably had a reduction in the proportion of younger children in care over the last year, but the proportion of children aged over 10 is rising, with children aged 10-15 now comprising over half our children in care.

<b>Ethnicity profile of children in care</b>						
<b>Ethnic Group</b>	<b>March 2013</b>	<b>March 2014</b>	<b>March 2015</b>	<b>March 2016</b>	<b>March 2017</b>	<b>2017 %</b>
White	69	63	62	65	54	70.1%
Mixed	8	6	4	6	5	6.5%
Asian or Asian British	5	4	6	7	8	10.4%
Black or Black British	1	0	0	1	4	5.2%
Other ethnic groups	3	2	2	4	6	7.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>77</b>	

There is a proportionate number of children from ethnic minority backgrounds with 30% of our children in care coming from ethnic minority backgrounds which is a similar number to those in the community.

<b>Gender profile of children in care</b>												
<b>Age group</b>	<b>March 2012</b>		<b>March 2013</b>		<b>March 2014</b>		<b>March 2015</b>		<b>March 2016</b>		<b>March 2017</b>	
	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>										
Under 1	2	0	1	3	0	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
Aged 1 - 4	8	4	9	4	10	3	1	3	5	4	1	3
Aged 5 - 9	7	6	6	9	3	3	2	6	2	2	3	2
Aged 10 - 15	18	8	22	11	23	15	27	16	19	21	18	15
Aged 16-17	10	9	13	8	12	4	12	3	20	7	19	14
Aged 18+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>35</b>
	<b>72</b>		<b>86</b>		<b>75</b>		<b>74</b>		<b>83</b>		<b>77</b>	

National data shows a mix of around 55% boys and 45% girls, yet Wokingham's data continued to show boys slightly over-represented in the mix of children who were in care (61% boys and 39% girls). There may be a suggestion that boys in their mid-teens are over-represented.

<b>The Legal Status of our children in care</b>					
<b>Legal Status</b>	<b>March 2013</b>	<b>March 2014</b>	<b>March 2015</b>	<b>March 2016</b>	<b>March 2017</b>
Care order – interim	18	13	4	8	7
Care order	38	36	41	43	44
s20 of Children Act 1989 (parents request)	29	21	24	23	22
Placement order	1	5	2	7	3
On remand, detained etc	0	0	0	0	1

Emergency order or police protection	0	0	3	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>77</b>

As of 31st March	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Wokingham	11.9	*	*	12.5	9	11	11	5	6
Statistical Neighbours	12.09	12.12	10.45	10.99	10.2	9.1	11.33	Not published	Not published
England	11.1	11.4	11	11	11	10	11	Not published	Not published

Source: DfE – Local Authority Interactive Tool

\*-% suppressed as below 5

Data has not been published for 2016 and is not available for 2017

### Children missing from care

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Number of children missing from care between 1 <sup>st</sup> April and 31 <sup>st</sup> March	10	14	12
Number of missing incidents between 1 <sup>st</sup> April and 31 <sup>st</sup> March	32	54	51
Number of children absent from care between 1 <sup>st</sup> April and 31 <sup>st</sup> March	10	9	1
Number of absent incidents between 1 <sup>st</sup> April and 31 <sup>st</sup> March	18	26	11
Number of return interviews accepted between 1 <sup>st</sup> April and 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Not recorded	Not recorded	27
Number of return interviews completed between 1 <sup>st</sup> April and 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Not recorded	Not recorded	26

The number of children classed as absent has decreased significantly in 2016-17 due to a change in the way Thames Valley Police classify missing and absent children.

## 5. Overview of Progress

### (i) To ensure the strength and effectiveness of the role of the Corporate Parenting Board and thus its impact on the Corporate Parenting function of the Council as a whole

As identified below, the Corporate Parenting Board have regularly reviewed a number of items in order to monitor progress and improvement. The below table captures the information and inputs received, which support the Board to fulfil its duties;

CPB Date	Agenda items and actions discussed
May 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verbal update regarding improved communication with children</li> <li>• Children in Care and Care leavers pledge</li> <li>• Corporate Parenting Board took part in a workshop in relation to the role of the corporate parent</li> </ul>
July 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing Strategy for care leavers</li> <li>• Improvement Plan for Children in Care presentation</li> <li>• IRO Annual Report</li> <li>• Fostering Annual Report</li> <li>• Complaints and Plaudits summary of the annual report</li> <li>• Save the Date – Children in Care Awards</li> </ul>
September 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governance and Strategy</li> <li>• CPB Strategy for 2017-18</li> <li>• Terms of Reference Review</li> <li>• Roles and Responsibilities</li> <li>• CiC Education Results</li> <li>• Here4U Briefing</li> <li>• Apprenticeships</li> </ul>
November 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing Strategy for Care Leavers verbal update</li> <li>• Children in Care Council verbal discussion</li> <li>• Children in Care Pledge verbal discussion</li> <li>• Children in Care Data report</li> <li>• CPB Priorities</li> <li>• Themes</li> <li>• Top 5 Priorities</li> <li>• Day to Day Action plan</li> <li>• Fostering Update Report</li> <li>• Here4U Verbal Update</li> <li>• Children in Care Celebration review – Presentation</li> <li>• Consideration of further Members training</li> </ul>

CPB Date	Agenda items and actions discussed
January 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children in Care Council Brief Report – verbal update from CiCC</li> <li>• Update Report Children’s Health</li> <li>• Adopt Thames Valley Regionalised Adoption Agency</li> <li>• Virtual School Children’s Case Studies - Presentation</li> <li>• Corporate Parenting Priorities</li> </ul>
March 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CiCC Update</li> <li>• Recruitment and Retention of Foster Carers</li> <li>• CPB Action Plan and Priorities (including Task and Finish Groups)</li> <li>• Apprenticeship Strategy</li> <li>• CPB Annual Report</li> <li>• Adoption Annual Review</li> <li>• LSCB Annual Report – for information only</li> <li>• IRO Annual Report</li> </ul>

### **Key achievements**

In the last year, members have made a determined effort to improve the work of the board and looked to promote corporate parenting in Town Councils locally. They decided in September 2016 that they would focus on the fundamental issues affecting children and young people in care which translated into the new Corporate Parenting Strategy 2017-18.

The CPB endorsed the new Missing from Care Strategy and has endorsed the CSE Strategy. Going forward CPB will receive quarterly reports in relation to the impact of those strategies and will review how the local authority is keeping children safe.

Members took part in a workshop on their role as corporate parents and as a result this has strengthened their approach and understanding of their responsibilities in the wider context of their role as councillors locally.

Further workshops and training has been planned to run throughout 2017-18.

### **Partnerships**

As a good corporate parent, we use our leadership role in statutory boards to ensure that outcomes for children in care and care leavers are improved year on year. The key to ensuring that children in care receive the best possible service is to work in partnership with other agencies from the moment children first receive services from us. The below are some of the boards/partnerships that contribute to the quality of service that children in care and care leavers receive.

#### Health and Wellbeing Board

The Health and Wellbeing Board provides oversight and accountability for improving the health outcomes of children in care and care leavers.

The Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report goes to Wokingham Safeguarding Children Board. The safeguarding board has a protocol in place with the Health and Wellbeing Board to ensure information is shared and all partner agencies appraised of developments.

#### Wokingham Safeguarding Children's Board

The LSCB scrutinises the safeguarding of children in care, and will hold the CPB to account in this regard. The Corporate Parenting Board will report to the LSCB annually for multi-agency support and challenge

#### Community Safety Partnership

The Community Safety Partnership is made up of the key organisations responsible for keeping the borough safe. The partnership includes: Thames Valley Police, the Borough Council, Thames Valley Probation, Berkshire West Primary Care Trust, Thames Valley Police Authority and Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service. Priorities include hidden crimes and their impact on vulnerable people and their families, which includes work on domestic abuse and hate crime.

#### Local Family Justice Board

The aim of Local Family Justice Boards is to achieve significant improvement in the performance of the family justice system in local areas.

In recent years the Family Justice Board has contributed to the significant improvement in the timescales for progressing children's cases through the court, achieving permanence in a timely manner.

#### Children in Care Council

Members of the Children in Care Council are young people who have left care or who are currently in care who work with both the Corporate Parenting Board and officers to advise and support the delivery of services to children in care and who hold the Council to account for the standard and quality of the care provided.

## **(ii) To strengthen the voice of children in care and care leavers in planning, reviewing and decision making**

Wokingham Council is fully committed to putting the experience and feedback of our children in care and care leavers at the heart of our system in order to inform service improvements and strategic priorities, and to ensure a meaningful connectivity and accountability to our children. We are committed to developing as many innovative ways as possible to encourage the widest range of children and young people to influence the actions of Corporate Parents to drive the activity of Corporate Parents and the Service.

### **Key achievements**

The annual children in care survey was sent out in June 2016 we were able to draw from it themes to help us identify areas where we need to do more. Some of the children who responded were unsure about whether or not they had seen the Pledge, so in future surveys we will always include a link to it (this was a suggestion from the Children in Care Council).

Most of the children agreed that we had delivered what we said we were going to deliver.

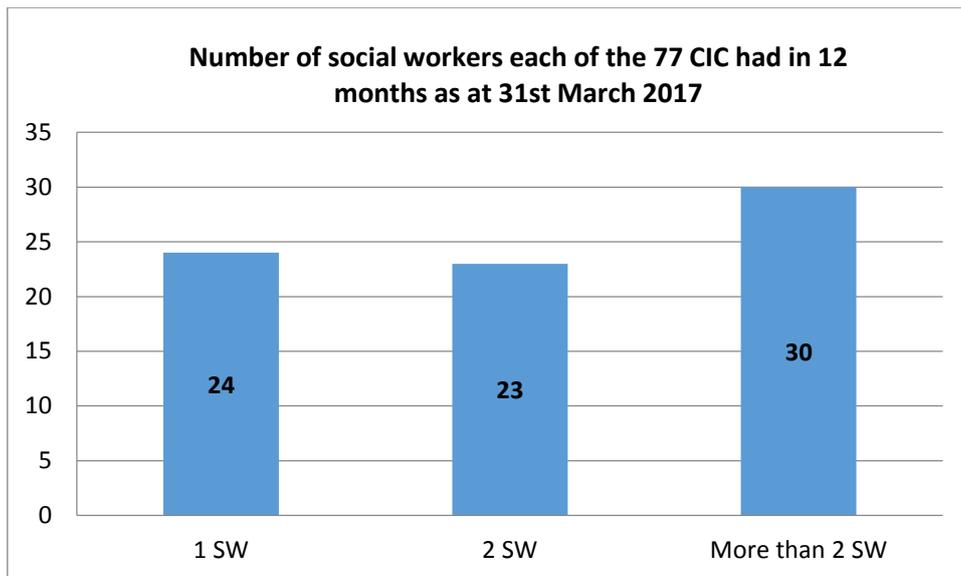
- We commissioned a children's rights and advocacy service which ensures continuity but also adds capacity and resilience
- We established a new pathway for children in care and care leavers to the IV scheme to overcome the current system barriers
- We invited a member of the Children in Care Council or care leaver to become a member of the Fostering Panel, the internal 'promoting permanence panel', and the management committee of the virtual school.
- The Children in Care Council facilitate one of the social work development sessions or have an input into the cross service day
- The recruitment of social workers is prioritised for children in care and care leavers
- Life story work has been reviewed and all children have had life story work. A new method for undertaking the work is to be included on the new website later in 2017
- All managers ensure that their social workers who are leaving have time to say 'good bye' and write a letter summarising their involvement with the young person to give them as they leave and also to hold on file.
- The Board has tracked ongoing compliance with the Pledge.

### **What do children in care tell us?**

Overall feedback from children in care is positive and tells the Corporate Parenting Board that the promises the Council made to children in care are being delivered on.

Issues continued to be raised by the Children in Care Council about the lack of continuity of Social Worker. Creating and sustaining a skilled and stable workforce has been a key priority of 2016/17 within Children’s Services. Some notable points from some of the consultation work that has taken place includes;

<b>Consultation</b>	<b>What children in care and care leavers told us</b>
Children in care Pledge Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The majority of young people did not feel there needed to be any change to the pledge, both in May and November 2016</li> <li>• More young people wanted to be told things straight away</li> <li>• Young people wanted access to counselling</li> <li>• 76% of young people felt promises had been kept</li> <li>• Children in care wanted to remain living closer to home</li> <li>• 100% of children felt settled in their homes</li> </ul>
Leaving Care Pledge survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The majority of care leavers who took part in the survey felt;               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Supported by other agencies and know how to contact their personal adviser</li> </ul> </li> <li>• There were more positive comments than negative</li> <li>• The Survey overall suggested the pledge is being fulfilled.</li> <li>• Care leavers want more support in preparing for work and further education</li> <li>• 41% of care leavers felt cared for by the people that help them</li> <li>• They would like more support to find out about their history</li> </ul>



### What is next?

The response rate to the Annual Survey was not as high as we would expect with just 28 responses out of a total of 63 surveys sent out so we need to identify new ways of engaging children and young people in the surveys, including producing the survey in an accessible format for children and young people who use other forms of communication.

The Children in Care Council suggested that we should do the survey as an electronic survey through Survey Monkey or a similar e-survey tool which we will consider alongside them in designing the next survey.

When issuing the Annual Survey, we will ensure that a link to the Pledge is also attached.

We are aware that numbers of children attending the Children in Care council have significantly fallen over the last 2 years and will be exploring ways to better engage children in care in the strategic design and development of Children's Services.

Young people and care leavers have asked to be part of foster care preparation and on-going training. This will be facilitated in 2017-18.

(iii) To consolidate progress and continue to improve the timeliness of permanency for children in care across the range of permanent options

Length of time in care				
Time in care so far	Number of children as at 31 March 2014	Number of children as at 31 March 2015	Number of children as at 31 March 2016	Number of children as at 31 March 2017
Under 1 year	19	25	29	19
1 up to 2	24	11	14	14
2 up to 3	8	17	7	9
3 up to 4	6	7	13	7
4 up to 5	3	3	7	11
5 up to 6	5	2	3	5
6+	10	9	10	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>77</b>

The above table shows that the duration of children's time in care is shortening.

Figures in table as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016

Area	% of LAC placed within 20 miles of home
<b>South East</b>	<b>85</b>
Bracknell Forest	71
Brighton and Hove	88
Buckinghamshire	69
East Sussex	91
Hampshire	83
Isle Of Wight	83
Kent	96
Medway Towns	84
Milton Keynes	83
Oxfordshire	78
Portsmouth	88
Reading	65
Slough	73
Southampton	85
Surrey	77
West Berkshire	74
West Sussex	91
Windsor and Maidenhead	73
Wokingham	64

### Figures for year ending 31 March 16

	% LAC within LA boundary
<b>South East</b>	51
Bracknell Forest	59
Brighton and Hove	37
Buckinghamshire	47
East Sussex	75
Hampshire	70
Isle Of Wight	69
Kent	41
Medway Towns	49
Milton Keynes	54
Oxfordshire	68
Portsmouth	39
Reading	35
Slough	30
Southampton	46
Surrey	47
West Berkshire	52
West Sussex	63
Windsor and Maidenhead	35
Wokingham	34

Wokingham's result of 34% is similar to that of Slough (30%), Reading (35%) and Windsor & Maidenhead (35%); perhaps reflecting local difficulty in finding suitable placements in the area. Data on the percentage of children placed more than 20 miles from home and also outside of their LA boundary shows, for our statistical neighbours:

Area	2013	2014	2015	2016
Hampshire	14	15	17	14
Windsor and Maidenhead	13	17	25	24
Hertfordshire	14	17	16	17
Cheshire East	16	17	16	X
Bracknell Forest	17	19	24	21
Surrey	21	22	25	21
Oxfordshire	18	23	23	20
Rutland	32	26	48	16
<b>Wokingham</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>34</b>
Buckinghamshire	26	30	34	27
West Berkshire	20	32	29	27
<b>Statistical Neighbours</b>	<b>19.1</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>25.7</b>	<b>25.9</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>

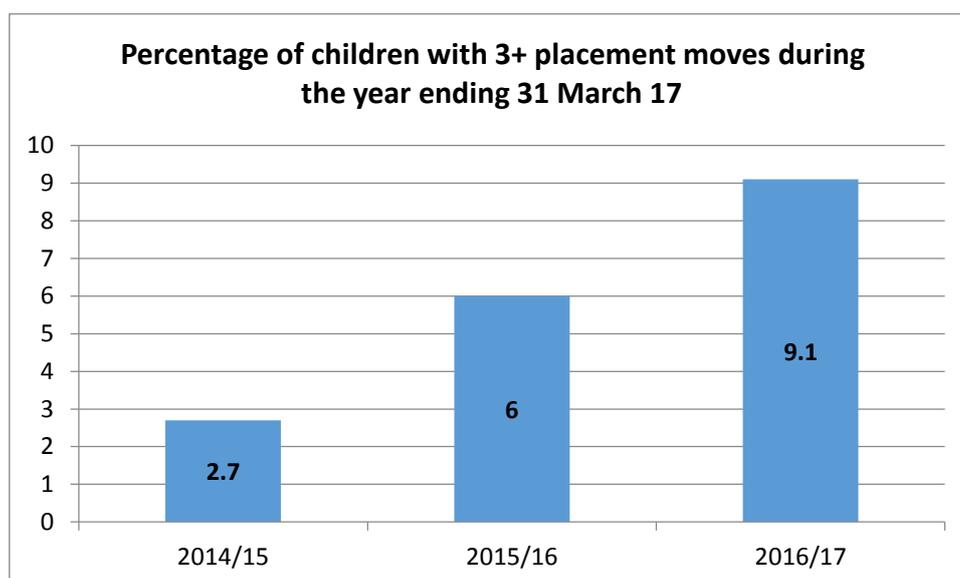
X=data suppressed to protect confidentiality

2017 data for statistical neighbours not yet available

The data around children placed within Berkshire and other authority areas shows as follows (Note: this figure excludes 2 children who have short breaks);

Area	Number of children at March 17	%
<b>Placed In Berkshire</b>		
Berkshire	37	49.3
<b>Placed outside of Berkshire</b>		
Buckinghamshire	2	2.7
East Sussex	1	1.3
Gloucestershire	1	1.3
Hampshire	4	5.3
Isle of Wight	3	4
Kent	5	6.7
Lincolnshire	1	1.3
London	8	10.7
Northamptonshire	1	1.3
Nottinghamshire	1	1.3
Oxfordshire	2	2.7
Staffordshire	1	1.3
Scotland	1	1.3
Suffolk	1	1.3
Surrey	3	4
Wales	1	1.3
West Midlands	1	1.3
Wiltshire	1	1.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>100%</b>

The percentage of children looked after who have had three or more placements during the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 has increased compared to previous years.



The number of changes of social worker our children in care have experienced over the last year are as follows; 24 of 77 (31%) have had 1 consistent social worker; 23 of the 77 (30%) have had 2; 30 of the 77 (39%) have had more than 2 social workers in the past 12 month

### **Key achievements**

- Wokingham borough council performs well nationally in relation to foster care permanence for children and young people. In 2016/17 there were 5 young people who had periods of unsettled and distressing behaviour. The Board was made aware, all of whom now are receiving the appropriate support and are on a much more positive trajectory to permanence.
- At the start of 2016/17 period there were 29 foster carers registered to foster for Wokingham Borough Council who at that time were caring for 32 children/young people. When placements were needed for children coming into care or for those moving placements internally, unfortunately numbers of children were required to move out of the area to foster carers registered with independent fostering agencies.
- By March 31<sup>st</sup> 2017, Wokingham Borough Council have 39 registered foster carers caring for 54 children internally and in this period 5 children have returned to Wokingham Borough Council foster carers through circumstance or choice. The CPB have been very supportive and interested in and committed to the recruitment and retention of foster carers and this is having a significant impact, although much more work is needed.
- Of the 75 children we had in care, 60 were placed and deemed as permanent placements which means they have been with their foster carers for 6 months – to 8+ years.
- All local children new into care 2016-17 have been placed with Wokingham Borough Council approved Foster Carers.
- 100% of children surveyed said they felt settled in their placements.
- There are a small number of young people in our care who are living in residential children's homes, all of whom are receiving education as part of that residential package. 5 of those young people will over the next 2 years step down into shared care arrangements between foster care and boarding school arrangements. There is a small cohort of young people in residential placements whose needs means they require full time medical provision and of whom the likelihood is they will remain through into adult transition in those or similar placements. The CPB will in the year 2017./18 be responsible for tracking the progress of the 5 who can step down into foster placements to ensure that this is done in the most timely fashion, sensitive to the children's needs.
- In the year 2016/17 we had 2 young people who made subject to secure orders, one of whom has now stepped down to specialist residential care and is one of the 5 where we have the ambition to return them to foster care. The other is slightly older and all the support available to her is being deployed in order to stabilise them and return them to foster placement. They have a permanent foster care who is very involved and supporting every step of the way and we are optimistic that one day they will be a high achiever.

- In the period 2016/17, the social work team responsible for the majority of children in long-term care underwent significant change. The impact on young people meant there were, unfortunately, several changes of social worker, however by April 2017 all the social work posts and the team manager post in that team have now been permanently appointed which will significantly increase stability for those in long term care.
- The launch of Adopt Berkshire use of Adopt Berkshire has facilitated the timely family finding process for children for whom the plan is adoption. This arrangement will move into the Regional Adoption Agency by 2018 (Adopt Thames Valley). The benefits of joining the Adopt Thames Valley consortium include:
  - Increased capacity and resources;
  - Access to a bigger pool of adopters and children;
  - Better value for local authorities through economies of scale in the recruitment and assessment process for adopters
  - No increase in spend and potential savings for local authorities through placing children with adopters quicker.
- The Council as corporate parents have endorsed Wokingham Borough Council being part of the Regional Adoption Agency.
- The IRO service continues to improve and offered greater continuity of IRO to our children in care
- Throughout 16/17 CPB received regular reports and updates regarding Housing Strategy and suitable accommodation for young people.
- The Housing strategy was considered by the Corporate Parenting Board and officers held to account to ensure that care leavers are prioritised when looking for accommodation.
- Going forward, the Staying Put Policy and Procedure has been reviewed, is currently in draft form, financial support to Staying put providers and those wishing to go to university being updated and will be finalised by the end of August 2017. The draft policy and procedure will be consulted at the July 2017 Board prior to consultation with carers and young people. It is envisaged that the new process will be adopted by the end of August 2017
- Members held officers to account for housing, accommodation, health and educational attainment of children in care and for the recruitment and retention of new social workers.

### **What is next?**

- Adopt a formal scheme which incentivises foster carers to stay in touch with care leavers who have lived with them and their family
- Target to recruit 20 new foster carers in 2017/18.
- Review and relaunch of the Staying Put scheme with clear guidance on allowances and tax implications for both young people and their carers.
- Invest in foster carers to support young people in life journey work
- Set target to improve/ensure all new short and long term foster placements are within 20 miles of the child's home community.

#### (iv) To improve provision for Care leavers in Wokingham

The Children in Care Council facilitated a survey to ask care leavers if the Council has delivered on the promises set out within the **Care Leaver's Charter**. The survey had a 44% response rate. The feedback was generally positive.

#### Key Achievements

- Ensuring pace and delivery of Young People's Housing Strategy
- Agree Council targets for apprenticeships within and across council for care leavers and other vulnerable groups
- Extension of Shutters café and pathways
- Establishing the links and benefits of DoE and care leavers work, football club and other opportunities
- Extension of leisure/wellbeing project to young women care leavers (building on the football initiative)
- Formalising the pathway/offer for adult education
- Maximising the Children's Centre offer to young parent care leavers
- Establish mentoring scheme to lead to sustainable and meaningful relationships for those leaving care and beyond
- We offer care leaving support to all relevant young people up to the age of 25.
- We have developed an Independent Living Skills training programme which has been accredited for both foster carers and young people.
- We have increased the establishment for personal advisers by 2 FTE and successfully recruited to both posts.
- Members consider the Housing Strategy for Care Leavers regularly. The strategy is based on three priorities
  - Early Intervention – advice and provision of early help
  - Provision of a range of accommodation and support options
  - Cohort tracking – data collection, planning and development
- In 2016/17 there was good continued partnership working between Housing and Social Care and where care leavers were identified as having priority they would be able to choose the area for their housing. Care leavers with children are provided with suitable housing.
- Our care leavers told us that overall the promises set out in the **Care Leavers Charter** have been delivered
- 44% of our care leavers are in education, employment or training. For these individuals this is an achievement as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017

#### What is next?

We are considering allowing care leavers to be exempt from Council Tax until they are 25.

Task and finish group has been established to maximise all corporate and external opportunities to provide work experience, apprenticeships and training opportunities for care leavers and older teenagers.

From the task and finish group the virtual head has made an undertaking to automatically allow young people post 15 to seek work experience opportunities at weekends and holidays.

Consideration to be given to a unique 13 plus opportunities fair to capture young people's enthusiasm and interest prior to choosing their options which will include their foster carers.

The Shutters Café project has renewed goals and targets to be achieved through the period 2017-18.

There has been further commitment to improving housing opportunities for care leavers.

**(v) To improve the educational outcomes for children in care and care leavers in Wokingham**

The completion of PEPs is shown as improving over the last four years.

PEPs*	2013/2014 (as at 31 March 2014)	2014/2015 (as at 31 March 2015)	2015/16 (as at 31 March 2016)	2016/17 (as at 31 March 3017)
Children in care	75	74	83	77
Children in range for PEP (aged 2 years 8 months to 17)	63	68	66	70
Children in range with a recent PEP (During current or previous academic term)	55 (87.3%)	54 (80.6%)	60 (90.9%)	69 (98.6%)
Total number of PEP's outstanding	8 (12.7%)	14 (19.4%)	6 (9.1%)	1 (1.4%)

\*These figures are taken from the March 2017 Children's Social Care Performance Pack which reports only those whose paperwork has been completed and entered on FWi. The child with an outstanding PEP as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 had a PEP meeting take place, however the paperwork had not been received from the responsible school. Therefore, the percentage of PEPs completed at year end was 100%.

As a local authority we are ambitious for those in our care. As corporate parents we must strive to ensure that education is an absolute priority and we must support young people every which way to ensure that they have every opportunity to learn available to them.

All relevant young people have personal education plans and are supported by the virtual school

The Corporate Parenting Board receives annual results from Key Stage 2, Key Stage 4 and the equivalent of Key Stage 5 and updates from the Virtual Head.

Members supported children and young people in celebrating their achievements in the past year and joined them in a celebration event on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2016. This event was attended by 40 children in care and care leavers, 60 adults (including members, foster carers and staff). The theme was the Olympics and Gold Medal winning Paralympian Helene Raynesford gave an inspirational speech.

**Key Achievements**

- As far as possible all of our children in care are in 'good' or 'outstanding' schools.

- We currently have 2 young people at university and 2 more hoping to attend from 2017.
- Where children are placed in out of Borough Placements, particular attention is paid to ensuring effective support and additional resources are deployed as soon as they may be needed.
- Monitoring and reporting on children in care exclusions is prioritised with the Virtual Head receiving immediate notification or early warning of likely exclusions so interventions can be actioned
- The Virtual School monitors attendance and reports through Virtual School Head any issues of attendance patterns or potential exclusions.
- A dedicated Education Welfare Officer for children in care follows up on attendance issues.
- We have a dedicated Educational Psychologist to offer children in care additional support where required.
- The educational offer for 2 year olds follows the child regardless of whether or not they are in care

#### **What is next?**

- Launch new allowances for children in care and care leavers who go to college and not university
- Establish bursary for care leavers who want to go back to learning and o/or onto university
- Provide additional support and training for foster carers about further educational opportunities
- Corporate Parenting Board to anonymously track individual progress and achievement of children and young people in care and members to take interest in a small cohort each.
- Explore the options for EPEP (electronic PEP system) to determine costs and benefits.

**(vi) To improve health provision for children in care and care leavers in Wokingham**

We are required to provide information on the emotional and behavioural health of children and young people in their care. This data is collected by us through a Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) and a summary figure for each child is submitted to the DfE through the SSDA903 data return.

	2014/2015 (as at 31 March)	2015/16 (as at 31 March)	2016/2017 (as at 31 March)
Children in care	73	83	77
Children aged 3 years or under	9	11	4
Children aged 17	8	9	18
Children in range for SDQ	56	55	40
Children aged 4-16 with a recent SQD	33 (58.9%)	22	39
Total number of SDQ's outstanding	23	33	1

As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017, the number of SDQs outstanding reduced to only one. This SDQ was only partially completed. The carer did not answer some of the questions and a score could not be calculated, which means it cannot be counted as fully completed.

The below table identifies the timeliness of health assessments completed within the previous 12 months.

	2013/14 (as at 31 March)	2014/15 (as at 31 March)	2015/16 (as at 31 March)	2016/17 (as at 31 March)
Total LAC	68	73	83	77
Completed within past 12 months	46 (67.6%)	39 (53.4%)	70 (84%)	73 (94.8%)

Performance has greatly improved over the last two years

The below table identifies dental checks completed on time

	2013/14 (as at 31 March)	2014/15 (as at 31 March)	2015/16 (as at 31 March)	2016/17 (as at 31 March)
% dental checks completed on time	81.8%	89.6%	31.1%	91.1%

Performance improved significantly in 2016/17 after a drop in performance the previous year

The below data shows consistently positive performance with regard to children in care being registered with a GP or health centre

	2013/14 (as at 31 March)	2014/15 (as at 31 March)	2015/16 (as at 31 March)	2016/17 (as at 31 March)
LAC with GP or Health Centre recorded	100%	100%	95.2%	98.7%

The strategy set out some of the existing and potential challenges for the Council as Corporate Parents in ensuring the health needs of children in care and care leavers are well provided for.

### Key Achievements

- The Corporate Parenting Board noted that 100% of those children who responded to the Children in Care Pledge Survey had received their initial health assessment.
- During 2016/17 there had been considerable difficulty in completing the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) for relevant young people. A new process was introduced in early summer 2016 so that by the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2017 100% of children and young people who required a Strengths and Difficulties questionnaire had had one completed. This success was simply achieved by issuing the questionnaire at the same time as the annual health assessment. The new process ensures that carers score the questionnaire returning it for analysis to the department. Where there a high score this will be further explored by education and if their score is also high a referral will be made for CAMHS intervention. Twice a year the Health Commissioner receives all completed SDQs to monitor CAMHS commissioning requirements.
- As of the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017, all annual health reviews had been completed.

### What is next?

- There is a new protocol outlining joint working between health (CiC nurses) and Children's Services.
- A task and finish group to continue on the access to children's health provision.
- The setting up of health hubs and drop in centres with CAMHS and Health professionals for harder to reach children in care and care leavers
- All children to have access to emotional health support as identified in a timely manner
- Task and finish group to be set up to survey emotional wellbeing needs of children in care for gap analysis
- Exploration of models to develop CiC specialist CAMHS provision / emotional wellbeing including how we reach services to CiC outside Berkshire. Links to Futures in Mind developments

## Conclusion

In summary, overall there has been an incremental improvement in the services providing for our children in care and care leavers. There have been significant changes in the personnel delivering these services which will in time mean a stronger, more committed and motivated team working with our long term children in care and care leavers. Foster carers generally feel more supported but there remain issues such as a review of their fees embedding the new Staying Put policy and recruitment of new foster carers.

For children in care and care leavers there are now strong foundations in place which is evidenced by increased placement stability, children returning to Wokingham from external placements and a slight increase in Staying Put arrangements. There are, however, many opportunities ahead to ensure those in their early teens are prepared for leaving care by an enhanced focus on work experience, further education and grants to support them in doing so.

The new Corporate Parenting Action plan will ensure the 'critical friend' role in tracking the promised developments and ensuring a focus on improved outcomes for all of our children in care. To this end, the new Corporate Parenting Board will develop strong working relations with the Children in Care Council.

The new strategic priorities for 2017-18 are set out below.

## Our Strategic Priorities 2017 – 2018

- i. Health opportunities and promotion
- ii. Promotion of emotional health and wellbeing, development and link to "futures in mind"
- iii. Good quality care and accommodation
- iv. Children in care receive the best educational support
- v. Care leavers will have further education, training or employment at 18 and live in safe / stable accommodation
- vi. Training for members and Corporate Parenting Board

## Recommendations

- 1. Agree and endorse the annual Corporate Parenting report**
- 2. Note the recommendations and strategic delivery action plan**
- 3. Agree the new strategic priorities for 2017-18**

- 4. Request six monthly updates on the progress of the 2017/2018 action plan**
- 5. It is recommended that all Corporate Parenting Board agenda items and minutes reference which priority it relates to in order to easily identify minuted progress against the priorities.**

## Appendix 1: Corporate Parenting Board Priorities and Action Plan 2017-18

Priority Themes	Action	How	Target
1. Health Opportunities and Promotion	<p>1. Health, Dental and Opticians appointments/SDQ's are routinely and appropriately carried out to ensure children's health needs are met.</p> <p>2. Task and finish Group to work with CSA Named Nurse to seek proactive ways of assessing children's needs and streamline health processes.</p> <p>3. Health promoting work with foster carers and care leavers – programme developed and rolled out.</p>	<p>Quarterly reports to CPB and for the board to understand performance and quality of services.</p> <p>Short Workshop to create alternative methods for assessing children's needs appropriately.</p> <p>Bespoke training and courses for carers and young people on healthy living and emotional wellbeing.</p>	<p>100%</p> <p>By April 2017</p> <p>Programme reaches 100% of carers and care leavers by December 2017</p>
2. Promotion of Emotional Health and Wellbeing Development and link to 'Futures in Mind'	<p>1. All children to have access to emotional health support as identified in a timely manner.</p> <p>2. Task and Finish Group set up to survey emotional wellbeing needs of CiC for gaps analysis.</p> <p>3. Exploration of models to develop CiC specialist CAMHS provision/emotional wellbeing including how we reach services to CiC outside Berkshire. Links to Futures in Mind developments</p>	<p>Data sets indicating SDQ compliance is 100%.</p> <p>Survey mechanisms of CiC and other bespoke services identify types of provision required.</p> <p>Analysis of using existing resources and gaps analysis. CiC feedback to devise potential models of service delivery.</p>	<p>CPB and agencies easily identify gaps and data targets are addressed.</p> <p>End July 2017</p> <p>October 2017 model and findings identified</p>

Priority Themes	Action	How	Target
3. Good Quality Care and Accommodation	<p>1. Improvement in the recruitment and retention of local foster carers by supporting and championing a new Recruitment and Retention Strategy.</p> <p>2. CPB to receive both a Sufficiency Strategy and Residential Strategy which outlines accommodation plans for CiC.</p> <p>3. Information and data sharing Assessment will start immediately and within no more than 10 days to panel for recommendations/approval/not within four months – exceptionally 6 months.</p> <p>4. Quarterly the Board will receive a report on Permanence Tracking for children. All children</p>	<p>The Board approves and receives updates of marketing and recruitment on a 6 monthly basis.</p> <p>CPB and wider Council Members receive bespoke training regarding fostering to equip them with the ability to promote fostering in the community.</p> <p>Sufficiency and Residential Strategy developed to look at specific care types and locality of care by June (draft) 2017.</p> <p>Information and data updated at each Board to improve performance.</p> <p>Visits set up for Members for information gathering and to see quality of independent accommodation providers and Bridges.</p>	<p>Marketing techniques are supported through wider Council mechanisms - June 2017</p> <p>Task and finish financial modelling options in June CLT, CPB, group Joint Board</p> <p>Members are equipped and confident to promote fostering with ward and community settings –June 2017. Session before Group. Full Council July 2017</p> <p>By June 2017. CPB have a 2-5 year plan for a CiC Sufficiency Strategy.</p> <p>From March 2017</p> <p>2017 – Member will have visited</p>

Priority Themes	Action	How	Target
	<p>coming into care must have a Permanence Plan by the second review (4 months). The Local Authority is nationally rated against this standard.</p> <p>5. The board will track the progress of the children placed more than 20 miles from Wokingham Borough Council to ensure that they have access to all the same opportunities as those in borough.</p> <p>6. Opportunities for members to visit providers of independent living and where appropriate, other settings.</p> <p>7. Quarterly Housing Strategy updates to the Board regarding the progress of housing for each relevant young person.</p> <p>8. A one off meeting to include a Board Member, foster carers and officers to review the Staying Put Policy to ensure it is made available to all young people who will benefit from it.</p> <p>9. The Staying Put Policy to be presented to the Board to sign off by the end of July 2017.</p>	<p>One off meeting end June 2017.</p>	<p>accommodation provision.</p> <p>July 2017</p>
<p>4. Children in Care receive the best educational support.</p>	<p>1. Children and young people's progress tracked through Secondary School and Virtual School and are held to account for children who are not fulfilling their potential.</p>	<p>Virtual School and CPB monitor data and identify progress issues via the Virtual school board with CPB providing reps. VSH provides detailed plans on school support provided i.e. reading progress</p>	<p>Children are monitored and services provided gaps in resources for CiC identified by April 2017.</p>

Priority Themes	Action	How	Target
	<p>2. CiC attendance is 95-100%. PEP's completed on time.</p> <p>3. Reduction of CiC exclusions from school.</p> <p>4. No CiC without school place on roll without escalation/exploration.</p> <p>5. Work experience and apprenticeship opportunities developed.</p> <p>6. Virtual School monitors and develops services to ensure school readiness for pre-school CiC.</p>	<p>and tuition resources.</p> <p>Monitoring attendance and action when required. Children are not allowed to take time out of school unless approved by CSC.</p> <p>Work with schools to prevent and refuse exclusions. Agreement or Policy amendment with schools.</p> <p>To maintain good practice of Children in Care should have a school place and escalation to DCS or Chief Executive if this does not happen where there are complex difficulties.</p> <p>Members will work with CiCC, Apprenticeship Manager and Here 4 U to develop opportunities in the borough within Wokingham Borough Council and externally in the community.</p> <p>Monitoring of data and establishment of appropriate pre-school provision and training for foster carers.</p>	<p>95-100%</p> <p>PEP's 100%</p> <p>Policy reform May 2017.</p> <p>Task and Finish Group meeting 3/5. CHT attending.</p> <p>Action Plan April 2017.</p> <p>April 2017</p>

Priority Themes	Action	How	Target
5. Care Leavers will have further education, training or employment at 18 and live in safe/stable accommodation.	<p>1. Twice per year feedback to the Board by the Leaving Care Service outlining where each young person is, what support they are receiving and a sense of their trajectory to independence.</p> <p>2. Independent Living Skills Programme.</p> <p>3. Develop Business Case to present/promote with local business and Public Sector Organisations regarding the benefits of adopting Fostering Friendly Policies.</p>	<p>Develop into a quality check. PA's to reach out on assessing levels of support to Care Leavers</p> <p>Strategy reform.</p> <p>Delivery of developed Living Skills Programme.</p>	<p>June 2017</p> <p>Designed March 2017</p> <p>January 2018</p>
6. Training for Members and CPB.	<p>Training to be provided to all members and bespoke training to CPB members on all aspects of Children's Services.</p> <p>2. Sponsorship and support/awards for CiC celebration event to be identified.</p>	<p>Training package to be delivered and developed.</p> <p>Care leavers to run at least one workshop a year.</p> <p>Members with the support of staff to approach local businesses to request sponsorship and support for the CiC Celebration.</p>	<p>Training schedule to be confirmed in March 2017 and events to continue 2017-18.</p> <p>June-August 2017 in preparation for 2017 event.</p> <p>Draft Party Plan to give example costs for a celebration event.</p> <p>To suggest businesses as part of the Plan and what type of</p>

Priority Themes	Action	How	Target
			businesses we would approach for a contribution towards a bursary for a young person.

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<b>TITLE</b>	Schools' Performance and Ofsted School Reports
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 14 November 2017
<b>WARD</b>	Non-specific
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Judith Ramsden, Director of People Services

## **OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY**

To monitor schools' effectiveness and the Local Authority (LA) contribution.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Members to question the content of the reports and to make recommendations.

## **SUMMARY OF REPORT**

To review the recent Ofsted judgements and the Ofsted outcomes over the past year. Additional material in this report also makes reference to School Improvement activity, including regional links and operational and policy developments:

### **1 Introduction**

This report provides the summary page from Ofsted school reports since the last Overview and Scrutiny meeting for discussion at the meeting and provides data on the percentage of pupils attending a good or outstanding school in Wokingham Borough by phase and the percentage of good and outstanding schools in Wokingham Borough by phase

### **2 Background**

Since the previous Overview and Scrutiny Committee Report presented in September 2017 there have been two Ofsted school inspections and one monitoring visit for a school that is currently RI .No reports have been published.

Letters are sent by the Director to congratulate all schools which improve or maintain their good or better status

### **3 Schools inspected since the last report to Overview and Scrutiny:**

- **Willow House BAU**  
Section 8 Inspection 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017  
Previous Inspection: May 2013 Outstanding  
Report date: not yet received  
Outcome: TBA
- **Addington**  
Section 8 Inspection 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017  
Previous Inspection: July 2013 Outstanding  
Report Date - not yet received  
Outcome: TBA
- **Gorse Ride Junior School**  
Monitoring visit 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017  
Previous Inspection: July 2016 RI  
Report Date: not yet received  
Outcome: TBA

#### **4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION**

***The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.***

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	Not applicable		
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	Not applicable		
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	Not applicable		

#### **Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision**

None

#### **Cross-Council Implications** (how does this decision impact on other Council services and priorities?)

N/A

## List of Background Papers

None

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**Version No.** 1

**Date** 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017

### 5 Percentage of schools in the individual Ofsted Ratings (*National in brackets*): Current figures (September 2017)

This is the current table of performance related to Ofsted inspection outcomes. The data gives an overall indication of how many schools are good or better. The categorisation process of focusing on improving vulnerable schools and the work of School Improvement Boards need to accelerate progress on improvement priorities to ensure that all our schools are good or better.

School Type	1 - Outstanding	2 - Good	3 - Requires Improvement	4 - Inadequate
Primary	20% (19%)	74% (72%)	6% (8%)	0% (1%)
Secondary	11% (24%)	78% (56%)	11% (15%)	0% (5%)
Special	100% (38%)	0% (55%)	0% (5%)	0 % <sup>(2)</sup> (2%)
PRU <sup>(1)</sup>	50% (18%)	50% (70%)	0% (9%)	0% (3%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>22% (21%)</b>	<b>71% (68%)</b>	<b>6% (9%)</b>	<b>2% (2%)</b>

(1) This includes Berkshire Adolescent Unit (BAU)

(2) Southfield School closed at the end of December 2016. It is now part of Northern House as part of a multi-academy trust and has no formal designation (NFD) until it gets inspected in its third year of operation.

92 % of children in Wokingham attend a school with an Ofsted rating of good or better. This is above the national average of 87.5%.

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**Wokingham Borough Council  
Ofsted Ratings (as at 1st October 2017)**

**Secondary Schools**

School Name	School Type	Ofsted Rating			
		Date inspected	Current Outcome	Previous Outcome	Previous inspection
The Holt School	Academy Converter	05/06/2008	Outstanding	-	-
The Forest School	Academy Converter	24/02/2016	RI	Good	2011
The Emmbrook School	Community School	14/03/2017	Good	Good	2013
St Crispin's School	Community School	14/01/2017	Good	Good	2013
Waingels College	Academy Converter	25/04/2013	Good	Good	2009
Oakbank	Free School	22/06/2016	Good	RI	2014
The Bulmershe School	Community School	21/11/2013	Good	RI	2012
The Piggott School	Academy Converter	23/01/2014	Good	Outstanding	2010
Maiden Erlegh School	Academy Converter	12/03/2015	Good	Outstanding	2007
Bohunt School (from Sept 2016)	Academy Sponsor Led	-	-	-	-

**Pupil Referral Units**

School Name	School Type	Ofsted Rating			
		Date inspected	Current Outcome	Previous Outcome	Previous inspection
Foundry College	Pupil Referral Unit	14/02/2013	Good	Good	2010
Willow House Hospital Education	Pupil Referral Unit	17/05/2013	Outstanding	Outstanding	2010

**Special Schools**

School Name	School Type	Ofsted Rating			
		Date inspected	Current Outcome	Previous Outcome	Previous inspection
Addington	Community Special	03/07/2013	Outstanding	Outstanding	2008
Northern House School Wokingham (previously, Southfield) - from Jan 2017	Academy Special	-	-	-	-

## Primary Schools

School Name	School Type	Ofsted Rating			
		Date inspected	Current Outcome	Previous Outcome	Previous inspection
Aldryngton Primary School	Community School	02/12/2011	Outstanding	Good	2007
All Saints CofE (Aided) Primary School	Voluntary Aided	22/09/2016	Good	RI	2014
Bearwood Primary School	Community School	23/09/2016	RI	Good	2014
Beechwood Primary School	Community School	08/02/2013	Good	RI	2011
Crazies Hill CofE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled	10/06/2011	Good	Good	2008
Earley St Peter's	Voluntary Aided	27/04/2016	Good	RI	2013
Emmbrook Infant School	Community School	02/10/2013	Good	Good	2008
Emmbrook Junior School	Community School	26/11/2014	Good	RI	2012
Evendons Primary School	Free School	28/06/2017	Outstanding	-	-
Farley Hill Primary School	Community School	12/05/2016	Good	RI	2014
Finchampstead CofE VA Primary School	Voluntary Aided	30/05/2012	Outstanding	Good	2007
Gorse Ride Infants' School	Community School	03/02/2011	Good	Good	2011
Gorse Ride Junior School	Community School	08/06/2016	RI	Good	2012
Grazeley Parochial Church of England	Voluntary Aided	13/05/2011	Good	RI	2008
Hatch Ride Primary School	Community School	08/02/2013	Good	RI	2009
Hawkedon Primary School	Community School	17/10/2014	Good	Good	2010
Highwood Primary School	Community School	06/02/2014	Good	RI	2011
Hillside Primary School	Community School	09/07/2014	Good	RI	2012
Keep Hatch Primary School	Community School	01/07/2016	RI	Good	2014
Lambs Lane Primary School	Community School	12/01/2017	Good	RI	2015
Loddon Primary School	Community School	22/11/2012	Good	RI	2010
Nine Mile Ride Primary School	Community School	04/12/2013	Good	Good	2008
Oaklands Infant School	Community School	09/03/2012	Good	Good	2009
Oaklands Junior School	Community School	13/09/2011	Good	RI	2009
Polehampton Church of England Infant School	Voluntary Controlled	26/01/2011	Outstanding	Good	2008
Polehampton Church of England Junior School	Voluntary Controlled	29/11/2012	Outstanding	Good	2008
Radstock Primary School	Community School	13/12/2012	Good	Good	2007
Rivermead Primary School	Community School	06/11/2014	Good	RI	2012
Robert Piggott CofE Infant School	Voluntary Controlled	08/01/2014	Good	Outstanding	2011

Robert Piggott CofE Junior School	Voluntary Controlled	26/06/2014	Good	RI	2012
Saint Sebastian's Church of England	Voluntary Aided	05/06/2014	Good	RI	2012
Shinfield Infant and Nursery School	Community School	05/02/2015	Good	Good	2010
Shinfield St Mary's CofE Junior School	Voluntary Aided	13/12/2013	Good	RI	2011
Sonning CofE Primary School	Voluntary Aided	18/05/2011	Good	Good	2007
South Lake Primary School	Community School	20/03/2013	Outstanding	Good	2008
St Dominic Savio Catholic Primary	Voluntary Aided	15/10/2015	Good	RI	2013
St Nicholas Church of England Primary	Voluntary Controlled	02/02/2012	Good	Good	2006
St Paul's CofE Junior School	Voluntary Controlled	10/06/2011	Outstanding	Good	2008
St Teresa's Catholic Primary School	Voluntary Aided	05/05/2010	Outstanding	Outstanding	2007
The Colleton Primary School	Community School	18/07/17	Good	Outstanding	2009
The Coombes Church of England Primary School	Academy Sponsor Led	-	-	-	-
The Hawthorns Primary School	Community School	26/04/2013	Good	Outstanding	2010
Walter Infant School	Community School	20/11/2013	Outstanding	Outstanding	2009
Wescott Infant School	Community School	09/12/2010	Outstanding	Good	2006
Westende Junior School	Community School	31/01/2012	Good	Good	2009
Wheatfield Primary School	Academy Sponsor Led	17/05/2017	Good	-	-
Whiteknights Primary School	Community School	24/09/2014	Good	RI	2012
Willow Bank Infant School	Community School	14/03/2012	Good	Good	2006
Willow Bank Junior School	Community School	27/07/17	Good	RI	2010
Windmill Primary School	Academy Sponsor Led	11/05/2016	Good	-	-
Winnersh Primary School	Community School	25/05/2016	Good	RI	2014
Woodley CofE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled	20/11/2014	Good	Good	2010
Floreat Montague Park (from Sept 2016)	Academy Sponsor Led	-	-	-	-

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**CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
2017/ 2018 WORK PROGRAMME**

<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>PURPOSE OF REPORT</b>	<b>REASON FOR CONSIDERATION</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER / CONTACT OFFICER</b>
23 January	<b>Strategic MASH Development Update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To consider the progress of the MASH programme since its implementation;</li> <li>To invite key stakeholders such as the Police, the CCG and the School Federation Chair to attend the meeting</li> </ul>	The Committee requested regular updates on MASH to ensure its efficiency	Judith Ramsden/ Children's Services
	<b>Children's Services Performance Indicators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To receive an update and monitor Children's Services performance measured by local indicators</li> </ul>	Standing item to enable the Committee to assess performance and identify areas of concern	Children's Services Performance & Information Team
	<b>Policy Update from the Executive Member for Children's Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To receive an update and to monitor the development of policies in Children's Services</li> </ul>	Standing item to monitor Policy development	Executive Member for Children's Services
	<b>Elective Home Education Review</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To receive information regarding the educational progress being made by children that have decided not to attend mainstream schools.</li> </ul>	To monitor the level of elective home education in the Borough	Jane Winterbone/ Children's Services

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	PURPOSE OF REPORT	REASON FOR CONSIDERATION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER / CONTACT OFFICER
	<b>Cross Borough Secondary Place Planning/ SDL</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To monitor the secondary school place sufficiency, including places for Borough children living in the border with other local authorities</li> </ul>	To ensure the sufficiency of secondary school places for children in the Borough	Piers Brunning/ Children's Services
	<b>Draft Primary Place Strategy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To receive information in relation to the plans for the Primary Place Strategy</li> </ul>	To ensure the sufficiency of primary school places for children in the Borough	Piers Brunning/ Children's Services
	<b>Social Worker Stability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To test the Social Worker recruitment and retention strategy</li> </ul>	To receive an update on the strategy	Lisa Humphreys/ Children's Services
	<b>School Performance Indicators and Ofsted Reports, School Improvement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To receive information on schools' performance, and to review recent Ofsted Report</li> <li>Narrowing the gap – progress report</li> </ul>	Standing item to enable the Committee to assess performance and identify areas of concern	Jane Winterbone/ Head of Learning and Achievement

<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>PURPOSE OF REPORT</b>	<b>REASON FOR CONSIDERATION</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER / CONTACT OFFICER</b>
	<b>Schools causing concern – Part 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To receive information about any school(s) causing concern</li> </ul>	Standing item to give an early indication of any school(s) in danger of underachieving	Jane Winterbone/ Head of Learning and Achievement
	<b>Children's Services O&amp;S Committee Forward Programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To consider the forward programme of the Committee</li> </ul>	Standing item	Democratic Services / Luciane Bowker
<b>20 March</b>	<b>Children's Services Performance Indicators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To receive an update and monitor Children's Services performance measured by local indicators</li> </ul>	Standing item to enable the Committee to assess performance and identify areas of concern	Children's Services Performance & Information Team
	<b>Policy Update from the Executive Member for Children's Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To receive an update and to monitor the development of policies in Children's Services</li> </ul>	Standing item to monitor Policy development	Executive Member for Children's Services
	<b>Regional Adoption Service Review</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure there has been a smooth transition to the new Berkshire Adoption Services</li> <li>To receive details of the partnership structure and service level agreement</li> </ul>	To update the Committee	Lisa Humphreys/ Children's Services

<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>PURPOSE OF REPORT</b>	<b>REASON FOR CONSIDERATION</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER / CONTACT OFFICER</b>
	<b>Innovations Programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Committee to receive an update report outlining how the programme continues to make a difference</li> </ul>	To update the Committee	Children's Services
	<b>Childcare Sufficiency Strategy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To monitor the development and implementation of the Early Years Childcare Sufficiency Strategy</li> </ul>	To assess the efficacy of the strategy	Children's Services
	<b>School Performance Indicators and Ofsted Reports, School Improvement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To receive information on schools' performance, and to review recent Ofsted Report</li> <li>Narrowing the gap – progress report</li> </ul>	Standing item to enable the Committee to assess performance and identify areas of concern	Jane Winterbone/ Head of Learning and Achievement
	<b>Schools causing concern – Part 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To receive information about any school(s) causing concern</li> </ul>	Standing item to give an early indication of any school(s) in danger of underachieving	Jane Winterbone/ Head of Learning and Achievement
	<b>Children's Services O&amp;S Committee Forward Programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To consider the forward programme of the Committee</li> </ul>	Standing item	Democratic Services / Luciane Bowker

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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