As many of you know the Local Authority Children's Services was inspected during November/December last year, and a review of the Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) was undertaken by OFSTED at the same time. I would like to personally thank all those who took part for their contribution and support during this challenging time. The report was published on 16 February.

The outcome for the Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Board was a judgement of Requires Improvement to be good. This was mainly because the WSCB failed to recognise the significant areas of concern identified in the inspection of the local authority children’s help and protection services.

However the review comments positively that partners are well engaged on the work of the Board, challenge each other constructively and hold each other to account. They felt that partners knew and understood thresholds but felt that these were not always consistently applied. They recognised that safeguarding is appropriately prioritised by partners and well evidenced through Section 11 audit reports, which they commented were exemplary.

Monitoring and oversight is rigorously undertaken by the Board through performance data analysis and audit. However, systematic analysis of the Board’s key performance indicators has not been sustained over the past year due to changes in our data set and availability of performance data from all partners. We need to ensure that key performance indicators agreed by the Board are routinely collated, analysed and reported to partners, enabling them to evaluate the impact of multi-agency practice to safeguard children.

Multi-agency and individual agency audits have been undertaken on behalf of the Board, but OFSTED recognised the challenge and capacity issues to completing these. The Board needs to ensure that multi-agency and individual agency audits of practice are regularly conducted to enable us to evaluate the impact of safeguarding practice in each individual agency and that learning from audits is used to improve practice and fresh audits are undertaken to evaluate impact. They recognised that learning from serious case reviews and from child deaths is rigorously implemented through a process of dissemination, including learning events for partners. They recognised that the Board routinely oversees services to safeguard vulnerable young people, including those at risk of child sexual exploitation and those going missing. However they considered that the Board had not ensured consistency of practice especially regarding return home interviews or aggregation of information on these young people to inform service development.

A wide range of multi-agency safeguarding training is provided and e-learning modules have recently been developed to enhance this. However, OFSTED felt that the impact of training is not yet sufficiently evaluated as it was felt that this would enable the Board to commission future training.

OFSTED stated the Board has clear and appropriate priorities, incorporated into a realistic business plan. The annual report provides a comprehensive and rigorous account of the work of the board and contribution of its partners to ensure that children are safeguarded.

There are a series of recommendations for the Board to address that will be incorporated into an improvement plan.

Please find the link to the inspection report here.
Safeguarding supervision for heads and designated leads in primary schools

Schools have a pivotal role in ensuring that children are effectively safeguarded. Each school has a designated safeguarding Lead (DSL) and (as a minimum) a deputy DSL.

A high level of safeguarding activity is carried out in schools ranging from early identification of need through to supporting those pupils where there are significant CP concerns, and the expectations on schools’ contributions to the safeguarding processes have never been higher.

We recognise that there is a need to ensure that schools are well supported to enable them to fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities, and one aspect of this is to provide for the designated leads and headteachers to have access to effective supervision. Supervision supports professional development and provides a safe, reliable space to think about issues and process the feelings evoked in working with safeguarding and child protection.

Supervision is linked to achieving positive and safe outcomes for children, young people and their families. It is about making a connection to the whole picture for the child or young person, joining together the jigsaw and making sense of what the child’s life looks like.

A group of headteachers have been working with the Safeguarding in Education Advisor to establish possible pathways to provide regular safeguarding supervision for heads and designated leads in primary schools. Aiming from these discussions we are delighted to have been able to establish a peer supervision pilot.

The current pilot programme is restricted to a limited number of Wandsworth Primary schools, but it is hoped that it can be extended in the future. Supervision is provided by nominated supervisors, all of whom are currently heads or designated leads in primary schools in Wandsworth.

All supervisors have received training specific to this new role, and are supported through the process by their peers and the Safeguarding in Education Advisor. Their skills and knowledge will be refreshed at prescribed intervals.

Each supervisor will initially be allocated one supervisee, and a matching process was established to ensure both supervisor and supervisee are comfortable with the pairing given. The pilot will be reviewed after two terms, and feedback will be sought from both supervisors and supervisees when carrying out the review.

Supervision sessions are confidential unless serious concerns about practice or the health / wellbeing of a supervisee arise, in which event advice will be sought. The concerns will be discussed with the supervisee and (s)he will be informed that this action is being taken.

The supervisor provides a safe space and time for discussion and reflection for the supervisee to talk about safeguarding issues or cases in their own school. However the safeguarding of the pupils in the supervisees school remains the responsibility of the supervisee and his / her staff team.

Stella Macaulay, Education Safeguarding Advisor

Learning Lessons from Case Lessons

Serious case reviews and partnership reviews are local enquiries into the death or serious injury of a child/ren where abuse or neglect is known or suspected to be a factor. They are carried out by local safeguarding children boards to establish whether there are lessons to be learnt about the way in which professionals and organisations work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

At the end of 2015 the Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Board undertook a partnership review involving a family whose children experienced severe neglect. Additionally, Wandsworth and partner agencies were also involved in a serious case review involving Kingston and Merton councils.

To disseminate the learning from both reviews, the Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Board will host a multi-agency Learning from Experience event on Wednesday 20th April 2016, 9:30-4:00pm at the Wandsworth Professional Development Centre (Building 1, Burntwood School, Burntwood Lane SW17 OAQ).

The event will focus on the key themes, pulling together key risk factors and practice recommendations to help practitioners understand and act upon the learning from the case reviews. There will be an opportunity for multi-agency discussion and guest speakers providing information on neglect, disguised compliance, power dynamics, equality and working with social economic families. This event will ensure that practitioners are fully equipped to fulfil their roles, preventing the same mistakes happening again in the future.

For further information or to book a place please review Wandsworth Training and Professional Development (TPD) Online www.wandsworthtpd.org.uk and search using ‘Experience’.
Safeguarding Annual Conference 2015

On 8 October 2015 the Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Board held its third annual conference. The focus of the conference was Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) – Seeing the hidden picture. The conference was attended by 128 practitioners from a range of agencies.

The conference was opened by a drama presentation by AlterEgo: Chelsea’s Choice. It is a very real and hard hitting piece, bringing to life the complexities and power of child sexual exploitation. It highlights the very serious and emotional issue of child sexual exploitation. The production shows how young people, boys and girls, can be groomed by their peers and adults for the purposes of sexual exploitation.

There were key note presentations by Michele Harris, CSE & Missing Lead - CSE in Wandsworth, Dr Maddie Coy from the Child and Abuse Woman Abuse Studies Unit, Ruth Lacey - Can you stop it?, DCI Richard Neville - CSE from local police perspective, Lady Charlie Daniels - Surviving Child Sexual Exploitation and Cordelia Morrison from Tender - Working with young people at risk of or being sexually exploited. Participants attended workshops which focused on the 5 key strands of the CSE Strategy - What are we doing to prevent, identify, engage, impact and disrupt CSE in Wandsworth.

83 Delegates completed evaluation feedback. 88.62% agreed or strongly agreed that the conference met the learning aims and objectives. 85.14% respondents stated that their knowledge and skills were enhanced by the information received at the conference.

This year’s Safeguarding Conference 2016

This year’s annual conference will take place on 28 September 2016 9am-4:30pm at the Civic Suite. The conference will focus on safeguarding issues relating to our priority areas. It will be open to anyone who works with children, young people and their families, whether in professional or voluntary capacity, within the borough. The conference will have a combination of key note presentations, workshops on specific areas of focus for delegates to attend, etc.

Save this date in your diary!

Chelsea’s Choice - FREE OFFER to all Secondary Schools

At our Annual Safeguarding Conference on 8th October 2015 a powerful drama presentation was delivered by AlterEgo called Chelsea’s Choice.

As a result of the conference and requests made for a repeat of the presentation, the WSCB is very pleased to be able to confirm that we have agreed to fund a series of sessions from AlterEgo to deliver “Chelsea’s Choice” to all secondary schools, as well as PRUs and special schools. An initial screening will be offered to all Designated Safeguarding Leads and other professionals working with children and young people who were unable to see the presentation in September 2015.

The presentation within schools is aimed at pupils aged 12+ to explore issues of child sexual exploitation (CSE). The performance lasts for 40 minutes and the post-show talk lasts for 30 minutes (although this can be reduced to 20 minutes if needed). The presentation can be delivered to groups of various sizes and can differentiate the performance and discussion according to the needs of each audience. Currently with first two weeks at the start of May 2016 have been reserved to deliver a series of performances to secondary schools within Wandsworth.

As WSCB have agreed to meet the cost of the sessions it will be free to schools. If any school is interested in taking up this free offer, they can contact Stella Macaulay on 020 8871 7961 or SMacaulay@wandsworth.gov.uk.
New members to the WSCB

Since the last publication of our newsletter, a number of new members from across the partnership have joined the WSCB. The new members include:

- **Ruth Lacey**, Head of Safeguarding Standards Service, DESS
- **Debbie Owen**, Head of Families and Community Services, DESS
- **Andy Hough**, Head of Education Inclusion Service, DESS
- **Ross Truscott**, Team Manager, Wandsworth CAMHS
- **Belinda Chideme**, Named Nurse, St George’s Hospitals NHS Foundations Trust
- **Cath Brooks**, Secondary Head representative at Executive Burntwood Secondary School
- **Athar Khan**, Sector Engagement Manager, London Ambulance Service NHS Trust
- **Beth Gelipter**, Service Manager, Wandsworth Community Drug and Alcohol Service, Addaction
- **Paula Whittaker**, Designated Nurse for Safeguarding, Wandsworth Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- **Siobhan Jackson**, Wandsworth Drug & Alcohol Service, South London and Maudsley NHS Foundations Trust (SLAM)
- **Trevor Normoyle**, DI Child Abuse Investigation Team (CAIT)
- **Seana Henry**, Headteacher Alderbrook School, Headteacher
- **Colette Morris**, Primary Head representative at Executive, Head of Christ Church Primary School
- **Cassie Newman**, Head of Stakeholders & Partnerships, South West London, Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)
- **Fiona Kite**, Deputy Head Teacher, Saint Cecilia’s Church of England School
- **Rebecca Jackson**, Deputy Head Teacher, Chestnut Grove School

Below are snippets of a day in the life of some of these members.

**Andy Hough**
**Head of Education Inclusion Service**

I was appointed to the post in April 2015. The Education Inclusion Service includes the Education Welfare Service which is responsible for monitoring Children Missing Education and those who are Electively Home Educated. I also have overall responsibility for the primary and secondary Pupil Referral Units, the Hospital and Home Education Service and the Virtual School for Looked After Children. I therefore oversee work with some of the most vulnerable pupils in the borough. My service is also responsible for anti bullying work in schools and advice and support with behaviour.

Coming from a teaching background I like to get out and visit schools to discuss ways in which the service can provide support but I also have a number of meeting commitments at the town hall each week. I meet regularly with members of my team to ensure that we are all doing the best we can to keep pupils safe and successful in school.

**Ross Truscott**
**Team Manager Wandsworth CAMHS Tier Three, Access and Tier Two Services**

I started on the 4th January 2016, so very new to the service. I lead Adult Safeguarding for CAMHS. I also oversee team meetings, which means making sure there is appropriate escalation, when needs be.

My day to day role involves, liaising with our partners in the community, looking at ways to improve our service and all HR issues related to staff. I chair several meetings and attend a lot more and from these meetings I see my role is someone who has to communicate and action anything that has arisen. At the core of my role is trying to make sure that we provide a safe and caring service, this often takes many forms.

I have been working with children and adolescents for many years feel very passionately about helping families to be the best that they can be, with the resources that they have. I work alongside the Anna Freud Centre where possible and try and keep my colleagues up to date with any new developments that arise. I am part of a collective of professionals who work in CAMHS across the world in relation to service development, again led by the Anna Freud Centre.
Wandsworth Safeguarding Children and Young People

Cath Brookes
Deputy Principal / Designated Member of Staff for Safeguarding / Head of Sixth Form

I have been in post 16 years. I joined the Executive Board as representative from secondary schools in November 2015. I am the Safeguarding lead member of staff for the school. I coordinate the school’s handling of all Safeguarding issues within the school including reporting of disclosures, managing cases, liaising with external agencies, policy writing and staff training. A typical day in my job/role involves all the above duties including my regular teaching commitment and wider school duties.

Belinda Chideme
Named Nurse, Safeguarding Children and Young People – Acute Services, St. George’s University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

I have been in post since 6 July 2015. My role includes being the Strategic Lead with operational oversight of St Georges Acute services. I manage the deputy Named Nurse, provide safeguarding supervision of Acute staff which includes the children’s community nurses and team at Linden Lodge School and I represent the Trust at WSCB sub-committees. A typical day in my job/role is unpredictable. It ranges from attending meetings, delivering training, multi-agency communication – email, face-to-face and telephone, supporting and advising front line staff where safeguarding concerns identified or suspected.

Daun Alleyne
WSCB Administrator

I have been in post for 5 months. I am the Administrator of all of the Wandsworth Safeguarding Boards Board and Network meetings and all of the sub-committee meetings. I support the Board through organising the meetings, minuting meetings and distribution of the papers. A typical day can involve putting together our leaflets for our partners who require them in the community for training purposes and otherwise, to receiving phone calls, minuting WSCB meetings, strategy meetings and processing invoices as required. It is a role with a variety of tasks that keep the work flow interesting.

Project Tearose: sharing of incidents of domestic abuse with schools

Project Tearose is being led by police officers DC Adele Davies and DC Toni Picozzi, supported by Sabbir Malik, research and development officer CSU and Stella Macaulay, Safeguarding in Education Advisor. Strategic leadership and safeguarding oversight is provided by Ruth Lacey, Head of Safeguarding Standards for Wandsworth and DI Samantha Swift.

Twenty schools (one special school, 5 secondary schools and 14 primary schools) in Wandsworth are currently participating in a Project Tearose pilot. We hope to be able to roll out the project to all Wandsworth schools in due course.

We know that children who live in households where domestic violence and abuse occurs are identified as being ‘at risk’ of harm from seeing or hearing the ill treatment of others.

When domestic abuse is occurring in a household it is very likely that children are aware of what is happening and are affected by it. Children respond to witnessing violence in different ways; they may become anxious, withdrawn, depressed or angry. This can affect their school performance, social wellbeing and relationships

If police attend a domestic abuse incident and a child or children are present there is a referral to Children’s Social Care. Project Tearose has been set up in order to also provide this information to the designated safeguarding leads (DSL) / Headteachers in the child’s school. This ensures that support can be put in place for the child if necessary and that the safeguarding lead is aware that the child lives in a household where domestic incidents are occurring. It also enables swift safeguarding practice and effective joint working between schools, the family and social care to support children in these families.

The information is shared by secure e-mail each morning (usually before 9.00am) and shares key information about any incident which has been reported the previous day or overnight. The information is expected to be treated as confidential within the school.

Parents in the project schools have been informed that the project is taking place, and a leaflet has now been produced to explain the process which will be given to each family when the police attend the incident. The leaflet is available to WSCB’s website in the ‘Resources section’.

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London Community Rehabilitation Company

The London Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) is one of 21 across England and Wales, employing nearly 1,200 staff across London. It was created on 1 June 2014 after its predecessor organisation, London Probation Trust, was dissolved.

CRC’s role is to manage the majority of offenders under probation supervision, that is low- to medium-risk offenders. On 1 February 2015 they were acquired by MTCnovo, a joint venture between the third, public and private sector, which has been established to provide rehabilitation services across London and the Thames Valley.

The venture comprises of Management & Training Corporation (MTC) and novo – a consortium of a number of public, private and third sector shareholders including RISE, A Band of Brothers, The Manchester College, Thames Valley Partnership and Amey.

They work alongside the publicly-managed National Probation Service (NPS), which manages offenders who have been assessed as presenting high risk of harm to others.

CRC were formerly known as the London Probation Trust and on 1 February 2015 our ownership transferred to MTCnovo.

Their skilled and experienced staff work directly with offenders to tackle the causes of their offending behaviour, enable them to turn their lives around and rehabilitate them back into the community. Staff supervise around 25,000 offenders at any one time, across 620 square miles of the capital’s 33 boroughs covering a population of 8.6 million people.

CRC’s role is to reduce reoffending and make London safer. Together with other criminal justice agencies, such as the Police, Prisons and Courts, they protect the public.

On a day-to-day basis, their work with the Wandsworth Crime Safeguarding Board remains unchanged, and their commitment to working closely with other local agencies is undiminished.

For more information about the new probation arrangements, visit www.londoncrc.org.uk.

WSCB Multi-agency audit schedule

The WSCB commits itself to undertake 3 multi-agency themed audits a year. Areas of focus for multi-agency audits are derived by local need, priority areas or any emerging issues that the WSCB considers relevant and important to review locally.

2015-16 audit cycle
- The audit themes for 2015-16 were:
  - Effectiveness of MASH
  - Step Up Step Down
  - Female Genital Mutilation (led by Public Health)

The audit reports from the above audits will be presented to the Serious Cases Improvement and Learning Sub-Committee on 30th March 2016. The learning from the audits and reviews are fed into the multi-agency training programme. ‘Learning from Experience’ events are held, incorporating lessons learnt from audits and other reviews such as serious case and partnership reviews. Action plans linked to the recommendations made following audits are tracked and implementation monitored through the Monitoring Sub-Committee. This is done through the ‘composite action plan’ and scrutinised by the WSCB.

2016-17 audit cycle:
The audit schedule for 2016-17 will reflect recommendations within the OFSTED report. The proposed audit schedule is being agreed and will include areas to ensure improvement is embedded. The proposed timescales for multi-agency audits for 2016-17 will be termly.

Free safeguarding event for faith, voluntary and community groups

The Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Board is hosting a FREE safeguarding event at Battersea Arts Centre for faith, voluntary and community groups on Wednesday 23 March 2016 9.30am-2pm

Representatives from faith, voluntary and community groups will have an opportunity to hear from a leading expert on how to support our children and young people to use the internet safely. They will be able to discuss what they see the safeguarding concerns for their communities are and put forward how we can work together to safeguard our children in Wandsworth, exploring setting up of a Safeguarding Forum for the FVC sector, etc.

There will be a demonstration of the safeguarding training available and they can register and sign up to the training on the day. All safeguarding training is free to faith, voluntary and community groups based in Wandsworth.

To book a place, please email the WSCB via wscb@wscb.org.uk or call us on 020 8871 7401/8610 by 18 March 2016.

Free safeguarding event for faith, voluntary and community groups
Kingston Serious Case Review

This review was initiated by Kingston Local Safeguarding Children Board as a result of the tragic deaths of three children P, Q and R who were smothered by their birth mother on the 22nd April 2014. The mother was given a hospital order in November 2014 after admitting manslaughter by diminished responsibility of her daughter and sons. Wandsworth agencies were involved in the review, as the family resided in the borough for a year and received extensive support from local services. The report was published on 23rd November 2015 and an action plan is being developed to address the recommendations relevant to Wandsworth.

The report’s authors concluded:

- The children’s deaths could not have been predicted, nor could they have been prevented
- Health and social care professionals across all the organisations involved offered the family appropriate and wide-ranging support and care, which sometimes was difficult to progress with the family
- That despite evidence of much good practice from health and care professionals, there are important lessons that should be learned from this case

The Independent Chair of Kingston Safeguarding Children Board, Deborah Lightfoot, said: “The deaths of the three siblings is nothing short of a tragedy. They could have gone on to lead long fulfilling lives. While the review states that all of the deaths were not predictable nor preventable, it has found that there are learning points for practitioners involved.”

The report identified 11 key findings. Due to the complex health needs of the three children with Spinal Muscular Atrophy Type 2 (SMA Type 2), nine different health and social care agencies were required to be involved with the family, along with the three local authorities in which they lived during the period under review: Merton, Wandsworth and Kingston.

The implementation of the recommendations relating to Wandsworth agencies and impact of action taken, will be monitored by the Serious Cases Improvement and Learning Sub-Committee. A copy of the report is available on Kingston’s LSCB website.

WSCB’s S11 Safeguarding Self-assessment Audit Process

One of the functions of the Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) is to monitor the effectiveness of arrangements in Wandsworth to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. All agencies are asked to undertake an annual safeguarding self-assessment audit of their agencies’ safeguarding activity under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004. Section 11 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 S11 audit informs the WSCB of what is happening within agencies regarding their safeguarding activity.

This also includes monitoring compliance.

This year’s S11 self-assessment questionnaire has been revised, to include some key areas of focus, linked to our 6 key priority areas and themes highlighted from last year’s audit process and recent inspection processes. The questionnaire is to be completed by as many staff as possible within organisations, services, agencies, schools or settings. This will include receptionists, premises officials, volunteers, contracted staff, school governors, teachers, social workers, mental health workers, stakeholders, trainees, as well as any other direct employee of your organisation.

The analysis of the completed S11 self-assessment questionnaires will help organisations, services, agencies, schools or settings to understand the strengths of and gaps in their staff and volunteers’ knowledge. This will enable them to develop appropriate learning opportunities and training.

In addition to the practitioners and frontline audit questionnaire, the WSCB has also this year produced a strategic audit questionnaire, which has been sent to all Chief Executives of statutory partners, as well as Head Teachers and Chairs of School Governing bodies in Wandsworth to complete.

An independent auditor will produce a report based on all the submitted frontline and strategic audit returns, which will be published on the WSCB’s website by July 2016.