Foreword by the Independent Chair

As the Independent Chair of the Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) I am pleased to present the annual report for the period April 2015 to March 2016 which sets out its accomplishments during the last year and the Board’s intentions for further progress in the future. Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) were established with the purpose of ensuring that agencies keep local children and young people safe and that where they have intervened they have made a positive difference in children’s lives.

The WSCB has a really important role in coordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of what is done by each and every person involved in protecting children and it carries statutory responsibilities for safeguarding children in Wandsworth. It is made up of senior managers within organisations in Wandsworth who hold responsibility for safeguarding children in their agencies, such as children’s social care, police, health, education and other services including voluntary bodies. The WSCB monitors how they all work together to provide services for children and ensure children are protected. This report reflects the work that the board has undertaken during the last year.

The last year has been a significant one for all those agencies who contribute to keeping children safe in Wandsworth. The Ofsted Inspection of services for children in need of help or protection, children looked after and care leavers and the Review of the effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board took place between 24 November – 17 December 2015 and the report was published in February 2016. Children’s Services were found to be inadequate and that inappropriate thresholds for intervention and service provision were applied, there were delays in children and young people being seen by a social worker and inadequate recognition and management of risk. The outcome has had a significant impact on all agencies and has raised the importance and contribution of all agencies to keeping children safe. There is a clear improvement plan in place for Children’s Services to address the shortfalls found by OFSTED and as the chair I am a member of.
the Improvement board set up by the Department of Education (DfE) to monitor and challenge progress.

There is a very clear commitment of senior managers to making these improvements and a willingness to be open and challenge one another. Commitment is also evident in the response of elected representatives and Chief Executives to the issues raised by OFSTED.

A review of the function and purpose of LSCBs has been carried out nationally and the Government has responded on their future position, which will be reflected in primary legislation. There will be changes to undertaking Serious Case Reviews with proposals for this to be undertaken on a national basis and the Child Death Overview Panels (CDOP) are likely to cover a wider area and their function will sit within a health framework.

To conclude, I would like to thank the Board staff, especially the Board Business Manager, for their continued support to the smooth functioning and promotion of the WSCB. Unfortunately the Business Manager to the Board will be leaving at the beginning of August 2016. She has been in post for over nine years and has provided her extensive knowledge base and skill set to improve the functioning of the Board. She has offered continuity of expertise over this period and will be greatly missed. While the future of the Board structure is unclear, we will appoint a temporary replacement.

I would also like to thank members of the Board, from across the partnership of our voluntary, community and statutory services and all the frontline practitioners and managers for their commitment,

hard work and effort in keeping children and young people safe in Wandsworth.

Their work is not always recognised or understood by the children and the families with which they work, but it is highly valued by the Board.

The Board and its partners will continue to seek out what we can do better, to support the community we serve and ensure that children and young people are safer as a result.

Nicky Pace  
WSCB Independent Chair
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How effective is the WSCB in improving the safety of children in Wandsworth?

This Annual report highlights progress and improvements across the partnership over the past year and evidences both joint working and single agency focus on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children and young people in Wandsworth.

The Ofsted Inspection of services for children in need of help or protection, children looked after and care leavers and the Review of the effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board took place between 24 November – 17 December 2015 and the report was published in February 2016. Children’s Services were found to be inadequate and that inappropriate thresholds for intervention and service provision were applied, there were delays in children and young people being seen by a social worker and inadequate recognition and management of risk, amongst other areas of concern. The Board was also subject to a review of its effectiveness by OFSTED, the outcome for the Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) was a judgement of ‘Requires Improvement’. 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.

The Board has regularly reviewed the performance of professionals working with children through its programme of multi-agency audits and by examining the results of single agency audit work. During the last year, multi-agency audits have examined progress on cases where young people have been at risk of child sexual exploitation (CSE). The work has also examined understanding of and practice on cases where there is risk of FGM (Female Genital Mutilation). Additional audit work has focussed on the functioning of MASH and the application of thresholds. This audit was being undertaken as OFSTED arrived and identified similar concerns as inspectors. As a result the Step Up/Down audit was commissioned in February 2016, but we are not be able to report on the outcome in this report as it fell outside of the timescales. More details of the outcomes of these audits can be found in the main body of the report. Clearly the focus of the Board’s work for the last quarter of the year was on areas of concern highlighted by the outcome of the inspection of Children’s Services, particularly the work of the ‘front door’ and application of threshold for child protection. There has been a significant rise in the numbers of children subject of child protection plans in the last quarter of the year as a result.

In addition to its audit work, the Board identifies ways to improve through its reviews of individual cases, including Serious Case Reviews (SCRs). The Board did not undertake any SCRs this year, but was involved with a number undertaken by other boards, in particular the high profile case of a mother who killed her three disabled children in Kingston. A learning review was also undertaken of a case that did not meet the criteria for a SCR, but it was felt necessary to undertake a review focusing on how agencies worked together to protect children and young people from neglect.
The Board has continued to review its processes for undertaking Section 11 audits in the last year. 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 self-assessment questionnaire designed by the WSCB is one of the key tools being used by the Board to assess and monitor whether staff in all agencies are able to properly identify and safeguard children. It gives the board the opportunity to understand how well front line staff understand safeguarding across the partnership. OFSTED recognised that safeguarding is appropriately prioritised by partners and well evidenced through section 11 audit reports, which they commented were exemplary.

The Board has worked on developing and confirming its dataset over the last year to ensure we have the right information and data to measure activity, but more importantly identify where there are areas of concern about performance or practice in individual agencies. The data has enabled the board to focus on areas of multi-agency practice and the impact on safeguarding children but failed to identify the safeguarding concerns within children’s services, nor were partner agencies or schools raising concerns directly with the Board. However, 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.

This Annual report covers the work of all the sub-committees of the Board and the activity over the last year. The report comments on the key areas of statutory responsibility of the Board, such as the work of the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP), multi-agency training, Private Fostering and allegations against professionals (AAP).
WSCB Priorities 2015-2016

The Board is required to report on progress against the priorities set for the previous year, look forward and plan any changes to the safeguarding priorities for the local area for the next year. We have taken into account national priorities and local needs, findings and recommendations from the inspection and any issues arising from SCRs and multi-agency audits. When deciding our priorities, we acknowledge that our core business of safeguarding children is ongoing, including identifying, assessing and provided services and help to those children who need protection. In deciding the Board’s improvement priorities, we consider how well we have delivered our priorities from the previous year and if further work is needed. When deciding priorities the Board recognised that the areas identified would require a two year work plan at least to make the necessary improvements.
Following the peer review project involving Participation People where the Board consulted children and young people about how safe they felt in Wandsworth and their safeguarding priorities, a detailed action plan was formed in response, involving all agencies. The Independent chair and the Borough Commander was interviewed and filmed as part of the process, so that this could be used to feedback to young people what actions were being taken as a result.

The Board continues to use opportunities to meet with and hear from young people through other mechanisms such as the Children in Care council (CLICK). It is therefore felt that this priority area needs to be embedded as a golden thread into all future work of the board and is part of our core values into next year.

As a result of this priority area the Board was undertaking a multi-agency audit of the effectiveness of the MASH arrangements and had started the audit two weeks prior to the OFSTED inspection. Similar issues were raised in the audits as were identified in the OFSTED inspection: about inappropriate application of thresholds and delay in the process to keep children safe. The audit was completed in March 2016 and found comparable failings to those of the OFSTED inspectors. As a result several of the recommendations identified by the audit had already been actioned by the time the audit was concluded and signed off. In response to an OFSTED recommendation to the WSCB and to monitor the implementation of actions and integration of learning with the aim to improve practice, the WSCB will repeat this audit again in January 2017 to evidence impact of improvements made. In February 2016 a multi-agency audit of Step Up/Step Down activity was commissioned to look at the effectiveness of the transition process of Early Help services. Unfortunately this audit will not be completed in time to be included in this report. Because of the issues raised in the inspection this area will remain a priority focus for the WSCB and its partners.

The learning from national serious case reviews concerned with Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) has informed the development of multi-agency arrangements to tackle CSE in Wandsworth. The use of the play, Chelsea’s Choice, in schools will support this process to raise awareness with
young people at risk of exploitation. The links with young people going missing are clearly known and recognised across the partnership and there is good information sharing. There has been a considerable amount of work focusing on young people at risk of CSE and missing in the last year including addressing the offer and take up of return home interviews. This is covered in more detail in this report in [Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)](#) and evidences the intervention by agencies to make children and young people safer. As this was an area identified by the inspectors as needing improvement, this will remain an area of focus for the WSCB.

The vulnerability of young people involved in gangs is managed effectively through the [Gangs Multi-agency Panel (GMAP)](#) arrangements and addresses these issues alongside the YOS and Children’s Services. At the end of 2015-16, 95 people (including adults) were on the Wandsworth Gang matrix (police intelligence-led matrix), of which 62 are in the community and 33 in custody. Of those 19% (18 people) have judicial restrictions, for example Criminal behaviour orders, Gang injunctions etc. These numbers fluctuate as new people become known and current nominals are worked with or enter the judicial process. A number of bespoke projects have been designed to engage and motivate young people known to the Gangs team, including two boxing engagement projects delivered in Tooting and one music project delivered in Battersea. The projects had a positive impact on levels of engagement both during and after project delivery.

Working to address radicalisation and extremism, *Prevent*, is still a key government strategy within the counter terrorism policy of the UK. This is in light of recent attacks in Europe, the ongoing online strategy of groups such as DAESH (ISIS or ISIL) and the rise of right wing, counter Islam or counter immigration, across Europe. Within Wandsworth, however, there has been little evidence of individuals travelling to Syria or being involved in Terror networks. There is a right wing group called Nation Action (Neo Nazi British nationalist organisation) whose leaders are based in Wandsworth, but are not carrying out any action within the local Borough. Eighty six practitioners attended Workshop to Raise Awareness about Prevent (WRAP) between September 2015 and March 2016. On average the turnout per session is between 25 - 30 (some sessions are ‘all-school’, which means that considerably more staff are in attendance, upwards of 120 in some setting). It is therefore estimated that the approximate number of persons reached equates to 2,580 in a 6 month period.

**Self-harm** – Concerns were raised by school, the local hospital and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) that there appeared to be a rise in children displaying and presenting for services in relation to self-harming behaviour. This matter was also recognised by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) which is leading on the CAMHS Transformation Plan. This Plan outlines the strategic priorities for Wandsworth for the next five years (2015-2020). To support the plan NHS England allocated £591,000 recurrent funding for the five year period, with a requirement from NHS England to spend £591,000 in 2015-16. The Wandsworth CCG CAMHS Transformation plan was identified as one of only three transformation plans in London to be successfully assured by NHSE in December 2015. This has led to increased capacity and capability for the local CAMH services. The funding has ensured CAMHS waiting times have been maintained at 2-4 weeks and this is well
above the national average and amongst the best in the country. The WSCB also agreed to undertake a multi-agency audit on self-harm, which will be commissioned within the 2016-17 audit programme, to understand the impact of intervention on reducing deliberate self-harm. The audit will seek the views of children and their families who have received support and services at universal, targeted and specialist services, to assess the impact of such interventions.

Children with disabilities and special needs – The Safeguarding Children with Disabilities and Special Education Needs Sub-Group which reports to the HWBB’s Child Health Overview and Clinical Reference Group (CHOCRG) has been re-established to progress the needs of this vulnerable group of children. The group reviewed the Kingston SCR report and recommendations, drawing up action which have been incorporated into the WSCB’s integrated action plan moving forward the recommendations made for the WSCB.

The Board recognises there is more still to do in this area and has kept this as a priority area for 2016-17 and has expanded it to include Female Genital Mutilation, Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage.

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**Neglect - Ensure that the issue of neglect receives due prominence in assessment, prevention and intervention work alongside issues of adult mental health and substance misuse.**

The Board is very aware from its audits and case reviews that the early identification of neglect when parenting deteriorates is a critical issue for safeguarding children. Children living with the ‘toxic trio’ of domestic violence, parental mental ill-health and substance misuse, often experience significant emotional and physical neglect. This in turn significantly impairs the child’s health and development, leads to poor progress at school and limited life chances.

We recognise there is more to do especially in providing Early Help to more children and parents to prevent the escalation of concerns. We have therefore agreed that this area will remain a priority for next year. We will be reviewing the strategy, incorporating the learning from our local partnership review that highlighted neglect as key issue within the reviews.

**Domestic Abuse - Improving the identification, assessment and response to domestic abuse and raising awareness to reduce the prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and other areas identified within the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy.**
There has been a significant increase in the number of domestic abuse (DA) offences reported and DA features in around 22.3% of referrals received by Children’s Services. This is a 4.6% increase on the previous year. Children with a child protection (CP) plan due to Emotional Abuse, which is the category mostly linked to domestic abuse, is the highest category at 49.98% of all CP plans during 2015-16. It remains a key safeguarding issue for the partnership.

There has been a Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) audit which has highlighted lack of awareness of FGM and reporting mechanisms in health. As a direct result changes have been made in the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) to capture the mandatory reporting going forward. This audit will be repeated and across a wider audience to ensure awareness raising and training has been embedded.

It has been agreed that the Board will continue to monitor the domestic abuse developments through the neglect priority rather than a separate priority area and FGM, honour based violence (HBV) and forced marriage (FM) will be incorporated into the vulnerable children and young people priority area.

Looked after children/Children Looked After (CLA) - Ensure ‘Looked After Children’ are safer, receive high quality support to achieve better outcomes, especially those placed at a distance from the borough (more than 20 miles).

We recognise that placing children in care out of borough can be challenging in terms of safeguarding and promoting their welfare. There are arrangements in place for responding to children who go missing from care. There is more work needed to scrutiny actions taken to find missing children, undertake return home interviews consistently and learn from what they say and what is known about the ‘push and pull’ factors that lead them to go missing and to prevent this happening again.

There is a continuing focus to increase the number and proportion of children in Wandsworth fostering placements, so that CLA are placed closer to their schools, family, friends and communities.

The Board has decided to slightly change the focus of this priority area for next year by changing this to: Children living away from their parents - Ensure children not living at home are safe, receive high quality support to achieve better outcomes, which includes: children looked after, privately fostered children, 'sofa surfing', unaccompanied minors and young people in custody.
Core Values 2015-2016

The Board has decided to add some overarching core values that sit over our key priority areas for 2016-18. These are a direct result of the inspection of children’s services and capture some of our key areas for development in the next year. Safeguarding children and young people are at the heart of what we do and our core values are:

- Effective child protection practice across all agencies
- Recognising and responding to diversity & equality
- The child is at the centre of everything we do
- Sharing information appropriately
There is a strong focus on improving practice to reduce risk and secure better outcomes for children. Agencies are not complacent and recognise where there is a need to improve systems and processes to ensure more consistent, safer and effective practice. The full report gives a detailed picture of how all partner agencies have worked together in the last year.
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>Children in Wandsworth</td>
<td>63,377 children live in Wandsworth (including 18 year olds)</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Aged Children</td>
<td>20.1% of school aged children are living in poverty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pupils in Wandsworth Schools</td>
<td>73.6% of pupils attending Wandsworth state-funded schools are from minority ethnic groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Aged Children</td>
<td>45% pupils attending Wandsworth state-funded school English is known or believed not to be their first language</td>
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<tr>
<td>Referrals to MASH</td>
<td>97.6% of referrals to MASH were responded to within 24 hours - up by 8.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Referrals to MARAC</td>
<td>158 referrals (47.3%) to MARAC had children in the family; 45.7% re-referrals involved children</td>
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<tr>
<td>Referrals to SEMAP</td>
<td>68 referrals made to SEMAP during 2015-16, an increase of 15; 12 re-referrals were made</td>
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<td>Referrals to Children's Services</td>
<td>8995 contacts to Children's Services - an increase of 258</td>
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Wandsworth is the one of the largest inner London boroughs, with an estimated population of 314,544\(^1\). This is an increase of 2,399 residents from last year’s estimate (0.8% increase). The total child population (those aged 0-18, including 18 year olds) is 63,377 (ONS Mid-year estimate 2015). This is 20.1% of the total population of the borough and is an increase of 2.2% from last year’s child population. 20.1% of children are living in poverty (based on school aged children eligible for free school meals)\(^3\). 32,666 School-aged children attend state-funded nursery, primary, secondary and special schools, as well as pupil referral units and alternative provisions in Wandsworth.

For 45% of school aged children attending Wandsworth state-funded schools primary, secondary and special schools English is known or believed not to be their first language. Based on government statistics of school aged children attending Wandsworth state-funded schools 73.6% are minority ethnic pupils (includes all pupils classified as belonging to an ethnic group other than White British)\(^3\). 1.2% of pupils did not indicate their ethnic background.

Between April 2015 and March 2016 8995 contacts were made to Children’s Services. 67.8% of contact received by Children’s Services resulted in no further action by the local authority during 2015-16.

2688 Referrals were made to Children’s Services. This is an increase of 382 referrals from the previous year. 97.6% % of referrals were responded to within 24 hours by Children’s Services. 18.9% referrals were re-referred to Children’s Services within a 12 month period from the initial referral.

1252 Child and family assessments were completed by Children’s Services during 2015-16. From data available from October 2015 to March 2016, 78% of Early Help Assessment resulted in Children’s Services undertaking social care assessments. Early Help Assessments are the format that Children’s Services now require all referrals to be, as much more accurate and detailed information is provided, which assist in better and more effective decision making at the point of receiving the referral.

1232 Section 47 investigations were undertaken during 2015-16. This is a 78% increase on the previous year. These investigations relate to Section 47 of the Children Act 1989\(^4\) which places a duty on a local authority to investigate and make inquiries into the circumstances of

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\(^1\) [http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationestimatesforukenglandandwalesscotlandandnorthernireland](http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationestimatesforukenglandandwalesscotlandandnorthernireland)


children considered to be at risk of ‘significant harm’ and, where these inquiries indicate the need, to decide what action, if any, it may need to take to safeguard and promote the child’s welfare.

At 31st March 2016 285 children were subject to child protection plans. 12.6% were made subject to child protection plans for a second or subsequent time during 2015. Only 1.1% of open child protection plans during 2015-16 lasted two years or more.

During 2015-16 Children’s Services issued 72 sets of proceedings within the family court compared to 57 in 2014-15, and the rise in numbers seen at the end of the last financial year shows no sign of reducing.

At 31st March 2016 248 children were looked after by the local authority. During 2015-16 174 children became looked after, with 167 returning to their parents’ care or permanency were secured for them through adoption or special guardianship order. 94 applications for care proceedings were initiated during 2015-16.

68 children were referred to the Sexual Exploitation Multi-agency Panel (SEMAP). 50% of the children referred to SEMAP were also reported as regularly going missing. 12 Children were re-referred to during 2015-16.

189 children were reported missing during 2015-16. 120 Children went missing from home and 69 children who are in the care of the local authority went missing from care. 90.1% of all children who were reported missing were offered a Return Home Interview (RHI). 61.6% of all children who were reported missing accepted a RHI.

158 referrals to the Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) had children under the age of 18 in the family. This is 47.3% of all referrals to MARAC during 2015-16. In 2% of the referrals the victim was aged 16-17 and in 1.8% of referrals the perpetrator was aged 16-17 years old. 45.7% of repeat referrals had children in the family.

The number of privately fostered children varied through the year, with only three children known to Children’s Services to be privately fostered at the end of the year. This number is low and clear plans are being put in place to explore how to increase the awareness and reporting of private fostering.

0.04% of referrals to Children’s Services were made in relation to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). 0.26% of assessments completed indicated FGM as a risk factor. As this is a low reporting rate, Public Health undertook an audit at the end of 2015 on behalf of the WSCB to understand why referrals were not being made to Children’s Services or to the Police following the introduction of mandatory reporting.
The Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) undertook three themed multi-agency audits during 2015-16 and undertook one partnership review. Two ‘Learning from Experience’ events were held in relation to the findings and lessons from Serious Case Reviews and undertaken by the WSCB. Learning from reviews and audits will continue to be incorporated in multi-agency training, sharing local partnership reviews through summaries in newsletters and development of short presentations which can easily be shared and disseminated more widely to staff across and multi-agency partnership.

During 2015-16 245 multi-agency training courses were delivered, attended by 4,727 individuals. These individuals came from 506 different agencies/services. 98% of attendees in the sample either ‘strongly agreed’ or ‘agreed’ that the training event will help them do their job better.

5112 individual practitioners across the multi-agency partnership completed the S11 safeguarding self-assessment audit questionnaire this year. 127 agencies/services across the partnership submitted S11 safeguarding audit returns, based on their practitioners’ questionnaires and 83 agencies/services submitted action plans in addressing areas of development identified through the audit process. In addition to the practitioner focussed audit returns, another 29 strategic self-assessment audits were submitted by both statutory agencies and schools.

The Voice of the Child and children’s input into various areas of service delivery were sought through youth participation teams, the children in care council (CLICK), the youth council, in schools when consulted through their school councils, etc. Children’s participation in children looked after review meetings and child protection conferences were obtained using different methods, such as Three Houses (Signs of Safety & Well-being tools), advocacy services provided by Barnardo’s, independent return home interviews facilitated by Barnardo’s, etc. Four Secondary schools participated in anti-bullying surveys, which the Education and Inclusion Service used to assess and plan areas of focus in relation to addressing bullying issues within schools.

220 Referrals were made to the local authority designated officer (LADO) in relation to allegations against persons in position of trust during 2015-16. This is an increase of 10% from last year. 19.5% of allegations were substantiated. After initial consideration, 23.2% did not require any further action.16.4% were unfounded, whilst 26.8% were unsubstantiated. Nearly 45% of referrals to the LADO related to physical abuse.

In 2015-16 the WSCB Independent Chair challenged partner agencies on a range of issues such as completion of child protection medicals, health assessments for looked after children, temporary accommodation for families within Wandsworth, young people held in custody overnight.
Safeguarding is everyone’s business. For services to be effective, each professional and organisation should play their full part. The service user should be central to service delivery. For services to be effective they should be based on the needs and views of children and young people, their families and vulnerable adults. As such, all key strategic plans whether they be formulated by individual agencies or by partnership forums should include safeguarding as a cross-cutting theme to ensure that existing strategies and service delivery as well as emerging plans for change and improvement include effective safeguarding arrangements that ensure that all people of Wandsworth are safe and their well-being is protected.

The WSCB has the responsibility to scrutinise and challenge these arrangements across the partnerships within Wandsworth. These partnerships include the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB), Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) and Community Safety Partnership (CSP), as well as the newly formed Corporate Parenting Panel (CPP). The current joint governance protocol will be updated to include the link with the CPP.

The WSCB has a Three-tier structure: An Executive Board, a Network Board and four Sub-Committees. The Executive is the strategic and decision making body made up of the all director level or equivalent representation the statutory partners and some key other partner agencies, which meet at least six times a year. We also have a lay member who sits on the Executive. The Executive annually reviews the safeguarding priority areas, taking into consideration any key safeguarding issues brought to its attention by frontline workers; the outcome of the monitoring, analysis and recommendations undertaken by the WSCB sub-committees; key issues identified through audit and review processes; the analysis of local data provided to the WSCB through its dataset; and reflecting on regional and national issues.

The Network Board is a broader board, which includes a wide representation from all statutory agencies and other agencies in the borough such as all the school sectors – primary, secondary, special and independent schools, as well as the voluntary sector. It is a more operational board and will consider implementation of the strategic drive set by the Executive. It meets three times a year.
All the Sub-Committees (SCs) report to the Executive. Each sub-committee has a clear mandate as set out in its Terms of Reference.

**The WSCB will:**

- Take responsibility for monitoring action to improve safeguarding including action plans arising from Serious Case Reviews.
- Hold the other boards to account on matters of safeguarding in all its activities, providing appropriate challenge on performance and results of performance indicators.
- Undertake audits and feedback results to the other boards, advising on ways to improve and highlight areas of underperformance.
- Feedback learning from Serious Case Reviews and ensure that the lessons are learnt.
- Highlight gaps in service for the other boards to consider as part of its commissioning process.

**Responsibility of the WSCB in relation to other strategic groups/boards:**

The WSCB is not a delivery or commissioning body, it has a scrutiny and challenge role. However it would expect to initiate activities which investigate and improve practice in safeguarding. It has the authority to call any agency represented on the HWBB, SAB or CSP to account for its safeguarding activity. The work of the WSCB contributes to the wider goals of improving the well-being of all children. Within the wider governance arrangements its role is to ensure the effectiveness of the arrangements made by individual agencies and the wider partnership to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The WSCB will work with partnerships to ensure procedures and processes are in place to minimise risk and maximise the safety of children and young people in Wandsworth.

The Chairs of the WSCB, SAB, HWBB and CPS had their annual meeting on 10th August 2015. In addition at every Executive meeting there is a standing agenda item where the Chairs of the various partnership boards or a representative from the boards will give feedback from previous board meetings and any relevant safeguarding matters that have come to their attention. This is also an opportunity for the WSCB to raise any safeguarding issues that it feels other partnership boards should consider or challenge areas of focus. As a result of a discussion at the HWBB, the WSCB now has a representative from Healthwatch who attends both the Network Board and Monitoring sub-committee. Concerns with regards to challenges in having child protection medicals completed within required timescales were raised with the HWBB.
What areas of focus has the WSCB reviewed this year?
The WSCB has had another very busy year in monitoring and scrutinising the delivery of the safeguarding priority areas by partner agencies. Each sub-committee developed a forward plan, which supported them in monitoring and undertaking the key tasks with in fulfilling their statutory role on behalf of the WSCB. The WSCB Sub-Committees each has clearly defined terms of reference which can be accessed with the WSCB’s website – [WSCB & Sub-Committee Terms of Reference](#). During 2015-16 the WSCB had four functioning Sub-Committees, as well as key standing groups (PIXI Panel, S11 Audit Review Group, etc.), and signing off the Terms of Reference of a new Sub-Committee (Training and Workforce SC) in March 2016.
Monitoring Sub-Committee

The Monitoring sub-committee undertakes the quality assurance and scrutiny role on behalf of the WSCB. It meets six times a year. During the last year it called in over 35 different reports for scrutiny and to seek assurance that service delivery is contributing to better outcomes for children and young people in Wandsworth. The areas reviewed by the Monitoring SC include:

- Anti-bullying report
- Child Protection Medicals
- Child Protection report
- Children Looked After (CLA) Education report
- Children missing from education (CME)
- Children with disabilities and special education needs
- CLA health assessments & action plan (CCG)
- CLA S11 action plan
- Early Help and Intervention report
- Faith Associates – Health check in five local Madrassahs
- Female Genital Mutilation report
- Healthy Schools Report
- Independent Reviewing Officers annual report and review of action plan
- Information Sharing in relation to gangs
- LADO report
- MAPPA report
- MARAC report
- Missing Children
- Multi-agency Child Protection Conferences
- Multi-agency safeguarding training delivery and impact evaluation
- Online safety report
- ‘Prevent’ report
- Private Fostering report
- Review of changes to Working Together 2015
- Review of Neglect Strategy and implementation of action plan
- Review of WSCB Business Plan
- S11 Report
- SEMAP/CSE half
- Unintentional/accidental injuries
- Use of temporary accommodation/B&B’s
- Violence against women and girls strategy report
- Wandsworth Prison – safeguarding arrangements for children visiting prisons
- WSCB Dataset/PIXI Panel
- WSCB’s Composite Action Plan
- Youth Participation
The Serious Cases Improvement and Learning Sub-Committee

The Serious Cases Improvement and Learning sub-committee (SCIL) leads on multi-agency audits, reviewing learning from single agency safeguarding audits, considers whether a case meets threshold for undertaking a serious case review (SCR) or Local Partnership reviews. It will coordinate any SCRs as required. It also reviews learning from other SCRs.

In November 2015 a case which involved long-term neglect was presented to SCIL for consideration and whether to recommend that threshold was met for undertaking a SCR. SCIL recommended to the independent chair that threshold was not met, which she agreed. The National Panel also agreed with the WSCB’s decision. We however felt that we should undertake a partnership review to look how we can improve practice. This review was completed and a ‘Learning from Experience’ event was held on 20th April 2016 to share the learning from the partnership review with practitioners. The event was well attended.

SCIL also led on the undertaking of multi-agency audits. The effectiveness of MASH, FGM and Step up/Step down audits were commissioned during 2015-16. The Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) audit commissioned during 2014-15 was signed off in early 2015-16. The Step up/Step Down audit was delayed due to attempts to obtain service user feedback and input in the review and was therefore only signed off during in June 2016.

The WSCB did not undertake any SCRs; however some partner agencies were involved in other LSCBs SCR such as the Kingston SCR which involved a mother sadly killing 3 of her children. The children and family resided in Wandsworth for a period of a year and were known to local services due to their disabilities. The children were also known to many local health professionals. The Kingston SCR made ten recommendations for the three LSCBs that had known the children. WSCB developed an action plan to address the recommendations and the implementation of the actions and impact on improving practice will be continue to be monitored by SCIL during 2016-17.

SCIL SC aims to review the lesson and learning from other LSCBs SCRs at each meeting and to share the learning to improve practice in Wandsworth. During 2015-16 SCIL considered a SCR from Greenwich, Sutton and the West Mercia MAPPA Review. Agencies that had undertaken single safeguarding audits present their learning to the sub-committee in order to share learning. IDAS, the local drug and alcohol service during 2015-16 presented their learning following an internal safeguarding audit. National Probation Service (NPS) also submitted learning from an internal review.

Other areas of focus reviewed by SCIL include

- Checklist for IROs following CLA returning home audit
- Attendance or link between GPs and MARAC
• Implications of changes to SCR criteria within Working Together 2015
• Challenge to agencies that had low attendance and presentation of single agency audit learning
• Consideration of a review of a ‘good case’
• Review of Terms of Reference and membership of SCIL

Child Death Overview Panel

The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) function is to review all Wandsworth resident deaths. Working Together To Safeguard Children 2015, Chapter 5. These arrangements are to include:

• An overview of all child deaths (under 18 years, excluding those babies who are stillborn) in the LSCB area undertaken by a panel (para 5.8 – 5.10); and
• A rapid response by a group of key professionals who come together for the purpose of enquiring into and evaluating each unexpected death of a child (para 5.12 – 5.28).

The overall principles are that in all cases enquiries should seek to understand the reasons for the child’s death, address the possible needs of other children in the household, the needs of all family members, to monitor the support services offered to families and, also to consider any lessons to be learnt about how best to safeguard and promote the children’s welfare in the future. All families should be treated with sensitivity, discretion and respect at all times, and professionals should approach their enquiries with an open mind.

CDOP only met twice during 2015-16 due to various factors including annual leave/sick leave affecting quoracy, and cases requiring further information for review. Eight Cases were reviewed during 2015-16. There were a total of 56 deaths reported to the Wandsworth Single Point of Contact from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016. Ten (18%) of these deaths are Wandsworth resident children and 1 (2%) is an overseas patient with a temporary address in Wandsworth. These 11 (20%) cases will be reviewed by the Wandsworth Child Death Overview Panel, the remaining 45 (80%) were children resident in other areas and these were passed onto the relevant local authority Single Point of Contact (SPOC).

There have been two Wandsworth cases deemed as an unexpected death during the 2015-16 and rapid response (information gathering) meetings were convened within four working days after the child’s death with attendance from all agencies involved with the family. The CDOP bereavement counselling service is now well embedded into the CDOP process. All bereaved families are written to by the CDOP

Bereavement Counsellor and offered bereavement support and advice. Since the Bereavement Counsellor has been in post she has contacted all bereaved families where she has been notified via CDOP notifications. A significant number of families took up the offer of bereavement support / counselling. In most cases the counsellor provided face to face counselling with one or both parents.

The future of the Wandsworth CDOP will be under review following the Alan Wood Review⁶, commissioned by the Government. A detailed breakdown of child deaths in Wandsworth during 2015-16 is captured within the CDOP annual report, which is at Appendix 15.

Adults and Children Sub-Committee
The Adults and Children sub-committee (SC) reviewed areas of transition. In September 2015 the business plan and terms of reference were reviewed and it was agreed that the sub-committee had reached its objectives and that the work would be better picked up by operational Task & Finish groups. This proposal was taken to the Executive in November 2015, who agreed to disband the sub-committee, however this is under review as the Departments are now separate. Key areas of focus for this sub-committee during 2015-16 included:

- Joint Adults and Children’s Services audit
- Joint training
- Peer Review
- Peer Review Outcomes and Position Statements
- Sexual Exploitation Multi-agency Panel (SEMAP)
- Signs of Safety
- Transition from young persons to adult substance misuse services
- Transition St George’s -Paediatric and Physical Health

Training and Workforce Sub-Committee
In November 2015 a proposal was presented to the Executive for a formation of a Training Sub-Committee. The Executive agreed, to a group with a wider remit to include and scrutinise areas of safeguarding in relation to the workforce. The revised terms of reference were presented to the Executive in March 2016, which was signed off at this meeting. More will be reported on this sub-committee in next year’s annual report.

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Communication and Publicity

Newsletters and review of leaflets

The WSCB produced 2 newsletters during the year containing key messages from learning from reviews, introducing new members of the WSCB to the partnership, upcoming events, etc.

The newsletters have been very well received by partners who have stated it is a useful method of sharing partnership information with staff and volunteers. The latest newsletter can be viewed on the WSCB website – Newsletter March 2016.

The WSCB has created a range of leaflets to raise awareness with members of the public and those working in Wandsworth. All the leaflets were updated during 2015-16 and are published on the website and can be downloaded via www.wscb.org.uk/resources. Free copies are provided to agencies when requested.

Safeguarding Week – 13-17th June 2016

Safeguarding Week is celebrated every year in conjunction with the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB). Safeguarding stalls are held at key locations in the borough during the week where representative from partner agencies hand out information about safeguarding children and adults to members of the public. During the safeguarding week over 750 leaflets and safeguarding bags, which displays the number of Children’s Services on it, with the message ‘If you are worried about a child or young person, call 020 8871 6622’ were given out. Very positive feedback was received on each of the day from members of public about the awareness-raising events.

Faith & community event

The WSCB has recognised that an area for development is engagement with the faith, voluntary and community sector within the borough. There has been a great deal of challenge in taking this forward due to limited capacity within the WSCB team, as well as the dismantling of the Children’s Community and Voluntary network (CCVN) within Wandsworth due to funding restrictions and capacity within voluntary sector in coordinating its network. In an attempt to address this challenge the WSCB invited representatives
from all faith, voluntary and community groups to a safeguarding event on 23\textsuperscript{rd} March 2016, which was held at Battersea Arts Centre. A leading expert on ‘online safety’ delivered a keynote presentation, sharing with delegates on how to support children and young people to use the internet safely. They were able to discuss what they see the safeguarding concerns for their communities are and put forward they thought the sector and WSCB could work together to safeguard children in Wandsworth. Following the event it was proposed that termly safeguarding events will be held and the next event will be the WSCB’s Annual Conference on 28\textsuperscript{th} September 2016, which will be aimed this year at parents, carers, as well as voluntary, community and faith groups.

Following an impact evaluation of the session, the following comment made by one of the pastors that attended:

disconnect my age group has with the technology culture of the young people and how they are really speaking another language in a sense. I kind of had a sense of that, but now see more clearly and realise the kind of stress they can be under as a result. It also has inspired me to

**Annual Conference – 8\textsuperscript{th} October 2015**

On 8\textsuperscript{th} 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 the AlterEgo Company, *Chelsea’s Choice*. It is 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.

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.
Statutory reporting

Learning and improvement framework

*Multi-agency safeguarding training delivery*

The WSCB is committed to providing high quality learning opportunities for the children and young people’s workforce in Wandsworth to ensure it is capable and confident to safeguard children and young people. Training is driven by an understanding of the skills, knowledge and abilities that the workforce requires to achieve good outcomes for children and their families. The multi-agency safeguarding training programme is delivered in line with the key safeguarding priority areas identified and agreed by the WSCB. There is an expectation that the workforce will access the multi-agency training in addition to single agency training provision, as it promotes improved inter-agency working on all aspects of safeguarding children. The programme is regularly reviewed to ensure it takes account of local and national changes.

The OFSTED report, published on 16th February 2016, stated that multi-agency safeguarding ‘training is provided in relation to the key priorities of the Board, using learning from case audits and internal management reviews’. The report further stated ‘an extensive and appropriate range of multi-agency training has been developed and delivered on behalf of the LSCB’.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of events offered, delivered and cancelled</th>
<th>2014-15</th>
<th>2015-16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total no. of events offered</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total no. of events delivered</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total no. of events cancelled due to low numbers</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There had been 28% increase in the number of courses delivered compared to the previous year. In addition to this, the reach of multi-agency training was also increased, as 677 more individuals (16.7% increase) accessed multi-agency safeguarding training during 2015-16.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bookings and attendance</th>
<th>2014-15</th>
<th>2015-16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of requests to attend multi-agency safeguarding training received</td>
<td>5,144</td>
<td>6,461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of requests to attend multi-agency safeguarding training confirmed</td>
<td>4,339</td>
<td>5,288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of multi-agency safeguarding training attendances</td>
<td>4,047</td>
<td>4,724</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Practitioners or volunteers who applied for courses may not be confirmed on a course either because the training is not appropriate for them or if their application is not approved by their manager. The 4,724 individuals that attended training represented 488 different agencies/services delivering services within Wandsworth, as well as 18 out of borough agencies/services.

The chart below shows the percentage of individuals from different employment areas that attended multi-agency safeguarding training events in 2015-16. As can be sees below the largest sector that accesses the safeguarding training is schools.

In October 2015 multi-agency safeguarding training was made more readily available through the introduction of a new online learning safeguarding programme. Since introduction in October 2015, up to March 2016, there were 1,398 enrolments and 1,001 training courses completed (72%). 98% of those who completed the courses described having improved knowledge about the subject after completing the course.

**Training attendee evaluation and impact**

The WSCB is also committed to ensuring, through impact evaluation of training, that the training is enhancing practitioners’ knowledge and contributing to improving their skills and abilities to deliver services, leading to better outcomes for children and young people in Wandsworth. Monitoring and reviewing the impact of multi-agency safeguarding training is regarded as central to ensuring that it is good quality. The process of impact evaluation involves two stages:
Training attendee on the day evaluation
Each training attendee is asked to complete an ‘on the day’ evaluation survey which asks about the following: if the training event was delivered in a way that supported their learning needs; if the training event will help them do their job better; and if the training event enhanced their knowledge and skills. 2,165 surveys were received.

- **99%** of attendees in the sample either ‘strongly agreed’ or ‘agreed’ that the training event was delivered in a way that supported their learning needs.
- **98%** of attendees in the sample either ‘strongly agreed’ or ‘agreed’ that the training event will help them do their job better.
- **98%** of attendees in the sample either ‘strongly agreed’ or ‘agreed’ that the event enhanced their knowledge and skills.

Training attendee post training impact evaluation
Some individuals who attended training that took place during April – June 2015 were asked to complete an online impact survey. Since July 2015, all individuals attending training were asked to complete an online impact survey at least three months after the event. During 2015-16 a total of 276 impact surveys were returned.

- **89%** of attendees in the sample said that they have shared their knowledge with colleagues.
- **25%** strongly agreed and **63%** agreed that they have been able to apply the learning to their job (2% strongly disagreed and 10% disagreed).

The Annual Training Delivery and Impact Evaluation Report sets out a number of developments for 2016-17, which will be monitored and reviewed by the Training and Workforce Sub-Committee.

**Learning from Experience**
As part of the key role of the WSCB to promote learning across the multi-agency workforce ‘Learning from Experience’ (LfE) events are held to share learning from serious case reviews and audits. During 2015-16 we held two LFEs which included the learning of challenging disguised compliance; working with fathers; risk of drug and alcohol using parents; the importance of assessments taking history into account; impact of

“This course has enhanced my knowledge on the topic and helped me identify triggers and know how and when to refer to relevant agencies.” – Training attendee
long-term neglect and the effects of sexting and CSE from peers. Both events were well attended. However it has been recognised that other methods should also be explored in sharing the learning wider than just those who are able to attend LfE events. Additional ways of doing this will be explored and taken forward during 2016-17.

Audits & reviews
As previously stated in the SCIL section, the WSCB is committed to undertaking three multi-agency audits per year. Any agency is able to present a case to be considered either as a Serious Case Review or to be reviewed as a partnership learning review. Three audits were commissioned during 2015-16 and one partnership review was completed. As outlined in the ‘Learning from Experience’ section above, events were held to share the learning and additional methods of sharing and embedding learning will continue to be explored during 2016-17.

LADO
Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 places a duty on Local Authorities to “put in place arrangements to provide advice and guidance on how to deal with allegations against people who work with children to employers and voluntary organisations. Local authorities should also ensure that there are appropriate arrangements in place to effectively liaise with the police and other agencies to monitor the progress of cases and ensure that they are dealt with as quickly as possible, consistent with a thorough and fair process”. (Chapter 2, Section 6). This function is carried out by the local authority designated officer (LADO).

Working Together 20157 further states that the framework for managing such cases should be used where it is alleged that a person who works with children has:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child.
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child.
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children.

Where the above criteria are met, the LADO is responsible for chairing a strategy meeting to consider whether there should be:

- A police investigation of a possible criminal offence.
- Enquiries and assessment by children’s social care about whether a child is in need of protection or in need of services.
- Consideration by an employer of disciplinary action in respect of the individual.

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The LADO provided a six-monthly and annual report to the WSCB Monitoring SC, which included provided evidence of actions taken in relation to the action plan 2015-16 and set out an action plan for 2016-17.

There was nearly a 100% increase in the number of referrals made to the LADO from 2012-13 to 2014-15. There was a sharp increase in the referrals in the first six months on 2015-16 with 136 referrals made to the service between April and October 2015. The projected referrals for the year were 272. A total of 220 Referrals were made to the LADO in relation to allegations against persons in position of trust during 2015-16. This is an increase of 10% from last year.

Referrals from all sectors with the exception of Health and Ofsted have either increased or remained at the same level, indicating an increased awareness among partner agencies of reporting allegations against professionals working with children, as demonstrated in the chart opposite.

The rate of referrals from increase has more or less stabilised with ten more referrals received from parents and children in 2015-16. The records show children are telling their parent or a professional that they are aggrieved about their treatment by an adult and this has been recorded as the child being the source of the referral. Of a total of 97 referrals (ten more than last year) received from parents or the child, only 15 referrals were closed with the outcome of ‘No Further Action After Initial Consideration’ indicating that the a high number of referrals from these sources met threshold for investigation by the LADO.

A significant proportion of referrals continue to concern education and early year settings with a total of 121 (55 %) referrals relating to child minders, nursery workers, school teachers and school support staff. The predominance of referrals from these sectors is because these roles have the most direct contact with children, parents are confident about raising concerns, and the settings themselves are quick to refer into the service.
As with professionals from the education and early year settings, foster carers also come in close and direct contact with the children. As a result of close working between the LADO and the Fostering Service, the number of referrals of allegations against foster carers has more than doubled this year. Of the 30 referrals of allegations against foster carers 14 investigations either found sufficient evidence to prove the allegation (Substantiated) or insufficient evidence to prove or disprove the allegation (Unsubstantiated). In either case the referrals were appropriately made and warranted an investigation by the LADO. These investigations either resulted in the foster carer’s case being presented to the Foster Panel for consideration of their continued approval or recommended further training to the foster carer. Some presentations to the Foster Panel resulted in termination of the foster carers’ approval by the Panel.

Allegations of physical abuse continue to account for a significant proportion (nearly 45%) of the referrals made to the LADO service. These largely pertain to early years and school settings stemming from interactions with staff where children have been restrained or physically directed to carry out an instruction. Allegations of sexual abuse more than doubled in 2014-15 as compared to the year before, which was likely to be the result of an increased awareness among professionals in light of the Jimmy Saville enquiry. These have dropped slightly in 2015-16 but are still higher than those received in 2013-14. The 82 allegations recorded as ‘other’ are related to professional conduct or failure to follow protocol.

Some examples are:

- Workers being lewd in front of young children.
- Failing to act upon information that a child may have suffered harm.
- Failing to administer first aid.
- Showing frightening films to school children.
- Shouting at children.

![No. of LADO Referrals according to category of abuse](image-url)
Enquiries into some of the concerns about professional conduct show that staff, particularly in group settings with children, sometimes behave below the expected standard when they are stressed. In these instances employers have recognised stress and have put in support or extra supervision.

Of the total number of referrals (220), 19.5% of the allegations were substantiated. After initial consideration, 23.2% did not require any further action, 16.4% were unfounded and 26.8% were unsubstantiated. For more detailed report from LADO see Appendix 14.

S11
Section 11 (4) of the Children Act 2004 requires each person or body to which the duties apply to have regard to any guidance given to them by the Secretary of State and places a statutory requirement on organisations and individuals to ensure they have arrangements in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 states that one of the key functions of a Local Safeguarding Children Board is “monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advising them on ways to improve”. The WSCB discharges this function is by carrying out a Section 11 Audit on an annual basis.

The WSCB Section 11 audit was viewed extremely favourably by the Ofsted inspectors, and in the Inspection report published in February 2016 it stated:

“The LSCB has ensured that safeguarding is a priority for all its partners through an exemplary range of Section 11 self-assessment audits. The format of these has enabled extensive engagement of agencies and practitioners, including close involvement from General Practitioners. Learning from these was incorporated into an independent report and widely published. This has enabled the LSCB to help partners improve their individual safeguarding practice and to identify some common areas that required improvement. These have been systematically addressed by the board, for example to ensure all staff and volunteers know who their safeguarding lead is and who to speak to if they have concerns”.

The WSCB commissioned an independent auditor to oversee and compile a report on this year’s S11 audit returns. The auditor commented that overall the questionnaire and self-assessment response was the most positive received over the three-year period that the WSCB has

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chosen this specific style of practitioner-based questionnaire audits. The auditor viewed that this demonstrates a year on year improvement in agency engagement and effectively demonstrates the benefit agencies see in taking part in the Section 11 audit.

127 agencies returned audits (27 more than last year) with 5,118 workers completing the questionnaire this year. This is a 6% increase on the number of individual questionnaires completed in 2015 and marks a continuing improvement in the number of staff members across the partnership taking part. 60 audits were received from schools and educational settings. This increases the number of schools/educational settings taking part by almost a third and is an excellent response. Other agencies have also increased their number of returns e.g. Early Years returned a very impressive 927 completed questionnaires. These positive improvements only reinforce the view agencies expressed of how useful this annual process is in terms of reminding them of the core and basic safeguarding information that staff should be aware of and put into practice in the normal course of their day to day work. It also identified areas of strength or gaps. The S11 audit report can be accessed via the WSCB website – [www.wscb.org.uk/S11 reports](http://www.wscb.org.uk/S11 reports).

During the interviews with safeguarding leads from the various statutory agencies and selected GPs, schools, voluntary and faith group and Housing Associations, all agencies commented on the usefulness of this method of assessing safeguarding understanding. One of the housing associations stated:

> “We work across 27 other London boroughs and are used to completing a S11 audit. However he stated that the WSCB S11 audit is the only one they have actually found useful for them as an organisation and also, being called in for an interview, to provide evidence of what action they have taken to ensure our staff know what to do if they’re worried about a child, etc.”

**Private Fostering**

The number of children known to be living in private fostering arrangements has decreased and only three children were privately fostered in Wandsworth at the end of March 2016. Previous years there had been a dedicated post for privately fostered children that fulfilled the statutory responsibility of being the allocated social worker for this cohort of children, as well as moving forward the awareness campaign within the borough. This post holder left the department and the role has not been filled by a dedicated post, but absorbed within an existing social work team in the Referral and Assessment Service of Children’s Services. 100% of initial visits to privately fostered children within seven days of notification. However, not all private fostering assessment were completed within the required 42 days during 2015-16. The apparent challenges of not having a dedicated post and low awareness of private fostering is an area of concern for the WSCB and has been raised by the Independent Chair within Children’s Services.
Children missing from home, care and education

Children who go missing from home, care and those missing from education continue to be a key priority are for the WSCB. We also recognise the increased vulnerability that children face when they go missing to issues such as child sexual exploitation, involvement in gangs, possible risk to radicalisation. As this is recognised across the board, mapping takes place at meetings such as SEMAP and GMAP and consideration also is given to whether the young person has been reported missing in the past, whether they are known to go missing frequently, etc.

During 2015-16 189 Wandsworth children were reported missing to the police. Out of this 34% (69 children) were children who were in care by the local authority. 120 Children were reported to have gone missing from their family homes. 28 Children looked after by another local authority, but placed in Wandsworth, were reported missing during 2015-16. Children’s Services recognised the importance of children being offered an opportunity to speak to someone independent of their carers or support workers and therefore have commissioned Barnardo’s to provide the service of independent return home interviews (RHI). 90.1% of all children who were reported as missing were offered a RHI. This excludes the children looked after by another local authority. 32.2% of Wandsworth children looked after accepted a RHI and 55.2% of those who were reported missing from home accepted a RHI. The information from RHIs are analysed and discussed during mapping sessions when children who go missing are discussed, either at the missing Sub-group meeting, or SEMAP, GMAP, etc.

There are many small achievements to celebrate - indicators could include a young person reducing the number of instances of going missing or another settling with a foster carer and stopped the use of new psychoactive substances (‘nps’ previously referred to as legal highs). Achievements are often reported amongst other concerns so not readily obvious. Two examples of evidence of impact are outline below.

A young man who reversed a pattern of offending behaviour and placement breakdown to be a finalist in Wandsworth young person of the year.

A young woman who despite numerous difficulties in other areas of her life completed a theatre course and maintained good contact with her social worker.

The Ofsted inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers demonstrated the effectiveness of the EWS in relation to its work to track children missing education (CME) and monitor children electively home educated (EHE).

Evidence of improved outcomes was identified by inspectors in their report, as follows:
“The number of children missing education has significantly reduced from previous years, with an increased number being placed in school within a shorter time. Secure processes are in place to monitor those children missing education, with the local authority assuring itself that a suitable school place has been confirmed before ceasing its monitoring. Effective networking across schools and partner organisations supports the prompt placing of vulnerable children in schools. There are few instances where a child is taken off roll by a school. Where this does occur, the local authority challenges head teachers appropriately. There are currently no looked after children missing education and, where such an instance arises, an education welfare officer takes swift action. Innovative and effective responses, such as the Wandsworth Interim School Project (WISP), enable secondary pupils new to the area to be educated temporarily while a permanent school place is arranged. Good work is taking place to explore the links between persistent pupil absences and, for example, potential child sexual exploitation, with the aim of sharing information with schools and taking action.”

At this time (May 2016) there are 75 children whose applications for a school place are being processed. 30 children are deemed out of school, a significant decrease from 93 at the last data snapshot in April 2016, with all placed within less than 6 weeks – see table opposite.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>May 2012</th>
<th>May 2013</th>
<th>May 2014</th>
<th>May 2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of pupils</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out of school</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of pupils out of school</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>less than 4 months</td>
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Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

The recent Ofsted Inspection reported that, ‘Partnership arrangements to protect children at risk of child sexual exploitation are well established strategically and operationally via the sexually exploited multi-agency panel (SEMAP). When concerns are identified accurately, social workers use a risk-based assessment tool to determine the level of risk and refer to the sexual exploitation multi-agency panel (SEMAP). The panel ensures that appropriate action is being taken to safeguard and promote the safety of the child referred. In a small number of cases, inspectors saw effective mapping exercises being completed by managers and social workers to identify risk, consider known hotspots in the area, make links to other children at risk and put strategies in place to protect children’.

http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/local_authority_reports/wandsworth/053_Single%20inspection%20of%20LA%20children%27s%20services%20and%20review%20of%20LSCB%20as%20pdf.pdf
However, ‘Inspectors identified inconsistencies in the identification of and response to children at risk of child sexual exploitation, with some children experiencing inaccurate assessments of risk and insufficient protection. These are not consistently underpinned by robust practice. More work is required to ensure that all sexually exploited children are effectively protected’.

In response to this challenge, a number of actions have been put in place, including:

- Ensuring that all Social Care staff complete CSE online training module.
- Ensuring that Social Care staff have a clear procedural understanding and compliance at all levels (e.g. Use of s47s, risk assessments, strategy meetings, 2014 CME regulations, compliance with ‘Working Together’ 2015).
- Increasing the use of CSE risk assessment tool across all teams. All notifications to SEMAP are required to use the CSE Risk Assessment Tool.
- Reviewing the number of strategy meetings and S47 investigations being undertaken for Children Missing and at risk of CSE.

In 2015/16 there were 68 referrals to SEMAP, of which 6 had previously been referred to SEMAP. 43 (50%) of those young people have also been reported missing and 18 (26%) of referrals identify gang involvement /risk of gang involvement. 12 (18%) of the referrals were for young people who are both a regular missing person and are involved with gangs or at risk of gang involvement.
Child Protection data

During 2015-16 1232 Section 47 investigations were undertaken during 2015-16. This is a 78% increase on the previous year. These investigations relate to Section 47 of the Children Act 1989, which places a duty on a local authority to investigate and make inquiries into the circumstances of children considered to be at risk of ‘significant harm’ and, where these inquiries indicate the need, to decide what action, if any, it may need to take to safeguard and promote the child’s welfare.

S47 investigations increased following the OFSTED inspection where significant concerns were raised about the application of thresholds. Following a thorough review of MASH during and post the OFSTED inspection, a new system has been put in place, which has contributed to a more consistent and balanced process of decision-making and the application of thresholds to referrals that are being received through the front door (MASH) than during the periods prior to the OFSTED inspection. This increase also correlates with an increase in the number of referrals received post OFSTED, which is common to all local authorities rated as inadequate following an inspection. The increase is evident in the whole system in terms of an increase in the number of Children Looked After (CLA) and those on a Child Protection Plan following a Child Protection conference.

At 31st March 2016 285 children were subject to child protection plans. Over the year period the highest category for child protection plans remains to be emotional abuse (49.98%), followed by neglect (33.68%), physical abuse (7.04%), multiple categories (4.72%) and sexual abuse (4.58%).

12.6% were made subject to child protection plans for a second or subsequent time during 2015. Only 1.1% of open child protection plans during 2015-16 lasted two years or more.

Number of children who were the subject of a child protection plan, by latest category of abuse

Performance Information and Exchange Improvement (PIXI) Panel

The WSCB developed a more streamline and focused dataset by the end of 2014-15. This contributed to some areas not having any benchmarking data to measure against as new key performance indicators (KPIs) were introduced and therefore no comparative data was available. Following the OFSTED inspection additional KPIs were also added in key areas to monitor improvements in practice.

Validation of data has contributed to some delay at times in having a full set of data for the PIXI Panel to review. However where commentary had been provided by the agency responsible for the data, the analysis and evaluation of the data was effective and a helpful process. It was recognised however that some KPIs are not adding value to the process and therefore it will be recommended that the dataset is reviewed again in early 2016-17. The completed dataset for 2015-16 can be viewed in Appendix 17.
Progress against priorities
Below addresses progress in more detail against the WSCB’s key priority areas and other key functions of the WSCB.

Voice of the child

During 2015-16 young people participated in a wide range of activities. In every local authority there is a Children in Care Council. Wandsworth’s is known as CLICK. CLICK (Children Living in Care Kouncil) is a group of young people in the care of Wandsworth Council aged 13-19. Membership is open to all children looked after. CLICK meets regularly and discusses issues that matter to them and there are systems in place that give them the opportunities to tell officers and Wandsworth Council what they think about the services they receive and how children and young people are cared for. CLICK represents and speak on behalf of other children looked after to influence positive change and improve services.

Double CLICK is a group of children in the care of Wandsworth aged 6-12 years that are looked after. They are activity based and meet in the school holidays where they can have fun, receive peer support, and have the opportunity to have a say about the care they receive.

Opposite is an example of such participation, where members of the child in care council (CLICK) participation in the recruitment event for new foster carers. Young people also play an active role in recruitment process and interview panel of senior management positions within Children’s Services.

In 2015 the CLICK service engaged with 100 children and young people, 25 of which were new to CLICK participation. 49 are aged 13 to 19 and 48 aged 6 to 12. 3 young people engage through social media such as WhatsApp and Facebook.

Two surveys were created for both Click - ‘The Big Click Survey’ and Double Click – ‘The Big Double Click Survey.’ CLICK was consulted on the design of the surveys, which included writing the questions.
The main recommendations made from the findings of the survey were:

- More activities and interaction between children and young people with their social workers and foster family.
- Improve communication of young people’s support network that can include using social media, letters and emails.
- Young people to be more involved in placement decisions.

A report with the main findings and recommendations has been shared with senior managers and at the Vulnerable Children’s Overview Group.

CLICK have met with the Wandsworth Council Chief Executive, the Director of Children’s Services and the WSCB Independent Chair in 2015 and discussed important issues for children in care such as child sexual exploitation, youth crime and improving educational achievements. These meetings are really useful in helping a strong relationship between young people and key decision makers. They are also a good opportunity for CLICK to ask questions and raise issues facing young people in care. From these meetings issues that have been raised are around semi-independence, entitlements, and changes in placement. The CEO is very positive about his sessions with CLICK and ‘blogged’ about his session with CLICK on the council intranet system, Wandsworthi.
The Youth Council arranged the annual ‘Take Over Day’. On 20th November 2015 around 40 teenagers took over from councillors, department heads, NHS bosses, the Wandsworth Police Borough Commander and others, including the Lead Member for Children, Councillor Kathy Tracey, and senior figures in policy and communication, community safety, economic development, education, procurement, 4Children, which runs the council’s youth service, social services, public health and housing. The young people were taken out on visits and to meetings – in some cases chairing them. In return the person they were shadowing was encouraged to take the opportunity to get advice on how to engage with young people and get their input into how local services are provided. Takeover Day is a national annual event organised by the Children’s Commissioner for England which gives young people the chance to work with adults for the day and be involved in decision making. This year it has increased in scope and will now encourage organisations to involve young people all year.

One of the 17 year old students shadowed members of the communications team. He toured Nine Elms and interviewed the leader of the council about his vision for the area. The Leader of the Council said: “It was really good to meet Isaiah and give him an interview about the regeneration of Nine Elms for his magazine article. Takeover Challenge is always one of the highlights of year, because it gives us the chance to see what we do every day through a fresh pair of eyes. It also gives our young people valuable insight and contacts that they can use in the future.”
Radicalisation and Extremism/‘Prevent’

Wandsworth has had an active Prevent (the government anti extremism strategy) programme for the last few years. There is a clear delivery plan which aims to identify, prioritise and facilitate the delivery of projects, activities and interventions to reduce the risk of people being drawn into terrorism. It is divided into three areas of focus:

1. **Work streams - institutions** – working with sectors and institutions where there is a risk to radicalisation.
2. **Individuals** – preventing people being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support.
3. **Ideologies** – responding to the ideological challenge of terrorism and threat we face from those that promote it.

This plan subject to on-going review and activities include:

- Delivering ‘Workshop to Raise Awareness about Prevent’ (WRAP) to key partners in the Borough. This includes Council staff, schools, early years settings, safeguarding leads, police etc.
- Working in partnership with HE/FE Prevent coordinators to report on action plans at St George’s University, Roehampton University & South Thames College.
- Identifying reference networks.
- Building capacity in vulnerable groups to deliver interventions.
- Maintaining and developing Channel Panel meetings (a multi-agency approach to safeguard vulnerable people by identifying individuals at risk, assessing the nature of risk and developing the most appropriate support plan for that individual).

During 2015-16 a number of projected were initiated. Some examples of these include:

- **Young Leaders Project (Active Challenge Foundation) –** Open to applicants from years 11 & 12 and is intended to be complimentary to their schooling. Those who take part are taught skills which help them combat street, drug and gang crime, domestic violence and bullying, as well as being given the tools to assist them in preventing radicalisation and violent extremism. There have been 28 participants who have attended 11 workshops over a four month period followed by a four day residential trip to Bedfordshire University, Luton.
• **Web Guardians (JAN trust)** - Educates mothers on how to use the internet and keep their children safe when they are online. How to challenge extremist narrative and to understand the recruitment process used by groups such as DAESH in the online space.

• **Armed Forces Imam** – The Imam talks about his trips to Afghanistan and his interaction with communities and soldiers. It is developed to break the stereotype around Muslim soldiers and the war in Afghanistan. It can be delivered in a range of different sessions. Some of the local schools who engaged and were attended by the Imam, all the schools have provided positive feedback. One of the Primary School reported that children really enjoyed the session and had conversations about it over the week, which raised greater awareness amongst their pupils.

0.3 % of social care assessments identify radicalisation/ extremist views during 2015-16.

**Neglect**

Neglect continues to be the second highest category for child protection plans in the borough. One partnership review that was undertaken during 2015-16 which focused on long-term neglect that was suffered by a sibling group of four, the eldest who was over 18 years old at the time of the review. The learning that was identified through this review, as well as other reviews considered by the WSCB, has promoted the revision of the Neglect Strategy, which will incorporate some the key learning. A ‘Learning from Experience’ was held in respect of the review.

During 2015-16 a mental health parenting course was delivered through Public Health which 209 parents attended, representing 469 children.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parental Factors 15-16</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Substance misuse</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic violence</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abuse or neglect</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No & % assessments completed in the year where neglect and abuse is identified as a risk factor (1038 times)

- No & % assessments completed in the year where parent/ carer substance misuse is identified as a risk factor (278 times)
- No & % assessments completed in the year where parent/ carer mental health is identified as a risk factor (321 times)
- No & % assessments completed in the year where parent/ carer domestic abuse is identified as a risk factor (497 times)
Domestic Abuse
Public Health produced and coordinates activity in support of the Wandsworth Violence against Women & Girls (WAWG) Strategy & Action 2015-18. It enables and supports other departments, internal & external, in service delivery and provides some bespoke services in respect of VAWG. This contributes to a greater understanding of issues related to VAWG and ensures that high-risk victims of VAWG are identified and are responded to appropriately using an effective and robust multi-agency framework. During 2015-16 the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) met 14 times (every four weeks) and on average discussed 28 high-risk victims to minimise risk of harm through a multi-agency response. During 2015-16 158 cases were discussed which involved children under the age of 18.

The domestic violence perpetrators programme for young people continued to be run during 2015-16, led by the Youth Offending Team. A team training session on Adolescence to Parent Violence and Abuse (APVA) for 12 members of staff took place in January 2016; a further training day is planned post April 2016.

The police, in conjunction with the local authority launched ‘Project Tearose’ during 2015-16. If police respond to a domestic incident and there are children present then his or her head-teacher or school safeguarding lead will be told by 9am the next morning of what has happened. This is to make sure that a support network is put in place and the child’s teachers are aware. The school will work with the parents, Police and Children’s Social Care to help the child. The school is only told what they need to know. Information is shared confidentially through secure email, by trained police officers. Forty Wandsworth schools are currently part of the project and the plan is to expand it further to more schools. The feedback from schools have been extremely positive, as this has enabled them to better support the young person the following day, having a better understand of why he or she might be behaving in a more distracted or withdrawn manner. It has been a very successful initiative.

A series of leaflets were launched to focus on issues of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Honour-based Violence (HBV) and Abuse Abroad. Public Health developed the HBV leaflet in partnership with Karma Nirvana and ensured that the leaflet was distributed widely throughout the borough including to travel agents and barbers. The same approach was taken with the Abuse Abroad booklet which also includes Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. A VAWG Forum was held to focus on FGM and HBV and was well attended. The FGM pathways have been updated in light of amendments to the FGM Act 2003 and include information regarding regulated professionals mandatory reporting responsibilities on observing or suspecting FGM. A detailed report on further activity under the Domestic Abuse priority can be found in Appendix 9.
Disabled children
In Wandsworth there are six children subject to a child protection plan.

The local authority has a comprehensive local offer, which is for all children and young adults aged 0-25 who have special educational needs and disabilities. It covers areas such as:

- Early Years
- Education
- Education Health and Care Plan
- Health
- Housing
- Leisure activities and sport
- Preparing for adulthood
- Social Care and Short Breaks
- Support and advice
- WAND card
- Travel and Transport

Within the local authority there is a dedicated social work team that work with the children with more complex disabilities and special educational needs. Over the course of the year out of a caseload of approximately 190 (9% increase in caseload from 2014-15), the team worked with:

- Nine children subject to a Child Protection Plan of whom 7 ceased to be subject of a plan during the course of the year.
- Eight children looked after.

The team maintained its strong performance on key indicators such as:

- CP visits carried out within timescale
- CP reviews taking place within timescale
- CLA visits carried out within timescale
- CLA reviews taking place within timescale

One area noted for development in 2015-16 related to the actions arising from the Kingston Serious Case Review, particularly embedding the practice of seeking the views of support.
workers / carers when carrying out reviews of children’s packages of support. This is now part of the agreement for families when taking up direct payments and social workers are following up these views as part of their updated assessments.

The Children with Special Needs and Disability multi-agency safeguarding group has been re-established with strong commitment from schools and a range of services. The group has identified its key priorities for action as well as reviewing the recommendations from the Kingston Serious Case Review.

**Female Genital Mutilation**
0.04% of referrals to Children’s Services were made in relation to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). 0.26% of assessments completed indicated FGM as a risk factor. As this is very low, Public Health undertook an audit on behalf of the WSCB to understand why referrals were not being made to Children’s Services at the end of 2015. The FGM Audit was presented to the SCIL Sub Committee Meeting on 15th April 2016 signed off by the Executive Board on 16th May 2016. The implementation of the action plan will be monitored during 2016-17.

A VAWG Forum was held to focus on FGM and HBV and was well attended. The FGM pathways have been updated in light of amendments to the FGM Act 2003 and include information regarding regulated professionals mandatory reporting responsibilities on observing or suspecting FGM.

The local prevention strategy and guidelines were revised to ensure they are up-to-date with nationally issued guidance and legislative changes. A [FGM Mandatory Reporting & Safeguarding pathway](#) was developed and signed off by the WSCB; this now replaces the existing Wandsworth Strategy and Guidelines.

Katherine Low Settlement “KLS”, a multi-purpose local charity, trained and supported 21 FGM Champions. A small group of champions have worked to support professionals in health and education settings by raising awareness of FGM, the law and referral pathways to support. They have linked in particular with the Community Health Team and have delivered training sessions at Health Visitor Training in September 2015 and April 2016. They have delivered two training sessions with large groups of GPs, and have linked with the CCG Safeguarding Lead to ensure they are able to provide partnership support when required. KLS have purchased FGM anatomical training models for use in training and workshop sessions - these are available for borough partners. The Champions have provided a support and signposting service to women from potentially-practicing communities and have provided one-to-one support as well as hosting coffee mornings, which have reached over 140 people. It is notable that the community champions have found the work challenging and it has been difficult to maintain a consistent number, however, the training has endowed a number of women with the confidence to enable them to find paid employment.
A Survivors Support Network was set up for (mainly) Somali women, which out of FGM discussions restructured to become a Women’s Health Empowerment Group with a focus on keeping fit and public health areas.

The Home Office FGM ‘passports’ have been distributed (via the CCG) to all Wandsworth GP practices, these documents are invaluable for women and girls who are travelling to FGM practicing countries. The passports will also be distributed to 700+ women at ESOL classes at South Thames College by June 2016.

KLS has worked to an action plan which has included raising awareness, training, support and signposting for professionals, parents and women who have experienced FGM. It has been an aim to receive information about if and where FGM is being practiced in Wandsworth. We have not had any information about FGM practices in Wandsworth. The Community Champions continue to grow as part of the champions programme but without on-going funding will offer only informal support through both KLS and the Association of Somali Women and Children.

The website www.wandsworth.gov.uk/vawg provides professionals with instant access to advice on how to deal with various forms of VAWG abuse. The abuse abroad booklet contains practical advice and information about FGM, forced marriage, modern slavery and human trafficking and travel to war zones which includes radicalisation. Leaflets have been updated to include up-to-date information in an easily accessible format and with a recognisable branding across all products.

**Self-harming behaviour**
Concerns were raised by school, local hospital and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) that there appeared to be a rise in children displaying and presenting for services in relation to self-harming behaviour. This matter was also recognised by the HWBB which is leading on the CAMHS Transformation Plan.

The CAMHS Transformation Plan outlines the strategic priorities for Wandsworth for the next five years (2015-2020). To support the plan NHS England allocated £591,000 recurrent funding for a five year period, with a requirement from NHS England to spend £591,000 in 2015-16. The Wandsworth CCG CAMHS Transformation plan was identified as one of only three transformation plans in London to be successfully assured by NHSE in December 2015. This has led to increased capacity and capability for the local CAMHS services. The funding has ensured CAMHS waiting times have been maintained at 2-4 weeks and this is well above the national average and amongst the best in the country.
The WSCB also agreed to undertake a multi-agency audit on self-harm, which will be commissioned within the 2016-17 audit programme, to understand the impact of intervention on reducing deliberate self-harm. The audit will seek the views of children and their families who have received support and services at universal, targeted and specialist services, to assess the impact of such interventions.

**Early help/MASH**

The Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is the Local Authority's first point of contact for safeguarding concerns. The model brings together a range of partners into a multi-agency team that is able to share information quickly and efficiently as soon as notification of possible harm to a child is received. Risk is assessed by making evidence-based decisions that take into account the information gathered and the risk assessment of each agency. The MASH is located in the Referrals and Assessment Service (RAS) alongside the assessment teams. The MASH is the Front Door to Children’s Social Care.

Following the Ofsted Inspection and acknowledgement of the issues raised concerning MASH and RAS, Children’s Services completed their own diagnostic and identified some changes which were required immediately to manage the risk and increased demand. There are other changes which are work in progress, and some for future action linked with the End to End Review, which is in progress. The remodelling already done includes:

- Implementing a single point of access.
- Increasing the role of the mash to enabling it to function as intended.
- Streamlining some processes and improving interfaces with other teams and services.

An example of the above is for the Family Information Service (FIS) to improve step down. The inclusion of two youth support team workers in the MASH is intended to improve management of work with adolescent referrals and contribute to providing a service to this group in a timely way. The roles of the specialist social worker posts in RAS, domestic abuse, sexual exploitation, substance misuse, no recourse to public funds and private fostering are being reviewed, with a requirement to ensure that they are utilised to provide the most impact on achieving good outcomes for children.

There has been an increase in the number of RAS assessments team from two to three, to improve management of work allocations from the MASH, timeliness of assessments and intervention.
As demonstrated above, there has continued to be an increase in demand at the ‘front door’. The re-model has been necessary not least to manage the increased volume of work that has been coming through the front door and MASH. Local authorities typically report a 20-40% increase in referrals following an Ofsted inspection. A significant increase in demand has been seen in Wandsworth and particularly from some key agencies. The significant increase in the number of referrals has posed a challenge to all partners involved in the MASH in terms of staffing capacity. Partners have been asked to consider how these challenges can be met from their own organisations in terms of commissioning arrangements.

**Referrals by Source**

The impact of the increased referrals includes an increase in number of assessments to be allocated to the teams and a consequentially increase in caseloads. The increase is evident in the whole system in terms of an increase in the number of Children Looked After (CLA) and those on a Child Protection Plan following a Child Protection conference.

The largest sources of referrals are the police and education sector.
Additional staff in the MASH, the third assessment team and improved links with other services including the Family Information Service are having an impact on how the work is managed. Data shows that all decisions on initial action required are taken within one day of referral, in contrast to previously identified drift and delay. Improvement is, however, ‘work in progress’ and there is more to do. Examples of this include: further improvement on interfaces with other services, application of thresholds and embedding the culture of improvement and performance management.

In particular, there is analysis and work to do with multi-agency partners to understand the increase in referrals being made by them and especially those referrals which do not meet the threshold for children’s social care intervention but do require support. The principle to which services should adhere is that a case should be worked with, within the system at the point of the most appropriate intervention. The Early Help offer needs to be developed further, so that support and intervention can be provided for families outside of statutory services where appropriate. During 2015-16 there had been 927 (10.2 %) of MASH referrals where outcome is stepped across as a referral to Early Intervention Services (e.g. Early Help). This number of EHA step down is low, but as the new FISS service managed by the MASH gets established we are expecting this figure to grow. 1252 Early Help Assessments were completed during 2015-16.

**Gangs**

The vulnerability of young people involved in gangs is managed effectively through the [Gangs Multi-agency Panel (GMAP)](#) arrangements and addresses these issues alongside the YOS and Children’s Services. Attendance at the GMAP is good with partner agencies attending on a regular basis. The meeting is chaired by police with positive input from those present.

At the end of 2015-16, 95 people (including adults) were on the Wandsworth Gang matrix (police intelligence-led matrix), of which 62 are in the community and 33 in custody. Of those 19% (18 people) have judicial restrictions, for example Criminal Behaviour Orders, Gang injunctions etc. These numbers fluctuate as new people become known and current nominals are worked with or enter the judicial process. A number of bespoke projects have been designed to engage and motivate young people known to the Gangs team, including two boxing engagement projects delivered in Tooting and one music project delivered in Battersea. The projects had a positive impact on levels of engagement both during and after project delivery.
Of the twenty young people that the gangs’ team have worked with, nine of them were in Year 11 or below and they were all supported to engage with their education provision. The team supported a further seven young people to access training courses; and one young person was supported to get into full time employment. Two young people and their families were relocated because of gang violence.

Of the twenty cases, they have maintained their engagement with all except for one young person who disengaged and subsequently refused our service and one other, due to him receiving a significant custodial sentence.

**Children Looked After**
At 31st March 2016 248 children were looked after by the local authority. During 2015-16 174 children became looked after, with 167 returning to their parents’ care or permanency were secured for them through adoption or special guardianship order. 94 applications for care proceedings were initiated during 2015-16. Children’s Services issued 72 sets of **proceedings within the family court** compared to 57 in 2014-15, and the rise in numbers seen at the end of the last financial year shows no sign of dropping off.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number and % of S31 care proceedings (2015/16) using 31 March snapshot</th>
<th>Numbers of children moving in and out of CLA status (2015/16)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wandsworth</td>
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<td>------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>94 (38.2%)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>174</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A significantly higher proportion of Wandsworth’s children are moving in and out of care for reasons which needs further analysis. Wandsworth’s Children Looked After (CLA) population is not significantly different by age or gender from the statistical neighbours so it may be the lower proportion of S31’s and a higher use of S20 (voluntary care) in supporting families means children move in and out of care with more flexibility. There will be continued focus on this due to changes in case law regarding use of s20.

Wandsworth profile of CLA by age is reflective of the national picture and that of our statistical neighbours. The relatively low number of under fives may reflect proactive family support work. This is also reflected in the lower numbers of children on child protection plans in this age group. It maybe down to poor safeguarding recognition/practice and the increased prevalence by the courts in the use of Special Guardianship Orders with younger children. These orders have become an alternative to care orders and adoptions which has focussed the government’s
attention on them and their extensive use. Whilst fulfilling a valuable role in giving relatives the legal security in bringing up a child within the extended family, they may have the unintended consequence of preventing some children achieving true permanence.

The increase in older young people entering care reflects the heightened awareness of the risk of CSE amongst this age group and the need to maintain protective processes in place as they head into adulthood.

There are also extended opportunities to support young people for longer periods in care which increases the capacity of the department to support them but also the attractiveness for young people in education to remain in care. Young people remanded into secure units are automatically ‘looked after’ which also adds a little to the numbers ‘looked after’ amongst older age groups.

Children’s Services’ CLA Service held case audits post Ofsted to focus on safeguarding and case management with which the CLA service has responded by implementing case improvement plans on all identified cases. This will reduce risk and raise care standards throughout these cases. The CLA teams independently audited direct work with children amongst its caseload to promote the voice of the child in care which always provides a counterbalance to risk and exploitation. The results were mixed and so an improvement plan was put in place amongst the team managers to ensure all children in care spend time alone with their social workers and their thoughts are recorded.

The fostering team undertook 50 audits out of 109 placements to assess the quality of the supervising social work and ensure it was effective in promoting the children’s interests and reducing the risk of poor care or abuse by carers.

All social workers have attended mandatory child protection training and a staff conference which promoted ‘Signs of Safety’. Practice leads have been identified to take the programme forward. The new missing persons’ protocol has been implemented which involves a direct referral to SEMAP. ‘Signs of Safety’ has been brought more purposely into fostering with plans for further implementation of direct work with children and young people. The Hackney Serious Case review concerning foster carers was disseminated amongst 70 foster carers at the quarterly meeting.
Partner agencies summary reports

Summary reports by partner agencies’ regarding their contribution to safeguarding children and young people in Wandsworth

As part of the process to produce the WSCB’s annual report, each statutory partner agency was asked to complete a report, using a template provided by the WSCB. The report therefore includes not only the work of the safeguarding board itself, but a summary of the work undertaken by all partners to promote safeguarding children during the past year. Each agency was asked to provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of their service; and to identify areas of weakness, the causes of the weakness and actions being taken to address them as well as proposals for action.

All key statutory partner agencies reports are included in this report and are within the appendices (published separately).