The Children & Social Work Act 2017 received Royal Assent on 27th April 2017, there were significant changes introduced in this Act for Children’s Social Work, including accreditation, changes to legislation around Care leavers but from a safeguarding perspective the Act will abolish LSCBs. Working Together guidance has been revised and is out for consultation until 31st December 2017, for more information, please visit: https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/working-together-to-safeguard-children-revisions-to-statutory-guidance.

Local Authorities, CCGs and the Police are expected to publish and consult on their plans for local safeguarding arrangements. These Local Safeguarding plans are expected to be prepared during 2018. The date by which all new arrangements should be in place is proposed by no later than July 2019. There is a recognition that it will take some time to work through the details of preparing and publishing a local safeguarding plan, and agreeing budgets, personnel, and securing proper partner sign-up, which means that it is expected that it will take most of 2018-19 to finalise local details. There will also be changes in coordinating Child Death Overview Panel arrangements, which will become the responsibility of the DoH.

Until then the Department for Education has clarified that; “LSCBs must continue to undertake their statutory functions, as they are legally required to do, until the new safeguarding partner and child death review arrangements are in place. In the meantime, local areas are advised to begin thinking about what the new legislation will mean for them. It is particularly important that the future safeguarding partners and child death partners in each area begin to think through how the new arrangements might operate in practice, considering what is working well in the area, and what could be improved.”

Our challenge will be to ensure that replacing LSCBs with something better needs to be done carefully and building on what we know works – not in a ‘what can we do away with’ manner. There will be key principles we must still adhere to when deciding the structure and form of local arrangements and agreement on the core functions of multi-agency partnership. These principles are set out by the Association of Independent Chairs and I think they are a useful checklist going forward and include: the need for inclusive arrangements (all partners); strong oversight of performance and practice; listening to children and championing their rights and interests; adequate resources and expertise to hold all to account; a focus on learning and improvement; and facilitating leadership for safeguarding in the face of competing priorities.

Nicky Pace, WSCB Independent Chair

Email: WSCB@Wandsworth.gov.uk Telephone: 020 8871 7401 www.wscb.org.uk
Are you worried about a Child? Raise your Concerns with the Front Door to Children Service’s Initial Point of Contact (IPOC):

IPOC was introduced by Wandsworth Children Service to improve the outcomes for Children and Young People. IPOC triage all the contacts received in a timely manner, allocate to social workers who will gather information about the family, risk assess and complete the Sign of Safety exercise to inform the decisions made.

A Manager in IPOC review the case mapping to have an oversight to make a final decision whether the threshold is met/unmet and direction are made whether to Step the case down to Early Help or escalate it to MASH to do checks or hold a meeting to allocate to the appropriate Teams.

How to refer your concerns to the IPOC Team?
Contacts/ Referrals can only made by a number of ways. If you wish to do this via email, you will need to use this secure address only: Mash.Duty@wandsworth.cjsm.net – Alternatively, you can contact the Team by phone on Tel: 02088716622.

All professionals will need to use the Early Help Assessment Form and email it to the MASH email address. In principal, referrers make Contacts. Then, Contacts become Referrals, based on the nature of the concerns shared, when the Children Social Care Manager determines that the statutory threshold is met. Contacts that do not meet the threshold are transferred to the Early Help HUB as Contacts.

Please communicate with:
Kye Young, Team Manager with any queries, case follow up - Tel: 02088716622
Bernadette Charley, Service Manager, if you require further conversation - Tel: 02088718944
If you wish to escalate any concerns further, if you query is not resolved, you can contact:
Debbie Owen, Head of Family and Community Service – Email: Dowen1@wandsworth.gov.uk – Tel: 02088716998 and/or
Ruth Lacey, Head of Service Safeguarding & Standards – Email: Rlacey@wandsworth.gov.uk – Tel: 02088717858

Learning Lessons from Baby Eliza Serious Case Review

All Local Safeguarding Children Boards follow the statutory guidance in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 when considering the threshold for conducting a serious case review (SCR), This should take place if a child abuse or neglect is known, or suspected in a case and a child has died or a child has been seriously harmed and there is cause for concern about how the authority or other organisations or professionals worked together to safeguard the child. The WSCB has undertaken a Serious Case Review on Baby Eliza* in 2016-17. The SCR was about baby Eliza who received serious injuries whilst living at home with her mother. Eliza’s mother was recognized as a young parent who suffered from gendered abuse across her childhood and into adulthood; from child sexual abuse to child sexual exploitation then domestic abuse. The mother experienced separation and disrupted attachments from her family as child who moved between care arrangements in her family and was in public care as a teenager; she experienced harm/ abuse and was a missing child. In light of child protection concerns about neglect and harm to animals her first child was removed.

Her own history impacted upon her parenting capacity. Professionals worked with the family recognized their sympathy for her as a child who had been looked after and was also a vulnerable care leaver. The SCR highlighted the potential to identify with the abused child within the adult who was a parent. The possibility that practitioners may have over identified and whether this unconsciously impacted on decision making and response to concerns was noted. Professionals initiative to ask questions and show curiosity about the role of men and fathers; their history of parenting and relationships was also raised.

What was leant from the SCR? The WSCB recognised the learning highlighted in this SCR as listed below:
• Pre-Birth Assessment Guidance was revised and reissued to ensure that pre-birth procedures are understood & followed.
• Information sharing should be prioritised by all agencies to ensure the welfare of the baby.
• Importance of detailed safeguarding information being included in referrals for services to help identify the child needs.
• A recognition that mental ill-health, substance misuse and domestic abuse have an impact on capacity to parent to inform a risk assessment for a vulnerable child and not diminished in consequence of sympathy for a vulnerable parent.
• The benefit of precision in professional exchanges e.g. status of a service user’s given address and commonality of terms (core group v team around the child). The WSCB has now changed the terminology and asked professionals to use the term Core Group in line with the Child Protection Procedures.
• The WSCB will need to continue to hold professionals and organisations to account to support them to challenge perceived errors of professional judgments.
• Professionals will need to continue to encourage full involvement of GPs.

Ruth Lacey, Chair of WSCB Serious Case and Imbedded Learning

(Eliza* is not the child’s real name, changed to protect identity)
Safeguarding Children Annual Conference 2017

This year’s annual conference will take place on 13th December 2017 between 9:15 am – 5:00 pm at Wandsworth Professionals Development Centre at Burntwood School, Burntwood Lane, London SW17 0AQ. The conference will focus on safeguarding young people being everybody’s business, in particular the prevention and intervention in knife crime. The Conference is open to anyone who works with young people and their families and have an interest in knife crime, whether in professional or voluntary capacity, within the borough. The conference will have a combination of key note presentations, drama performance, a workshop on specific areas of focus for delegates to attend, etc.

Next Year’s Safeguarding Conference 2018

We have now agreed the date for the Annual Safeguarding Children Board Conference date for next year, which will take place on 18 October 2018 9:15 am - 4.30 pm at the Civic Suite, Wandsworth Town Hall, High St, London SW18 2PU. The Conference focus on safeguarding issues relating to our priority areas. It will be open to anyone who works with children, young people and their families, whether in professional or voluntary capacity, within the borough. The conference will have a combination of key note presentations, workshops on specific areas of focus for delegates to attend, etc.

Save this date in your diary!

Training Highlights from 2016/2017

In the year 2016/17 there has been a 22% increase in the training offer alongside a 39% increased in demand, an increased take up of 29% in e-learning with a 65% reduction in cancellations of events due to low numbers.

There is evidence that the training offered is valued by the local workforce. Feedback evaluations indicate a high level of satisfaction, with 90% of attendees responding that they felt the training was either ‘very or extremely’ relevant to their current role. 98% responded that the training facilitator’s skills were either ‘good or excellent’. In terms of the Managers impact evaluation, 83.8% of managers responded to say that the training had either ‘very or extremely’ helped their staff member.

There were 3,064 e-learning courses completed in 2016/17 in comparison with 1,048 in the previous year (2015/16) a high proportion of the attendees were from the education and voluntary and community organisations.

There has also been an increase in demand from partner agencies for bespoke safeguarding training such as the 47 training events delivered specifically for schools, including Designated Safeguarding Leads training.

Training Plans for 2018

In order to maintain our focus on quality assurance we are currently auditing a number of our internal and externally commissioned courses. We are midway through the process and the final report will be available in Jan 2018.

The WSCA is committed to online learning safeguarding courses to ensure that all members of the multi-agency workforce supporting children, young people and their families have easy access to safeguarding training. There has been a piece of work completed with the Metropolitan police in Wandsworth, re safeguarding and child protection training resulting in a bespoke competency matrix detailing the on-line training offer to Wandsworth officers. In return Wandsworth Metropolitan police officers have made a commitment to contribute to the delivery of safeguarding training courses in 2017/18.

WSCB acknowledge the ongoing challenges to improve engagement of young people and their families in the development, delivery and evaluation of training across the threshold continuum. There has been positive engagement made to ensure the continued development of this project in 2018/19.
**School Project**

Place2Be provides emotional and therapeutic services in primary and secondary schools, building children's resilience through talking, creative work and play. Place2Be works with 282 primary and secondary schools, reaching a school population of over 135,000 children, helping them to cope with wide-ranging and often complex social issues including bullying, bereavement, domestic violence, family breakdown, neglect and trauma.

We would be delighted to welcome you to visit a Place2Be school on one of our ‘Being is Believing’ school project visits. These visits are a true highlight of the Place2Be calendar, and will provide an insight into how Place2Be works within the school and the role we play in supporting the children and families of the school community.

On the visit you will have the chance to meet the school-based Place2Be team and other members of the school community, including staff, children and parents. You will also have a unique opportunity to hear first-hand from these individuals about the difference Place2Be has made to their lives, and the lives of those they work with and care about.

Details of the upcoming visits are as follows:

- **Thursday 7th December 2017** at Heathmere Primary School, Alton Road, Roehampton, London SW15 4LJ. 09.30 – 11.00
- **Friday 2nd February 2018** at Mora Primary School, 10 Temple Road, London NW2 6QB. 09.30 – 11.00
- **Monday 12th March 2018** at Pimlico Academy, Lupus Street, London SW1V 3AT. 8.30 – 10.00

If you would like to attend one of these events, or have any questions, please email [heather.wilson@place2be.org.uk](mailto:heather.wilson@place2be.org.uk)

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**Project Tearose:**

**Sharing of incidents of domestic abuse with schools:**

Tearose was introduced in 2016, and now includes all schools in Wandsworth. Further work is being done to include the independent schools. Tearose is operated by the Police officers in the MASH and myself. Strategic leadership and safeguarding oversight is provided by Ruth Lacey, Head of Safeguarding Standards and DI Alison Foxwell.

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

If police attend a domestic abuse incident and a child or children are present there is a referral to Children's Social Care. Project Tearose also provides this information to the designated safeguarding leads (DSL) in the child’s school. This ensures that support can be put in place for the child if necessary and that the safeguarding lead is aware that the child lives in a household where domestic incidents are occurring.

It also enables swift safeguarding practice and effective joint working between schools, the family and social care to support children in these families.

The information is shared daily (weekend incidents are communicated on a Monday) and shares key information about any incident which has been reported. The information is expected to be treated as confidential within the school.

Notifications about 1328 children were included in Tearose during the academic year 2016/2017. A leaflet has now been produced to explain the process which will be given to each family when the police attend the incident and all participating schools include a statement in their policy or protocols which informs that they are part of the project.

**Stella Macaulay, Safeguarding in Education Advisor**
We’d like to thank all the staff that took part in the Section 11 questionnaire again this year. Section 11 (4) of the Children Act 2004 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 by carrying out a Section 11 assessment on an annual basis. A new online process was piloted this year in response to requests from partners to ease the burden of managing high number of paper forms. 4,811 practitioner responses were received for the survey sent out in January 2017. In May 2017 a Strategic Questionnaire was also sent to all agencies asking for a self-assessment of safeguarding practice under each of the eight standards of Section 11 and to provide executive level signoff of that statement. This runs concurrently and complements the practitioners’ survey. 76 agencies responded to this survey.

The S11 audit process was concluded over the summer period with challenge conversations with key agencies as part of this process. This ensures that there is learning for those agencies about key messages for their organisation but also feedback to the Board about the process and other issues. A focus of this year’s S11 audit was on staff across all agencies understanding of the referral process, thresholds, MASH and the LADO process. The key finding from the S11 process was that staff surveyed were aware when they needed to raise concerns with their safeguarding lead and when to refer children, and who to speak to if they had concerns about a colleague.

Welcome to Lin Graham-Ray
Wandsworth CCG Designated Nurse for Looked After Children

Lin is a paediatric Nurse by background and has held many posts in children’s acute and community nursing. In 2000, Lin was the first nurse in London to be appointed to work with looked after children, having been a strong campaigner and steering group member of the Quality Protects rollout programme.

Lin is currently the Designated Nurse for Looked after Children in Wandsworth and Merton having previously spent seventeen years as a nurse Consultant for Looked after Children.

Lin was awarded the Nursing standard Child Health award for Innovation and Excellence in the Field of Child Health in May 2009 and went on to win the ultimate accolade of Nurse of the year at the awards ceremony in London in November 2009. Since then Lin has been at the forefront of developments in the field of looked after Children’s health, including radio and television projects, visits to health ministers and the Prime Minister and collaborative work with the Who Cares Trust.

Lin has a strong interest in the subject of inequalities in health and life chances and made this the basis of her MA thesis. Lin obtained her MA in child protection and family support in 2004 following a three year course at the Tavistock centre London, where she also worked as a part time clinical associate. Lin is also an Independent Expert witness and a Professional Doctorate student at the Tavistock and Portman Trust. Lin is also a current Florence Nightingale research scholar.
New Members to the WSCB

New members from across the partnership have joined the WSCB recently. In this Newsletter, we would like to introduce the following members:

Rachel Egan
Assistant Director of Early Help

Rachel is the Children’s Services lead for Early Help and Early Intervention. The key priorities in her division are focused on Ensuring that the opportunities for children and families to receive the right intervention, at the right place and time are maximised for example ensuring children take up their 2 year old place, supporting parents with mental health issues and that all children who come to our attention through contacts made to the Children’s Services Front Door who don’t meet the threshold for statutory intervention are supported through our Early Help Pathway.

Rachel is responsible for Early Years including Health Visiting, children’s centres and sufficiency of early learning and childcare for 2, 3 and 4 year olds, family and parenting support for families meeting the threshold for early help, Information, advice and guidance, provision for children aged 8 upwards including youth services, Youth Offending, Crime and Gang Prevention.

Paul Coke
Head of Service - Looked After Children and Leaving Care

Paul is Wandsworth’s Children Service Head of Looked After Children the Leaving Care Service. Paul has overall responsibility for the Children Looked After Service which also covers Fostering, Adoption, Future First and Post Permanence Support Service. Paul joined Wandsworth in October and has brought with him a wealth of experience covering the Looked After Children Service at Thurrock Council.

Paul is looking forward to being part of the Wandsworth’s improvement journey in making a possible impact on the Children Looked After Service and the Children and Young People themselves.

Carline Benoit
Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Board Multi-Agency Trainer

Carline Benoit is the Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Board multi agency trainer and commissioner. She is located within the Wandsworth Social Care Academy (formerly the Training and Development Service) who support the coordination of the Learning from experience events and the WSCB annual conference.

Carline delivers the three core safeguarding training courses herself and has introduced the co facilitated delivery of ‘Child sexual exploitation for managers’ and ‘Parental mental health for managers’ with the named nurse and lead for CSE. She is currently reviewing all internal training deliveries. The Safeguarding and Child Protection programme is delivered in line with the WSCB’s key priority areas: Early help, Children and Young People, Neglect and Children living away from their parents.
The WSCB Business Team

Kaied Ghiyatha
Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Board Manager
I have been in my role since 31st July 2017. My day to day role involves supporting our Independent Chair, Chairs of the Sub-Committees, arranging the Agendas for the meetings, liaising with our partners with regards to their contributions and reports required to be presented at the Board meetings. I do scan the horizon Nationally for any safeguarding issues to look at ways to improve our service. I also have a particular interest in social media and the use of it to promote the work of the WSCB Board. At the core of my role is seek assurance for the Board members that the WSCB partnership is providing safe and caring services to children, this can takes many forms.

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

Please follow Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Board on Social Media on Instagram and Twitter

Instagram

Twitter

Email: WSCB@Wandsworth.gov.uk Telephone: 020 8871 7401 www.wscb.org.uk