Changes to Safeguarding in Wandsworth Police

In mid May 2018, there will be a significant structural change taking place across the Metropolitan Police Service in South West London. As part of an ongoing transformation process, there will be a move away from the traditional 32 Borough structure to a new model of 12 Basic Command Units (BCUs).

Each BCU will be led by a Chief Superintendent who will be supported by five Superintendents ‘strand leads’, one of whom will be solely responsible for Safeguarding. The Safeguarding Detective Superintendent will provide strategic leadership and have responsibility for leading the professionalism, performance and quality of all specialist Safeguarding services.

In the local area this will see the police across Wandsworth, Merton, Twickenham & Richmond and Kingston merge to become the South West BCU. The SW BCU Chief Superintendent is Sally Benatar and the Safeguarding lead is Detective Superintendent Guy Collings.

Guy carries a wealth of safeguarding experience, having established and run a Public Protection Unit in a county force for several years and been the principal Senior Investigating Officer (SIO) at the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP). He is also one of the SIO advisors to Operation Hydrant, the co-ordination hub established in June 2014 to deliver the national policing response to and oversight, and coordination of, non-recent child sexual abuse investigations concerning persons of public prominence, or in relation to those offences which took place within institutional settings.

The new Safeguarding structure in the SW BCU brings with it a welcome uplift in staff, bringing the total number to over 250. In October, officers from the Met’s Child Abuse and Sexual Offences (CASO) command will transition back to BCU and be owned and co-ordinated at a local level.

There will be two primary parts of the new Safeguarding model, Local Investigation Teams led by Detective Chief Inspector (DCI) Richard Neville who many of you will already know well as he is a Wandsworth officer, and the Safeguarding Hub, led by DCI Nicola Church, currently at Merton. The DCIs bring over 60 years policing experience between them and have extensive knowledge of the Safeguarding world.

Safeguarding Hub

This will become a virtual front door, albeit based initially at Wimbledon Police Station and in future Kingston and Wandsworth, incorporating the following functions and units.

* IPOC/MASH in Wandsworth, MASH in Merton Civic Centre and Kingston Guildhall will remain and build upon the excellent working relationships currently enjoyed with key partners.
* CAIT referrals and Police Conference Liaison Officers. These officers and staff will be based within the IPOC/ MASH sites, bringing all functions under the
same roof for the first time to ensure a truly joined up approach to identifying and managing risk.
* Missing Persons Team.
* Child Sexual Exploitation Team.
* Mental Health Team.
* Dedicated Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) officers.
* Jigsaw Team; these being the officers who manage registered sexual offenders within our communities.

Key changes include;
* Bringing services together at a local level, focusing on vulnerability. This will ensure early identification, prevention and intervention in cases of risk and harm, and ensure a joined up multi-agency approach that is consistent across the BCU, delivering a better service to the community.
* A ‘single point of access’ referrals process. This merging of the MASH CAIT Referrals Desk will provide a co-ordinated and intelligence led capability to all referrals coming into the MPS.
* The Police Case Conference Officers (PCLO) and their Detective Sergeants will be co-located to support timely strategy discussions and enhance decision-making, thereby managing and reducing demand. Professionalised and dedicated specialist Mental Health Team to identify, take ownership and problem-solve cases linked to Mental Health by working in collaboration with our partners to improve outcomes.

Local Safeguarding Investigation Teams
There will be four investigation teams, each led by a Detective Inspector. Two will be based at Wandsworth Police Station and two at Kingston. The teams will provide a locally delivered specialist service to investigate and protect vulnerable people. Each investigation pod will have the following specialist teams within it:
* Specialist Child Abuse Investigation teams (CAIT);
* Sexual Offences investigation teams (Sapphire).
* Community Safety investigations teams (CSU).

Key changes include;
* A locally delivered, single specialist service to investigate and protect vulnerable people and victims of crime.
* Child Abuse, Sapphire and CSU investigation pods will retain their specialisms, but the new structure will allow the Detective Inspector to allocate multi-faceted or cross-discipline crimes to the most appropriate investigation team.
* The CSU will now investigate sexual offences within the domestic abuse setting. Sapphire will now investigate most other non-domestic & non-CAIT sexual offences.

WSCB Levels of Need Threshold Document
Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Board revised its Threshold Document to reflect the changes in the Front Door Services. The Threshold Document is published on the Board website under the Multi Agency Policies and Procedures Section. Please follow the attached Link: http://www.wscb.org.uk/wscb/info/89/local_multi-agency_policies_and_procedures
For more information about the Initial Point of Contact (IPOC), please use the following Link to access the IPOC Leaflet: http://www.wscb.org.uk/wscb/downloads/download/147/initial_point_of_contact_ipoc
Wandsworth Safeguarding Children and Young People

Learning Lessons from E Children Learning Review

The multi-agency learning review was carried out by WSCB in partnership with a neighbouring Borough’s LSCB. This review considered the permanence planning, decision making and protection of two Black British children now aged 10 and 13 who have been adopted by their former Foster Carers. The review considered the period between 2004 and 2015.

When the children were placed together in what was their foster home, they had no previous relationship as one of them a baby joining her older brother. The adoptive parents were originally Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) carers who then moved across to become Wandsworth Foster Carers. The adoptive parents had an older birth child and were a suitable match in terms of identity and culture. During the placement a number of child protection concerns arose particularly in relation to sexualised behaviour and how this was understood.

There were also challenges in addressing safe care, requests for financial support and structural changes to the family home.

Key learning

- The review identified failings in the protection of the children. There were missed opportunities to assess the children’s safety by carrying out Section 47 child protection enquiries in 2011, 2014 and March 2015.
- Statutory guidance within London Child Protection Procedures and National Fostering Standards was not followed.
- Need to ensure that standards of approval for foster carers are high that Fostering and Adoption panels fulfil their role in scrutiny and challenge.
- The need to review the permanence plan for the children when concerns arise including the question of whether siblings should be placed together or apart.
- To understand the role that complaints and requests for finance may have when addressing safeguarding.
- Dynamics of disguised compliance need to be understood and recognised.
- Understanding the importance of internal escalation of concerns and across the partnership within Wandsworth and the neighbouring Borough led to questions about professionals understanding of their responsibility and process for LSCB escalation.

Learning from the review will be presented at the WSCB Learning from Experience events on 24th April 2018 at Wandsworth Professional Development Centre (WPDC) based at Burntwood Academy.

WSCB Revised Online Safety Strategy

Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Boards have revised the Online Safety Strategy in February 2018 to fulfill its statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within the London Borough of Wandsworth. Please use the following Link to access the Online Safety Strategy:

www.wscb.org.uk/wscb/info/88/local_multi-agency_strategies/99/local_multi-agency_strategies/4
Training Highlights

Look out for the next Learning from Experience event: ‘Safety of Children Looked After’ 24th April 2018.

This workshop will provide an opportunity to reflect on the key learning from two national Serious Case Reviews and a Wandsworth Learning Review involving Children Looked After in foster care. Following presentations there will be discussion enabling practitioners to reflect on making a personal commitment to make a difference.

Guest Speaker Keith Ibbetson who is the author of Hackney & City serious case review.

Wandsworth Learning Review will be presented by Ruth Lacey Head of Wandsworth Children’s Services Safeguarding Standards.

A Foster Carer will talk about the Challenges of Caring for children looked after.

Adult Survivor Yvonne Ellis will talk about the Healing Process will read from her book ‘Daughter Arise’

There will be two sessions, one in the morning, and another repeated in the afternoon. Workshops will run 9.15 am - 1.00 pm and 1.15 pm - 5.00 pm.

The workshop will focus on the practice issues that led to the traumatic abusive experiences of the children and young people at a time when they should have been afforded the greatest of care. Please book early as places are limited. Priority will be afforded to those working in service areas with children in care or care experienced young people.

Prevent half day interactive workshops

The Prevent agenda has never been more important. We now have a new Prevent coordinator who has refreshed and updated the current delivery. Please access via E-Learning on TPD for a 1 hour briefing or book to attend the Multi-Agency 3 hour workshop. You will hear the ‘voice of the child’ and work on a case scenario dispelling myths and discussing signs of vulnerability and radicalisation.

Annual Safeguarding Children Conference 2017

WSCB Annual Conference: Safeguarding Young People is Everybody’s Business - Prevention & Intervention in Knife Crime. The Conference was on Wednesday 13th December 2017

This event was led by a varied combination of presenters, including a young adult, Sachmo, who succeeded to leave offending, brought much laughter and reflection on practice to the participants. Voluntary organisations such as ‘Red Thread’ and ‘Street Doctors’ also attended, sharing their passion and commitment to helping, supporting and sign posting young people affected by street violence. Lecturers from Bedfordshire University presented on ‘Contextualised safeguarding’, and statutory service providers made the event interesting and thought provoking. Chicken Shed Theatre
Group brought hushed silence as they performed a clip from their play “Crime of a Century”. The question and answer session was thought provoking as we learned the history behind the making of the play. It was good to hear from Lewisham and Greenwich about what was working well for them, which fed well into the Early Intervention research currently being conducted in Wandsworth as a strategy for prevention and intervention. The event was well attended with good representation from the agencies working with young people affected by knife crime, who were given an opportunity to reflect on their practice and learn about the support required and offered through AMBIT. The event was attended by 109 multi agency staff members. This is the largest conference attendance to date and indicates an increase in Police and Faith, Community and Voluntary Sector attendance.

Wandsworth Children’s Services Vision:

Children Service has launched their Vision recently; they held events with staff across the Teams to promote this Vision. The Vision supports staff to connect with the core values, build connections across services and communicate the vision in their daily work. Children Service is working to develop a shared vision which places children at the heart. The sessions held showcased day to day work of services, staff pledges for children, ideas and developments for the future.
WSCB’s Section 11 Safeguarding Self-Assessment Audit 2018

We would like to thank all the staff who completed 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. An online process was used this year and agency specific questionnaires were created in response to requests from partners to make the questions more relevant and for the Questionnaire to be user friendly.

7,091 practitioner responses were received for the survey sent out in January 2018.

In April 2018 a Strategic Questionnaire will also be sent out to all agencies asking for a self-assessment of safeguarding practice under each of the eight standards of Section 11 to provide an executive level signoff of that statement. This will complement the practitioners’ survey. Over 70 agencies are expected to respond to this survey.

The Section 11 audit process will be concluded over the summer period with challenge conversations with the key agencies that participated.

All statutory agencies are invited and a selection of partner agencies. This will ensure 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.

The focus of this year’s Section 11 audit was to ensure that staff across all agencies have a good understanding of the referral process, thresholds, are aware of the introduction of IPOC and the updated LADO process.

The initial findings from the Section 11 process are that staff surveyed are aware when they need to raise concerns with their safeguarding lead, know when to refer children to IPOC and who to speak to if they have safeguarding concerns about a colleague.

WSCB Inter Agency Escalation Policy

This Policy aims to resolve professionals’ differences in line with the London Child Protection Procedures.

Occasionally concerns or disagreements arise over another professional’s actions, lack of action or decisions in relation to safeguarding a child.

Disagreements may arise around:

- Referrals, Access to Services Thresholds and Assessments
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Progressing Plans
- Communication

To read the full Policy, please use the following Link:
http://www.wscb.org.uk/downloads/file/54/inter_agency_escalation_policy

FEBRUARY 2018
Wandsworth’s Short Breaks Offer

There are many children/young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Wandsworth who do not meet the criteria for an assessed children’s social work service-like that provided by the 0-25 Disabilities Team but whose families would benefit from a break from caring. Many families can use the same services as all families for short break activities. These can be found on the Family Information Service website [www.wandsworth.gov.uk/fis](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/fis). The Council also supports a wide variety of after school, weekend and holiday short break activities as part of its targeted offer for children/young people with SEND. Visit the Local Offer website [www.wandsworth.gov.uk/localoffer](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/localoffer) for more about these. The Council’s Short Breaks Offer includes the WAND card and services which it funds but which are run by other agencies (such as Lady Allen Playground, Generate and Baked Bean).

In addition to information on the Local Offer website, the Family Information Service (Tel: 02088717899 – Email: fis@wandsworth.gov.uk) can provide advice.

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Wandsworth Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO): Allegations against Staff and Volunteers working with Children

The Local Authority Designated Officer, Chantel Langenhoven, is responsible for managing allegations against staff and volunteers who work with children.

**A referral should be made to the LADO if, a member of staff or volunteer:**

- behaved in a way that has, or may have harmed a child;
- possibly committed a criminal offence against or in relation to a child;
- behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children

The LADO also offers a Consultation Service. So, if you are uncertain whether a referral should be made/ or if you want advice, contact the LADO for a case discussion on Tel: 020-8871 7440 or Email: LADO@wandsworth.gov.uk. All consultations will be followed up in writing for your record.

The LADO leaflets provide guidance to employers, it also explain the process and rights of those staff and volunteers who allegations are made against. These leaflets can be found on the Wandsworth Council website and the WSCB website as detailed in the following Links:

**LADO Procedure: Managing allegations against staff and volunteers working with children**


**A Guide for Staff and Volunteers who work with children and are faced with an allegation:**

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:

**John Miller**  
Head of Youth and Youth Offending Services

John Miller is the Head of Youth and Youth Offending Services for Wandsworth Council’s Children Service. John joined us in this role in December 2017. His service is part of the newly formed Early Help Division.

John has over 25 years professional social work and youth work experience where he specialised in working with adolescents and their families in youth justice, residential care, frontline social work and community settings.

John is fully committed to improving opportunities for young people and their families to THRIVE through effective early help and by safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our most vulnerable children through the delivery of a well-coordinated and supported partnership offer in Wandsworth.

**Bill Turner**  
Head of Safeguarding for Children and Adults at St George’s Hospital

Bill Turner is Head of Safeguarding for Children and Adults at St George’s Hospitals NHS Foundation Trusts. Bill joined the Trust in January 2018 following a long background in children’s social care, working in a range of authorities across London. Bill is enjoying the challenge and opportunity a new role brings, and is keen to ensure that the Trust does everything possible to help safeguard and protect Wandsworth’s children. Bill is also keen to utilise the opportunities a post covering both children’s and adult safeguarding brings to support safeguarding practice across the board.

Ensuring that safeguarding practice is of the highest standard is integral to the implementation of St George’s Quality Improve Plan and the Trust’s aspiration to provide ‘Outstanding Care, Every Time’. Bill is also keen to work with all colleagues across Wandsworth to improve services as part of Wandsworth’s own improvement journey.

**Dr. Claire Taylor**  
Wandsworth Named GP for Safeguarding Children

Dr Claire Taylor is Wandsworth Named GP for Safeguarding Children. Claire works in this role part time. Claire is also Wandsworth General Practitioner (GP) at Balham Park Surgery and the Child Health and Safeguarding Lead for the Practice. Claire worked previously as a Paediatric Registrar and qualified as a GP in 2009.

Claire is also the Named GP for Safeguarding Children in Camden since 2009.