



**Worcestershire Safeguarding
Children Board
Annual Report 2018/19**

Foreword by Derek Benson, Independent Chair of the Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board

It is my pleasure to introduce the Annual Report for the Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) for 2018/19. This will be the last such report published by the WSCB under current arrangements before responsibility for local safeguarding transfers to the named Safeguarding Partners in September 2019. Plans for the new arrangements have been carefully considered and the Safeguarding Partners; the Local Authority, West Mercia Police and the Clinical Commissioning Groups for Health, will collectively take the lead in a partnership that remains focussed in its commitment to achieving the best possible outcomes for the children and young people of Worcestershire.

The purpose of Local Safeguarding Children Boards has been to co-ordinate effective safeguarding arrangements across the statutory and voluntary sector agencies, and it is vital that the three Safeguarding Partners maintain that breadth of involvement. They are already actively engaged in partnership activity across the county and are well sighted on the good practice that exists. The strength of the existing arrangements is due to the shared determination of that broad range of partners that come together as the WSCB to ensure children are safeguarded and whose wellbeing is actively promoted. It is essential that the rich diversity of opinion and experience is maintained going forward.

The activity of the Board has been effectively and diligently coordinated and supported by the Business Unit, and I would like to record my appreciation for their ongoing energy, enthusiasm and professionalism.

The Annual Report provides updates on what has been achieved during 2018/19 and includes information on progress against local priorities, developments in safeguarding and how learning has been shared and incorporated into practice. This is achieved through detailed performance data from partners, a comprehensive audit and assurance programme and importantly, feedback and input from service users including children and young people.

Throughout the last year as well as preparing for the transition to the new arrangements, the WSCB has worked to deliver a number of key priorities; implementing a strategy and supporting toolkit to tackle Neglect, better understanding and supporting activity to address the widening issues of exploitation, and seeking assurance and promoting Early Help in Worcestershire. Much of this activity will continue into 2019/20.

Another key element of the Board's work has been the ongoing support for Children's Services in its improvement journey, whilst continuing to monitor the outcomes for children and young people. There are clear signs of progress and this will remain a priority area as the newly constituted Partnership takes shape.

Safeguarding has never been more important and we, as individuals and partners, must remain focussed in our efforts to provide those better outcomes for children and young people in Worcestershire.

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1. Introduction

What is the Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB)?

WSCB is the key statutory body overseeing multi-agency child safeguarding arrangements across Worcestershire. Our work is governed by the statutory guidance in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015'.

Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 sets out the statutory objectives of Local Safeguarding Children Boards, which are:

- To co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in their area; and
- To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.

Purpose of the Annual Report

Statutory legislation requires the Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Board to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area it covers. This report relates to the preceding financial year. The report will be submitted to the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council, the local Police and Crime Commissioner and the chair of the Health and Well-Being Board.

The report aims to provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. It identifies areas of weakness, the causes of those weaknesses and the action being taken to address them as well as other proposals for action.

Vision Statement

All children and young people in Worcestershire are safe and thriving

Mission Statement

Working in partnership to keep all children and young people safe and thriving within an environment where safeguarding is everybody's business and intervention and support is timely and right for individuals and families.

WSCB Values

- Respect for children, young people and their families
- Making a positive difference to the lives of children and young people
- Working together in partnership
- Collective and mutual challenge between partners to keep children safe

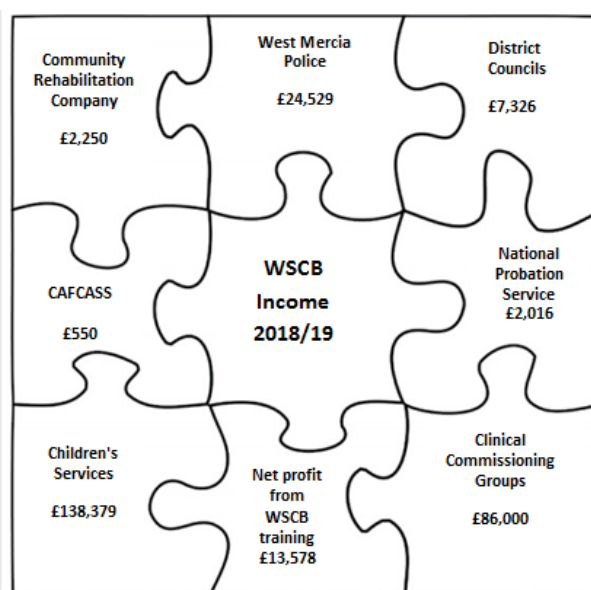
- Involving communities at a local level
- Valuing and responding to diversity

WSCB Membership & Structure

Membership of WSCB is statutory for a number of partners as outlined in [Working Together \(2015\)](#). A full list of member partner agencies can be found at Appendix 1

The WSCB Structure is located at Appendix 2

Financial Contributions



New Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 replaces Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) with new local safeguarding arrangements, led by three safeguarding partners (the local authority, police, and clinical commissioning groups). LSCBs must continue to carry out all of their statutory functions, until the point at which safeguarding partner arrangements begin to operate in a local area. The Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership will be implemented by 1 September 2019. More information can be found at:

<https://www.safeguardingworcestershire.org.uk/changes-to-safeguarding-children-arrangements-from-1st-september/>

2. Context

2.1 Context & Local Demographics

The largely rural county of Worcestershire is situated in the West Midlands. It has a population of 588,400 and 75% of residents live within the main towns and urban areas. According to figures released by Worcestershire County Council the county population has been increasing by an average of approximately 3,800 people per annum over the last 5 years, and the rate of growth is increasing.

Age

Worcestershire has a resident population of approximately 116,900 children and young people aged 0 to 17, making up 20% of the total population. Over the next ten years trend-based projections suggest that the population of 0 to 17 year olds will increase by 4,900 (4.2%) with variations between age groups. The population of 10 to 15 year olds is projected to increase by over 10% while the population of 16 to 17 year olds is projected to increase almost 14%.

Ethnicity

10% of the population aged 0 to 17 is classified as belonging to an ethnic group other than White British. The largest group is Asian or Asian British and the next largest is children from a mixed heritage background. English is spoken as an additional language by over 6,400 school pupils (8.0%). Polish, Urdu and Punjabi are the most commonly recorded spoken community languages in the area.

Areas of Deprivation

The Indices of Deprivation use several measures including income, employment, education, health, barriers to housing and services, crime, and living environment. These are weighted and combined to create an overall Index of Multiple Deprivation. In Worcestershire deprivation scores vary with the highest score at 75.6 in one area of Worcester City and 2.4 in another. Most of the high deprivation areas are in the urban areas of Worcester, Wyre Forest and Redditch, with some areas of deprivation also present in the towns of Evesham, Malvern, Droitwich and Stourport - On - Severn. The average for the county is 17.7, ranked as 111 out of 152 Local Authority areas (1 being the most deprived).

Local Authority Provision

At the end of March 2018 there were a total of 695 Children in Need (CIN), 798 Looked After Children (LAC) and 415 children with Child Protection Plans. (2017 comparison figures in table below.)

Local Authority Provision	March 2018	March 2019
Child in Need Plans (A Child in Need is one that has been assessed under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 as being unlikely to maintain a reasonable level of health or development or whose health or development is likely to be impaired without the provision of services; or a child who is disabled)	695	594

Looked After Children (a child who is being looked after by the Local Authority is known as a child in care)	798	842
Child Protection Plans (children require a Child Protection Plan if they are judged to be suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm)	415	404

2.2 Partnership Working

Linkages with other Strategic Boards

The WSCB Independent Chair is directly accountable to the Chief Executive of Worcestershire County Council and works closely with the Director of Children, Families and Communities, attending the Children & Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel when available.

The work of the WSCB fits within the wider context of the Worcestershire Health and Well-Being Board (HWB), the Safer Communities Board (SCB) and the Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board (WSAB). Work with WSAB, facilitated by the Independent Chair, focusses on areas of safeguarding which span both Boards in order to improve communication and reduce complexity for partner agencies. Examples are sexual exploitation, domestic abuse and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

The Board also works closely with the Worcestershire Forum Against Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence with regard to the impact of domestic abuse on children.

Links to other strategies

Special Educational Needs and/or a Disability (SEND) Strategy which sets out partnership duties and will be delivered through an action plan to be overseen by the local authority's Children with SEND Improvement Board.

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20541/we_are_listening/1616/our_send_strategy

Children and Young People's Plan 2017-21 which provides a framework for all agencies and organisations working with children, young people and families to make the necessary impact to improve lives. www.worcestershire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/8306/worcestershire_children_and_young_peoples_plan_booklet.pdf

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Joint Health and Well-Being Strategy 2016 – 21 which is a statement of the Health and Well-Being Board's vision and priorities based on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the views of key stakeholders.

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/7051/joint_health_and_well-being_strategy_2016_to_2021.pdf

Early Help Strategy 2017 – 2020 which sets out how agencies should work together to provide additional support to children and families.

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/downloads/file/8802/worcestershire_early_help_strategy_2017_to_2020

3. Strategic Priorities

3.1 Implementation of Neglect Strategy

Worcestershire has a significantly higher rate of neglect per 10,000 population (34.00 in 2017) than for both statistical neighbours (21.6) and England (26.3). 79% of all current Child Protection Plans are for Neglect which is significantly higher than the national average. Nearly three quarters of new Contacts or Referrals where neglect is a factor relate to children under 10 years old. More than half of all social work assessments result in no further action being taken by Children's Social Care, with one quarter proceeding to a Child in Need or Child Protection Plan.

Three Multi-Agency Case File Audits (MACFAs) have been undertaken on cases where children were experiencing neglect in 2014 (MACFA 14), 2017 (MACFA 26) and 2019 (MACFA 31). The findings from the most recent audit will serve as a benchmark against which the safeguarding partners will be able to evaluate progress.

Key aspects of practice which have been identified from the MACFAs and also from case reviews undertaken nationally are:

- Need to include the parents' histories and parental risk factors as part of the assessment of their ability to change
- Evidence required that inter-agency neglect guidance is being followed by agencies
- Over-focus on the needs of the parents
- Need to listen to children and young people about their lived experience and evidence how this has impacted on decision making
- Need for increased focus on the roles of 'invisible males'
- Need to avoid drift and delay in decision making
- Tendency towards 'start again syndrome' following changes of worker/service
- Importance of chronologies and processes for sharing them between agencies
- Importance of engaging with wider family members when assessing and working with parents who not demonstrating the necessary changes
- Tendency towards professional over-optimism about co-operation and the ability of some parents to sustain improvements
- Need for SMART objectives in Plans with time scales and contingency plans evidenced

The WSCB approved its Neglect Strategy in December 2018 which can be located at: <https://www.safeguardingworcestershire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Worcestershire-Neglect-Strategy-2018-2020.pdf>

The aims of the Strategy are to develop shared definitions and language, and a consistent approach to screening across the Partnership with examples of appropriate responses at different levels of need. The revised pathway for responding to neglect concerns, spanning early help through to child protection, and a toolkit for use by frontline practitioners when working directly with families are to be launched at targeted events in June 2019. Young people and practitioners had been consulted on some of the tools and their feedback used to improve the tools. Attendees at the launch events will be specifically nominated by their strategic leads to support the embedding of the pathway and toolkit within their own workforce. The toolkit can be located at: <http://westmidlands.procedures.org.uk/local-content/xkjN/neglect-tools-and-pathways/?b=Worcestershire>

The Board agreed that neglect would continue to be a strategic priority into 2019/20 so that the impact of the Neglect Strategy could be evaluated.

3.2 Protecting Children and Young People from Exploitation

WSCB has a Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Strategic Group as one of its sub-groups and a CSE Operational Group which reports directly to the Strategic Group. During the year the focus on CSE has expanded to include other forms of exploitation and contextual safeguarding. 'GET SAFE' is the Worcestershire partnership title for the identification and management of multi-agency support and protection for children and young people at risk of **G**ang-related activity, **S**exual **E**xploitation, **T**rafficking, **M**odern day **S**lavery, **A**bsent and **M**issing, **F**orced Marriage, **H**onour Based Violence and **F**emale Genital Mutilation, and **C**riminal **E**xploitation.

These extra-familial forms of abuse and harm require a timely, well co-ordinated, multi-agency response, including information sharing, to ensure risks are quickly identified and responded to at both an early help and high-risk level of need. The GET SAFE Triage being developed at the Worcestershire Safeguarding Hub will play a key role in ensuring these activities are happening across the different levels of need and evaluating the outcomes to inform future responses. The intelligence this multi-agency Triage will gather will help inform Worcestershire's problem profile of Criminal Exploitation and inform future disruption activities and tactical responses.

After some significant delay a CSE Problem Profile was produced by West Mercia Police and this now needs to be regularly updated and broadened out to include other areas of the GET SAFE (exploitation) agenda.

A CSE multi-agency dataset has been agreed and work continues to populate it with input from Partners. There have been continued challenges in accessing Police data following their change of data system. This dataset needs to be developed to include a wider set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to reflect the GET SAFE agenda.

Towards the end of the year an outline GET SAFE Action Plan was drafted and work is currently being undertaken with Partners to agree the detail.

A MACFA was undertaken during the year looking at partner agencies' use of the CSE Screening Tool. Headline findings were that the tool is in need of review and no longer fit for purpose, it is not being used systematically to screen for risk of CSE but rather when there are already CSE concerns, practice is inconsistent and there is a lack of analysis of risk once indicators have been identified. A review of the CSE screening tool is to be undertaken by the GET SAFE Operational Group.

More information is available at:

<https://www.safeguardingworcestershire.org.uk/wscb/professionals/cse/>

3.3 Seeking Assurance and Promoting Effective Early Help

A key development during the year has been the publication of the revised Early Help Pathway identified as a gap in last year's annual report. The Board's Improving Frontline Practice Group was a helpful mechanism for consultation with Partners and it supported circulation of communications through the WSCB newsletter, core training programme and Practitioner Network meetings.

It was clarified that co-ordination of delivery of the Early Help Strategy action plan would sit under the Children and Young People Strategic Partnership sub-group of the Health and Well-being Board.

WSCB was sighted on audits undertaken during the year which looked at the effectiveness of the Early Intervention Family Support (EIFS) service. The quality of assessments was found to be good and the Signs of Safety strengths-based approach was being embedded. Aspects of practice requiring improvement included reflective practice, management oversight and the inclusion of parents and wider family. Feedback from parents was very positive about their experience.

Assurance was provided to the Board from commissioners for both Public Health and Children's Community Health regarding the respective quality assurance frameworks in place for early help services delivered by Providers.

Two MACFAs were completed during the year looking at early help cases. Some examples of good practice were identified where high levels of intensive support had been provided by Family Support Workers. There were questions raised in two of the cases about whether early help at Level 3 was the correct level of intervention given the complexity of needs and risks being presented at the time. There was evidence of good recording of the child's voice in records and in the work undertaken in four of the six cases, and the quality of Plans had improved on the findings from previous MACFAs with Lead Professionals identified in all of the cases (May 2019).

A MACFA undertaken in September 2018 looked at the application of thresholds by partner agencies and the quality of referrals made to the Family Front Door (FFD). Nineteen referrals from a range of agencies were reviewed in detail. It is possible to provide only limited assurance based on the findings that partner agencies fully understood the threshold for intervention by Children's Social Care and there was found to be significant variation in the quality of referrals being made. Responses from staff at the FFD were of consistently good quality, with improvement only required regarding informing referrers of outcomes. During the year changes were made to referral processes which separated out referrals for early help and social work services, with online referral forms providing more guidance for referrers about what is required. It is anticipated that these changes will lead to improved quality of future referrals and support practitioners in distinguishing between the different levels of need.

The Board sought feedback from practitioners on their understanding of early help using a snap survey. The majority of respondents were schools representing one fifth of all education establishments in Worcestershire. The vast majority of respondents said they were at least 'fairly' confident in working in a multi-agency context and confirmed that they accessed the Levels of Need Guidance and found it useful. Most indicated that specific training on being a Lead Professional and completion of an Early Help Assessment would be helpful.

It is not possible for the Board to provide assurance about the wider early help offer made by universal services due to the fact that there is no mechanism in place currently to capture this information.

3.4 Voice of the Child

Voice of the Child is one of the practice issues considered in the Board's MACFA process with auditors asked to specifically consider how effectively the 'voice' of the child was sought, recorded and considered by the partner agencies involved. Across the four MACFAs completed during the year it was found that practice is variable in terms of listening to and giving consideration to the views of children and young people. In the most effective cases the child's voice and lived experience had been explored by practitioners, including

the impact on them of parental needs or vulnerabilities and risk factors, and then used to inform planning.

During the year WSCB adapted a series of prompt questions for practitioners to consider when seeking to understand what a day in the life of a baby, pre-school child, primary age child or teenager looks like. The 'A Day in My Life' prompts form part of the Neglect Toolkit but could be used in all aspects of direct work with a children or young people. The Board consulted with pupils from middle and secondary schools and feedback informed development of the tools.

An example of the prompt questions is located at:

[http://westmidlands.procedures.org.uk/assets/clients/6/Worcestershire%20Downloads/Worcestershire%20neglect%20tools/A%20Day%20in%20My%20Life%20\(teenager\).pdf](http://westmidlands.procedures.org.uk/assets/clients/6/Worcestershire%20Downloads/Worcestershire%20neglect%20tools/A%20Day%20in%20My%20Life%20(teenager).pdf)

3.5 Critical Friends to the Children's Social Care Service Improvement Plan (SIP)

The WSCB has been updated at every Board meeting on the Service Improvement Plan performance indicators and also on outcomes from Ofsted monitoring visits. Meetings with Critical Friends were discontinued during the year after the Board agreed that progress was being evidenced and Board members were able to provide ongoing scrutiny and challenge through the Board and its sub-groups.

Feedback following Ofsted monitoring visits noted that the quality of support offered to children in care and care leavers has improved since the last inspection of children's services in November 2016, whilst acknowledging that many of the positive changes were at that time (April 2018) very recent and not all children and young people in Worcestershire were yet receiving consistently appropriate support. It was noted by inspectors that the local authority was making satisfactory progress to improve services with good progress being made in the area of assessment and quality assurance. Progress in other areas at that time (July 2018), such as planning for children, was more variable and required further focused work. Inspectors also noted that there had been progress in improving services for children and young people vulnerable to child sexual exploitation and those who go missing, although it was considered that Worcestershire's strategic approach to other forms of exploitation was at that time (January 2019) under-developed.

Last year WSCB noted the significance of the development of a new operating model for children's social care and implementation of the Signs of Safety approach to practice. This year has seen the embedding of Signs of Safety across the partnership and the Board has ensured that tools developed to support aspects of practice, such as the Neglect Toolkit, reflect this approach. In addition, work has continued towards the launch of Worcestershire Children First, the Alternative Delivery Model for Children's Social Care to be launched on 1 October 2019.

3.6 Establish new arrangements for the Safeguarding Partnership

The three named Safeguarding Partners (Chief Executive of Worcestershire County Council, Chief Constable of West Mercia Police, and Accountable Officer for the Clinical Commissioning Groups) have been represented by their respective Board members in discussions regarding the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. A proposal was presented at an exceptional Board meeting on 21 January 2019 followed by a period of

consultation. The proposed changes were approved at the Board meeting held on 13 March 2019. There will be a period of transition until the new Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership (WSCP) is fully implemented on 1 September 2019.

Further information is available at: <https://www.safeguardingworcestershire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Worcestershire-Safeguarding-Children-Partnership-Plan-FINAL.pdf>

3.7 Consolidate findings from Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) into learning which leads to improved practice

Work has been completed by the Serious Case Review and the Improving Frontline Practice sub-groups of the Board to develop a summary of key messages from three SCRs completed during the year. A communications plan to ensure dissemination of learning and key messages was presented to the March Board meeting and has now been implemented.

The Board commissioned the Geese Theatre Company to develop a dramatic piece to be performed for frontline practitioners at a local theatre in June 2019. Three key messages were portrayed in the dramatic scripting around the lives of two fictitious families: any amount of alcohol can impact negatively on parenting, professional dynamics can make it hard for your voice to be heard, and the importance of understanding the child's lived experience and not to assume that a quiet or withdrawn child has nothing to say. Other key messages from the SCRs were summarised in a briefing to be made available to practitioners on the day.

In addition to the Geese Theatre Company production two targeted learning events were planned for July 2019 aimed at frontline practitioners and managers who were placed well professionally to support the embedding of learning across their organisation's workforce. The purpose is to consider what actions frontline practitioners and managers can take to share the learning with staff and to ensure that systems and processes support the improvement of practice in these specific areas of practice.

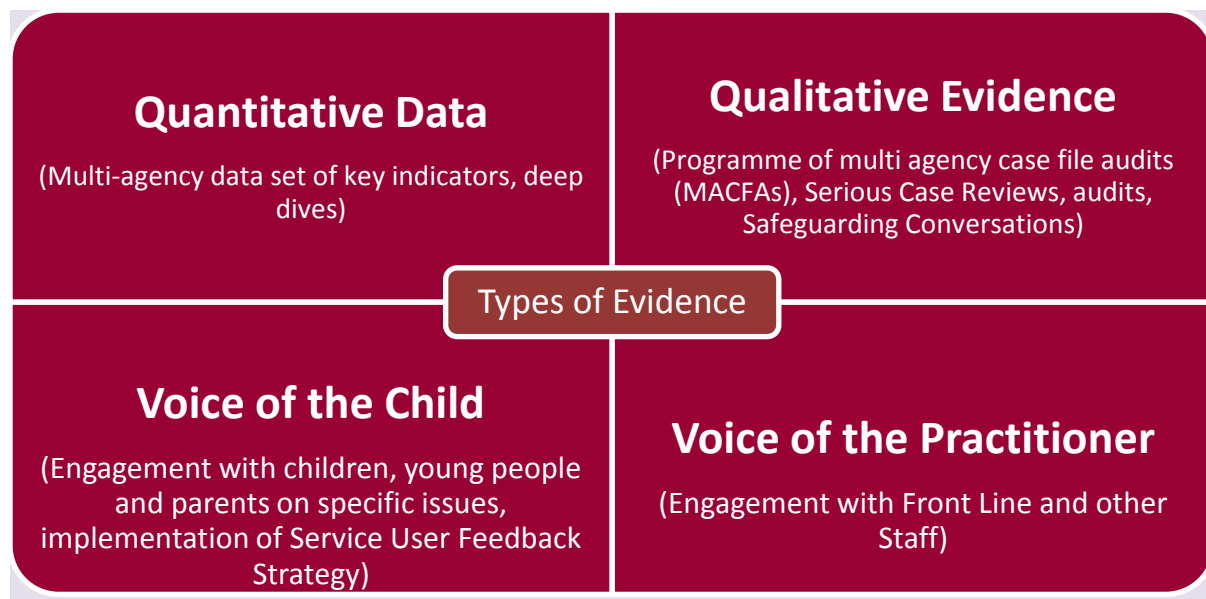
The Learning and Improvement Briefings which support the communications plan are located at: <https://www.safeguardingworcestershire.org.uk/learning-development/training-c/learning-improvement-briefings/>

The Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership will monitor the impact of the embedding of learning over time through audits and data analysis.

4. Effectiveness, Learning and Improvement

4.1 Monitoring Effectiveness

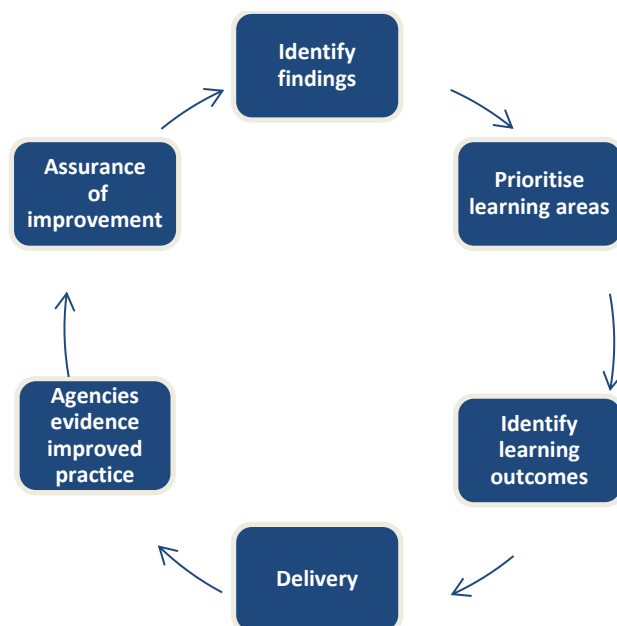
The WSCB evidence base for monitoring the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements in Worcestershire for children and young people during this period has included a combination of:



The WSCB Learning and Improvement Framework consolidates learning from a range of activities including:

- Child Death Reviews
- Serious Case Reviews and case reviews
- Multi Agency Case File Audits (MACFAs)
- Audits
- Safeguarding Conversations
- Domestic Homicide Reviews and Safeguarding Adults Reviews (where appropriate)

The diagram below demonstrates the Learning and Improvement cycle:



4.2 Quantitative Data

The Board maintains a multi-agency dataset of high level key performance indicators which it scrutinises to identify areas of performance which require further interrogation. This year the data has been streamlined to ensure full scrutiny.

Key headlines from the data are:

- 11,300 Contacts to the Family Front Door, an increase of 13% compared to last year
- Number of Looked After Children has increased from 798 last year to 842
- Number of open Section 17 assessments has increased from 386 to 597
- Number of Section 17 assessments completed has reduced from 4953 last year to 4429
- Number of open Section 47 (child protection) assessments has increased from 90 to 103
- Number of open Child in Need Plans has reduced from 695 last year to 594
- Number of open Child Protection Plans has reduced from 415 last year to 404

4.3 Qualitative Assurance Activity

In 2018/19 the following quality assurance audits were completed:



4.3.1 Section 11 Audit (statutory partners)

The Section 11 (S11) Audit is a self-assessment by partner agencies of the extent to which they are fulfilling their safeguarding responsibilities. The S11 Audit provides assurance that safeguarding arrangements are in place across the WSCB partnership or, where improvements are required, plans are in place to address them. WSCB conducts a full S11 audit every two years. In 2017/18 the Board utilised a new audit template devised by a working party from across the West Midlands.

This year the Board can provide assurance that partner agencies continue to report progress against outstanding actions.

4.3.2 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Self-Assessment

Partner agencies were asked to assess themselves against the standards established by the Board. This audit enabled WSCB to benchmark compliance by agencies in this area and compare the results to an audit undertaken in 2017. Improvement has been shown in that no agencies now deem themselves to be inadequate in any area, however there are still areas for improvement reflected in the recommendations.

4.3.3 Section 175/157 audit (schools and colleges)

Response to this annual audit was excellent with 100% of establishments returning their audits. This is the first time that this has been achieved in Worcestershire and demonstrates strong engagement with safeguarding by schools.

This audit evidences a high level of safeguarding activity across education settings in Worcestershire and the importance of a whole school approach which includes a focus on staff development and learning opportunities. 47 Schools have been supported with the self-assessment by the County Council's Education Safeguarding Adviser

Communication between WCC and schools has improved with the provision of network meetings, training and designated Safeguarding Champions.

It is expected that [Operation Encompass](#), where schools are informed the next morning about domestic abuse incidents, is welcomed and should have a positive impact on the emotional support made available to children and young people.

4.3.4 Multi-Agency Case File Audits (MACFAs)

MACFAs are in-depth audits of a small sample of cases facilitated by an independent Auditor commissioned by the Board. Four MACFAs were undertaken during the year and the learning is covered elsewhere in this report. Any child protection issues identified by the review process are immediately picked up by the relevant agency and actioned. Learning is taken back to individual agencies to inform practice and is also included in multi-agency core safeguarding training delivered by the Board.

The MACFA panel invited individual schools to participate in the process where appropriate and this has enabled better understanding of the child's lived experience for all partner agencies.

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4.3.5 Safeguarding Conversations

Safeguarding Conversations are a process developed by WSCB where Board members meet with frontline practitioners to discuss how performance and practice issues impact upon the delivery of a multi-agency plan and subsequent outcomes for a child or young person. Two Safeguarding Conversations were held during the year and three Board members attended including the Director of Children, Families and Communities, the Vice Chair of the Safeguarding Board and the Designated Doctor.

The Safeguarding Conversations were based on Neglect and Step-up/Step-down processes in line with WSCB priorities. In both cases there was found to be evidence of good joint working between agencies. Other aspects of good practice included the collation of full family histories, good quality supervision for staff, evidence of early help support offered by school and health professionals and a contingency plan in place to respond to fluctuating parental mental health. There was evidence of confusion, however, amongst practitioners about how to access early help provision, a lack of information in one case about a parent's new partner and general concern about the lack of availability of suitable mental health services.

4.4 Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) has a statutory responsibility to collect and analyse information about the deaths of all children who live in Worcestershire to identify any safety and welfare matters along with wider public health or safety concerns. The Panel analyses the collated information to classify each death, identify any 'modifiable factors' that may have contributed to the death of the child and make recommendations regarding interventions to reduce the risk of similar deaths. Although there may only be a small number of deaths from a particular cause in a given year, cumulative data and liaison with other CDOPs in the West Midlands may reveal trends and common factors.

During 2017/18 CDOP received Notification of 25 Child Deaths, the lowest since CDOP processes began in 2008. However, during 2018/19, 38 Notifications were received which is closer to the norm over the last 11 years.

CDOP and its Sub-Groups met on 7 occasions and undertook 23 Child Death Reviews during the year. Modifiable Factors were present in 10 of the deaths and included lack of parental supervision, maternal smoking and obesity, and fatal road traffic collisions involving inexperienced teenage drivers.

Other issues coming to Panel included several incidents relating to health care, questions relating to teenage suicide along with the review by Public Health of Infant Mortality in Worcestershire. This found no statistically significant change over a 10yr period [2006 to 2016]

A thorough analysis of Child Death Reviews categorised as 'Sudden Unexpected Unexplained Death' relating to children aged under 2 years was undertaken. It is concerning to learn that there has been a significant rise in Baby Deaths with Modifiable Factors including excessive alcohol consumption coupled with bed-sharing and smoking. This trend has been shared within the West Midlands CDOP Network and wider data analysis is underway including review of the current Safer Sleeping initiatives

The Panel Manager has continued to participate extensively in the plans for the implementation of the 'New Arrangements for Child Death Review' and presented suggested minor modifications to current local operational practices to the September and December Worcestershire CDOP meetings. It is good to reflect that many of the proposed National Changes to the Child Death Review processes have been the culture in Worcestershire for many years.

Considerable attention has also had to be paid to managing the backlog of Child Death Notifications received, especially those managed through the new Perinatal Mortality Review process; to ensure that Child Death Reviews are completed as promptly as post-death processes permit.

From September 2019 Child Death Reviews become the responsibility of the Child Death Partners (Local Authority and Clinical Commissioning Groups) and Public Health is taking the lead for Worcestershire County Council. The decision has been taken to develop a joint CDOP with Herefordshire. Further information is available at:

http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/downloads/file/11281/child_death_review_plan

4.5 Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) and Case Reviews

The Serious Case Review Group considers cases where there may be multi-agency learning to decide whether the criteria for a SCR are met. During the year three cases were considered and, following scoping, were not considered to meet the criteria for a Serious Case Review. If the criteria for a SCR are not met, consideration is given to conducting a case review. No case reviews were initiated during the year.

Two Serious Case Reviews were completed during the year, however it was evident that one of the cases did not meet the criteria and was subsequently down-graded to a case review with the agreement of the National Panel. Learning will be published when parallel processes, such as inquests, criminal proceedings or other formal review processes, have been completed. Recommendations for agencies and the Board have been implemented prior to publication.

Working Together 2018 details how SCRs should be undertaken once the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements are in place. Under the new legislation and supporting guidance,

these will in future be called 'Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews', with Serious Case Reviews being undertaken by the National Panel if the case is of particular national interest or is complex.

Worcestershire has actively participated in a West Midlands 'Early Adopter' programme to develop a regional framework for Rapid Reviews (scoping process to make a decision about further action) and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.

Two Rapid Reviews have been undertaken since the implementation of the new Rapid Review process in June 2018, both achieved within the prescribed time scale of 15 days.

4.6 Single Agency Inspections

Agencies reported that the following inspections had taken place during 2018/19:

- Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust – [CQC Inspection, January, 2019](#) and a NHSI peer review visit undertaken on 11th March, 2019. Progress on the implementation of actions and sustained improvements required following the CQC visits are monitored through the Trust's monthly Safeguarding Committee attended by the Head of Safeguarding or their Deputy. Developments undertaken over 2018/19 period has moved WHAT from a position of offering limited assurance, to that of being able to offer the Trust Board and the CCGs moderate assurance in relation to the safeguarding agenda.
- West Mercia Police were part of a peer inspection at the beginning of 2019 undertaken by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS). The inspection looked at elements of vulnerability and safeguarding and engaged with operational and strategic staff and partners.
- Swanswell, a sub group of Cranstoun who deliver drug and alcohol services, received a [CQC inspection](#) at their base in Worcestershire.
- Children's Social Care had several Ofsted monitoring visits which are all available on the [Ofsted website](#).
- Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue services had an [inspection in 2018](#). The inspection assessed how effectively and efficiently Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service prevents, protects the public against and responds to fires and other emergencies. It also assesses how well it looks after the people who work for the service.
- The local area SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) inspection was completed in March 2018 <https://files.api.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/2773973> The WSCB has been sighted on the written Statement of Action which was developed following the inspection and has received assurance that work streams are progressing. Ofsted continues to monitor implementation of the Statement of Action.

4.7 Communications

During 2018/19 WSCB has engaged in a wide range of communication activities to raise awareness of safeguarding issues and raise the profile of the Board. Communications have been directed towards members of the public, parents and carers, children and young people, and practitioners from across the partnership.

- **Website**

One of the major communications projects has been the development of a new Safeguarding Worcestershire website. A joint project with Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board, the website replaced the previous WSCB webpages hosted by Worcestershire County Council. The joint website will provide an opportunity to showcase cross cutting issues such as Transition, Domestic Abuse, Mental Capacity Act and Exploitation, as well as supporting the 'Think Family' approach. It is due to go live on 1st May 2019.

Other communication activities in 2018/19:

- **Newsletter:** four issues of the Board newsletter, Safeguarding Matters, have been published on the board website and circulated across the partnership.
- **Practitioner Network:** the network provides a quarterly forum for local practitioners from across the partnership to meet and share information and best practice in relation to safeguarding issues. The network acts as a consultation and reference group to support the Board.
- **Awareness Days:** The Board has widely circulated briefings and materials to support national awareness days on issues such as Child Sexual Exploitation and Internet Safety.
- **Learning & Improvement Briefings (LIBs):** During the year the board published two further LIBs on MACFA Messages and Consent & Confidentiality. A further four LIBs have been developed for circulation in the spring of 2019 covering key messages from local Serious Case Reviews.

4.8 Engagement with front line practitioners

Practitioner Network

The WSCB Practitioner Network is the interface between safeguarding practice and safeguarding strategy. The network provides the Board with a practitioner's view of the reality of safeguarding children and young people in Worcestershire. Practitioners meet quarterly and represent a wide variety of organisations involved with safeguarding. The network is a dynamic process, not only serving to promote best practice, but also as a conduit to convey views and concerns back to the Board.

This forum is used to disseminate learning and to take feedback from practitioners on a range of specific issues. In 2017/18 the Practitioner Network was consulted on Learning and Improvement Briefings, Levels of Need Guidance and an Early Help survey.

Specific presentations were made to the Practitioner Network on:

- Worcestershire Children First
- Illegal money lending and the impact on safeguarding children and young people
- Signs of Safety
- Domestic Abuse
- Working Together 2018
- [Car Wash App](#) – The Clewer initiative in relation to modern slavery
- Operation Encompass
- Worcestershire Parenting Services
- The impact of contemporary issues on children and young people's mental health

4.9 Engagement with Children, Young People and Families

A social work student from the University of Worcester worked with WSCB during the year to support the Service User Feedback agenda and engagement with young people. She has brought a young person's perspective and challenge to discussions.

This year the Board consulted directly with young people on the development of a toolkit to support the Neglect Strategy. The young people provided excellent feedback and the tools were made more young people friendly as a result.

Agencies are asked to report on their approach to Service User Feedback (SUF) as part of the Section 11 Audit. It is noted that the Youth Justice Service has an excellent method of collating and using feedback from young people to develop its services.

4.10 Policies & Procedures

Worcestershire is part of a consortium of nine Local Safeguarding Children Boards from the West Midlands who share the online multi-agency safeguarding children procedures located at: <http://westmidlands.procedures.org.uk/> It is two years since these procedures went live and during this period all of the policies have been reviewed to ensure they are up to date.

In addition, Worcestershire has developed its own pathways and tools which sit in the local section of the procedures. Key pieces of work this year have been the development of a local Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Pathway, Child in Need Guidance and the Neglect Toolkit.

4.11 Evaluating the effectiveness of training

During the year 842 people attended a range of multi-agency courses delivered by WSCB. Courses included Targeted training (1, 2 & Refresher), Supervision training, CSE Awareness Raising and Management of Allegations. WSCB multi-agency training is attended by a wide range of agencies, in particular schools, the Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust and staff who work for the Children, Families & Communities Directorate of Worcestershire County Council.

WSCB multi-agency training continues to be delivered to a very high standard as evidenced by on the day and impact evaluations. 96% of people attending the training completed an 'on the day' evaluation which shows that people rate the quality of the training and effectiveness of the teaching as good or very good. Those who attended said that their knowledge and confidence in working in safeguarding had improved.

Impact evaluations completed three months after the course suggest that attending the training had:

- Improved working practices
- Positively impacted on supporting families and children
- Improved awareness of safeguarding

E-learning was less well used this year with 996 practitioners accessing online courses (down 28% compared with last year). There has been a year-on-year reduction in demand and the Board took the decision cease delivery of e-learning from April 2019. It will instead signpost agencies to alternative providers where they can purchase online courses directly.

5. Formal Summary Statement of the arrangements to ensure that children are safe in Worcestershire

Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board has a responsibility to form an annual overall judgment on safeguarding arrangements and their effectiveness. Based on the Board's quality assurance activity and the learning to come from it, and giving consideration to inspection findings during the year, it can make the following formal summary statement in respect of 2018/19:

Engagement with the work of WSCB has remained strong, evidenced by Board members chairing sub-groups and ensuring actions are completed to implement the Business Plan. Attendance at Board meetings remains good and response to audits is generally positive. There have been fewer changes to Board membership than in previous years which has supported continuity and full engagement. Contributory partners have, despite competing financial demands, maintained funding for the Board. There remains evidence of a strong multi-agency commitment to learning and improvement across the WSCB partnership.

During 2018/19 the Board has continued to be sighted on the work being undertaken by Children's Social Care to improve services for children in need of help and protection, including early help, through its comprehensive Service Improvement Plan. In addition, Ofsted have continued to monitor progress through quarterly monitoring visits. As a result of feedback received from Ofsted and the local authority's own Quality Assurance and Performance Information, the Service Improvement Plan has been reviewed and priorities re-focussed. The Board was satisfied with the regular updates provided from the Director of Children, Families and Communities and with commentary and analysis regarding performance information provided by the Assistant Director (Safeguarding).

Operation Encompass is a national initiative which was launched in Worcestershire in November 2018 where notifications about domestic abuse incidents are communicated the next morning to schools via the portal. The WSCB supported this initiative by providing money to pay for administration capacity for one year. Informal feedback is that schools welcome this information as it places them in a position where they can put a child's presentation into context and provide emotional support to children if necessary.

The Levels of Need (Thresholds) guidance, approved by the Board in March 2016, has been updated during the year to include a revised Early Help Pathway. Previously this had been a significant gap. An understanding of the local early help offer and pathway is critical to ensuring that practitioners are able to make appropriate decisions about how families access timely support and when to make a referral to Children's Social Care. Previously feedback received by the Board indicated that practitioners were unclear about the early help offer and their part in delivering it, and about the process for accessing services for families. Changes to the referral process made in November 2018 for accessing Early Intervention Family Support (EIFS) or Targeted Family Support (TFS) have provided greater clarity for practitioners about the differences between Level 3 and 4 interventions and the process for accessing services when early help support at Level 2 is not sufficient. In December 2018 the Board was informed that early help support requests had nearly doubled with most coming from schools. It is anticipated that the development of locality working in districts will further support the partnership approach. Through its sub-groups the WSCB played a part in

providing feedback on the Early Help Pathway and in disseminating information across the Partnership.

Two key areas of multi-agency activity during the year have been development of the GET SAFE agenda, which has broadened out the focus from Child Sexual Exploitation to other aspects of exploitation, and the Neglect Strategy and launch of the Neglect Toolkit. Next year will see the CSE Strategic and Operational Groups widen their respective remits as exploitation remains a key priority for the new Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership, and the development of a GET SAFE Action Plan 2019-21 will support this important area of multi-agency safeguarding. Evaluation of the impact of the Neglect Toolkit on practice and development of our understanding of neglect in Worcestershire will also be a priority during the coming year.

Summary statement of overall effectiveness

The Board concluded that the body of evidence from data, audits, its own learning and inspection findings demonstrates that clear progress is being made in the provision of support and protection for children and young people in Worcestershire. The anticipated full inspection of local authority services by Ofsted in 2019 will hopefully confirm this position.

Further assurance is required as to the effectiveness of the wider early help offer, albeit it is recognised that the quality of provision by local authority commissioned providers is good. In order for children and families to receive the right services at the right time there needs to be a good understanding of the Early Help Pathway and the threshold for statutory intervention by Children's Social Care. The Board acknowledges the good work done to develop the Worcestershire Early Help Pathway which, along with changes made to referral processes, provides greater clarity for practitioners about their role in delivering lower level early help and about accessing services at higher levels of intervention.

The Board acknowledges the tremendous effort made by the Local Authority, in collaboration with partners, to make tangible improvements to services for children and young people in Worcestershire. It recognises, however, that further work is required for safeguarding services to be consistently good and hands over to the new Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership to provide the support and challenge as the improvement journey continues in 2019/20.

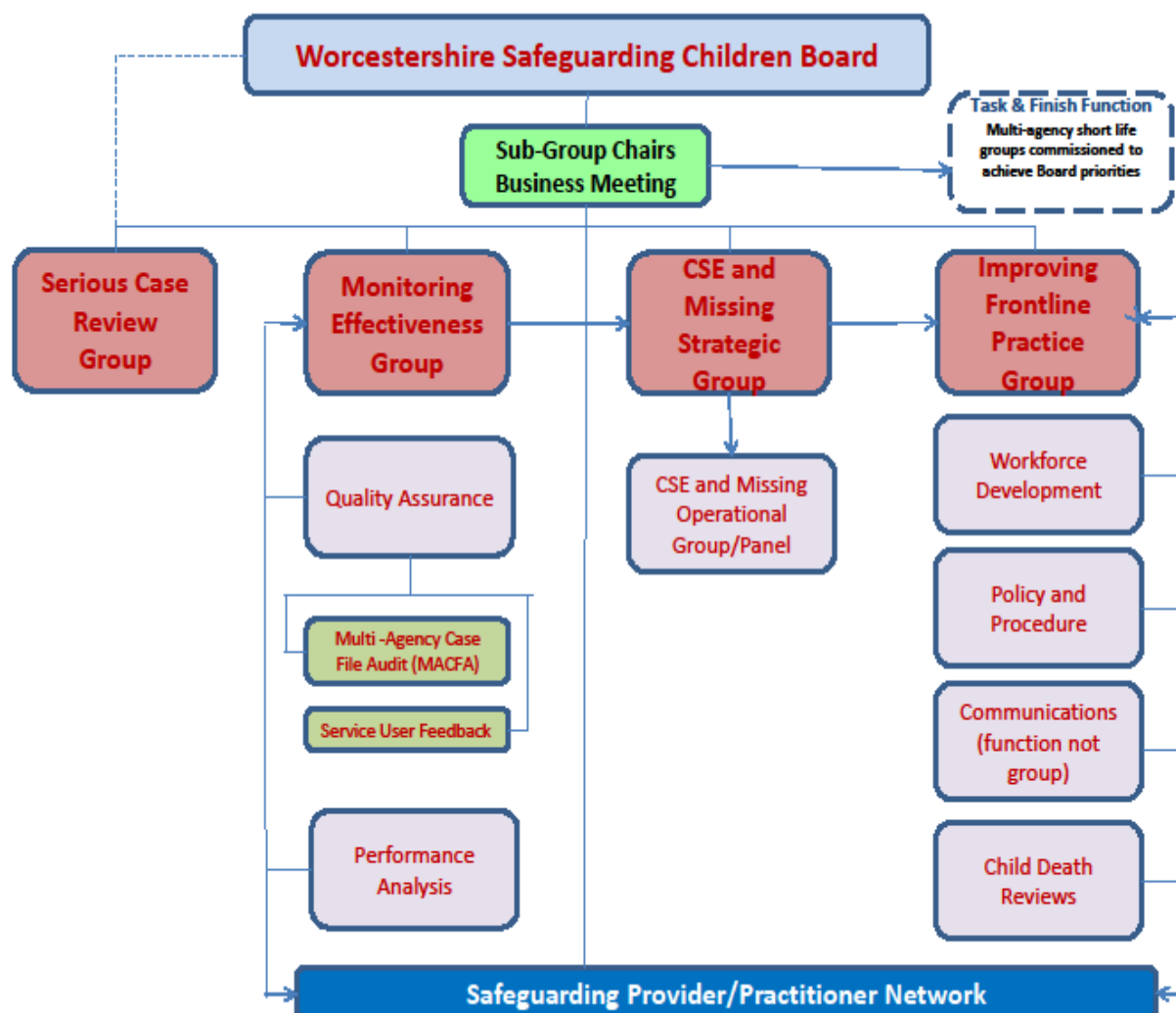
Footnote: Ofsted completed a full inspection of Children Social Care services in June 2019. Inspectors recognised that considerable progress has been made in many areas in improving the quality of services for children and families since the inspection in 2016. The report acknowledges that outcomes for many children and their families are better and that there is evidence of a "sustained trajectory of improvement". Following the inspection the judgement from Ofsted is that all service areas 'require improvement to be good'. In 2016 all areas were judged to be inadequate other than adoption.

Appendix 1 WSCB Membership 2018/19

Agency	Name	Role
Independent	Derek Benson	Independent Chair
Worcestershire County Council	Catherine Driscoll	Chief Executive
	Tina Russell	Assistant Director (Safeguarding)
	Sarah Wilkins	Assistant Director (Early Help and Commissioning)
	Nick Wilson	Assistant Director (Education and Skills)
	Frances Howie	Director of Public Health
	Sarah Cox	Quality and Safeguarding Manager, Adult Social Care
Young Solutions	Michael Hunter	Chief Executive (representing Community Voluntary Sector)
CAFCASS	Julie Shaw	Service Manager
Heart Of Worcestershire FE College	Julia Breakwell	Vice Principal (representing FE Colleges)
Bromsgrove and Redditch District Council	Kevin Dicks	Chief Executive (representing District Councils)
Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust	Michelle Clarke	Director of Quality (Executive Nurse)
NHS Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Groups	Lisa Levy	Chief Nurse and Director of Quality
	Ellen Footman	Designated Nurse
	David Lewis	Designated Doctor
West Midlands Ambulance NHS Trust	Robert Cole	Head of Clinical Practice
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	Vicky Morris	Deputy Chief Nursing Officer
Herefordshire and Worcestershire Youth Justice Service	Keith Barham	Head of Service
West Mercia Police	Damian Pettit	Superintendent, South Worcestershire
Warwickshire and West Mercia Community Rehabilitation Company	Nina Kane	Head of Service, Worcestershire and Herefordshire
National Probation Service	Jackie Stevenson	Head of Service, West Mercia

Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service	Nathan Travis	Chief Fire Officer
St Peters C of E First School	Tracey O'Keefe-Pullen	Head Teacher (representing First and Primary Schools)
St Egwins Middle School	Nick Pullen	Head Teacher (representing Middle Schools)
Waseley Hills High School	Alan Roll	Head Teacher (representing Secondary Schools)
King's School	Matthew Armstrong	Head Teacher (representing Independent Schools)
Riversides School	Paul Yeomans	Head Teacher (representing Special Schools)
Magic Moments Nursery	Natalie Burford	Proprietor (representing Early Years)

Appendix 2 WSCB Structure



Updated July 2016

Appendix 3 End of Year Finance Position

	Board Budget	Training Delivery	SCR	Partnership Fund	Total
	Expenditure £				
Salaries **	174,810				174,810
Independent Chair	26,257				26,257
SCRs and Case Reviews			9,235		9,235
Performance resources *	16,842				16,842
Administration and business costs	40,367				40,367
Training Expenditure (excluding salaries)		28,629			28,629
E-Academy (E-learning)		14,016			14,016
Partnership Fund expenditure				29,388	29,388
Total Expenditure	258,267	42,645	9,235	29,388	339,544
	Income £				
Agency Contributions					
WCC - 50%	(138,379)				(138,379)
Health - 35%	(86,000)				(86,000)
Police - 10%	(24,529)				(24,529)
National Probation Service - 0.9%	(2,016)				(2,016)
Community Rehabilitation Company - 0.9%	(2,250)				(2,250)
CAFCASS - 0.4%	(550)				(550)
District councils - 2.5%	(7,326)				(7,326)
Core training, Early Years and GP		(42,410)			(42,410)
Income from E-Learning		(13,813)			(13,813)
Partnership Fund				(0)	(0)
Total income	(261,051)	(56,223)	(0)	(0)	(317,273)
Net Expenditure	(2,774)	(13,578)	9,235	29,388	22,271
Holding account b/f as at 1 April 2018	(18,700)	(88,360)	(27,360)	(39,200)	(173,620)
Holding account as 31 st March 2019	(21,474)	(101,938)	(18,125)	(9,812)	(151,349)

Appendix 4 Performance Data

1. Journey of the Child

1.1 Initial Contact

- There were just over 11,300 contacts to the Family Front Door in the full year, an increase of 10% on last year and an average of 942 per month.
- Percentages of Contacts by source are: Police 43%, Schools 12%, Health 14%, Individual 8%, Local Authority Services 6%, Others 16%.
- Percentages of Contacts by outcome are: Social Care referral 48%, Early Help 26%, No further action 26%.
- Accepted referrals to Children's Social Care services were approximately 430 per month (last year not comparable).
- Repeat referrals within 12 months have decreased slightly to 21% (last year was 22%).
- Open Section 17 assessments have increased to 597 (last year was 386).
- Open Section 47 assessments have increased to 103 (last year was 90).
- Section 17 timeliness improved to 82% (last year was 73%).
- Initial Child Protection Conference timeliness improved to 77% (last year was 74%).

1.2 Early Help

- There have been 1288 Early Help Assessments completed (last year was 1162), with the number open reduced to 113 (last year was 145). There are 533 open Early Help workflows (last year was 436), which equates to 900 individuals with a Targeted Family Support worker (last year was 879).
- Recently there has been a monthly average of 26 step downs from social care (last year was 25) and 7 step ups to social care (last year was 7).

1.3 Children with a Child in Need Plan

- Children with open Child in Need Plans has reduced to 594 (last year was 695).
- Child in Need figures for Worcestershire are in line with our statistical Neighbours in rates per 10,000.

1.4 Children with a Child Protection Plan

- Children with a Child Protection Plan have reduced to 404 (last year was 415).
- Duration of Child Protection Plans have shortened with 88% now shorter than 12 months compared to 65% at the end of March 2018.
- Number of children subject to a Plan for longer than 18 months has increased to 16 (last year was 7).
- The rate of Child Protection Plans per 10,000 has reduced to 35 (last year was 36). Nationally this was 45 for 2018.

1.5 Looked After Children

- Number of Looked After Children has increased to 842 (last year was 798).

- The rate of Looked After Children per 10,000 has increased to 72 (last year was 69). Nationally this was 64 for 2018.

1.6 Children who are Care Leavers

- There are currently 359 care leavers open for services, of whom 87% are classed as 'in touch' with the service (last year was 88% and National 93%), 89% are known to be in suitable accommodation (last year was 89%), care leavers not in suitable accommodation has reduced to 4% (last year was 10%) and those classed as not known is 7%. Work within the Through Care service business plan and with the corporate parenting board is prioritising suitable accommodations.

1.7 Children in Private Fostering

A privately fostered child is defined as a child under the age of 16 (18 if disabled) who is cared for and provided with accommodation by someone other than the parent, a parent who is not the biological parent but has parent responsibility, a close relative such as a brother, sister, aunt, uncle, grandparent or step parent. A child who is looked after in their own home by an adult is not considered to be privately fostered.

- There are 11 private fostering arrangements in place (last year was 15). An average of 77% of fostering visits were within timescale (last year was 66%).

1.8 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children are children who have travelled to the UK alone, or become separated from anyone with parental and/or care responsibilities for them. Children seek asylum because they have a genuine need for protection and are in search of safety. Under sections 17 and 20 of the Children Act 1989 Local Authorities have a duty to provide support to these children.

- 33 children were accepted as UASC during the year, all aged from 13-17 years. The total now placed in Worcestershire is 38 (last year was 24), 27 of which are in foster care and 11 in semi-independent accommodation.

1.9 Children with a disability

The Children with Disabilities Team offer services to those children and young people requiring additional resources in respect of their disability, where the disability has a profound impact on the child or young person's life. Other services available are those provided by health, education, play and youth services as well as community resources provided by voluntary agencies.

- The number of children allocated to the specific disability team increased to 437 (last year was 413), with 271 being subject to a short breaks plan, 51 on a Child in Need Plan, 42 being looked after and 10 on a child protection plan.

1.10 Children Missing Education and Electively Home Educated Children

When a child is on a school roll but not attending and they cannot be traced, the Local Authority must try to find the child. Parents have the right to educate their children at home as long as they provide an education that is sufficient and suitable for their child's needs and aptitudes. There is a requirement on Local Authorities to annually monitor the suitability of education provided to children educated at home. Schools have to inform their Local Authority if a child is removed from roll to be home educated and the guidance has extended this requirement to academies and independent schools.

- The number of children registered as missing education was 57 with 287 under current enquiry.
- The number of children being electively home educated has increased to 742 (last year was 694).
- Both of these continue to be a key focus for Education and Skills.

1.11 Children at risk of offending

The Youth Justice Service aims to prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people under the age of 18 by providing a variety of interventions and support. These can include preventative provisions and diversionary activities, so that young people can have more fulfilling lives, families are strengthened, and communities feel safer and more harmonious.

There has been no information received from West Mercia Police in relation to the number of children charged and detained by the police or those held in police custody overnight for four hours or more.

1.12 Children and Health

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) provides support to children and families where the young person is experiencing significant mental health difficulties. The team includes psychiatrists, psychologists, psychotherapists, mental health nurses, family therapists and therapeutic social workers.

- Referrals have increased to 210 per month (last year was 200) for the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service in 2018/19. The numbers on waiting lists for an initial appointment have reduced significantly to below 150 (last year was 318), whilst waiting times have reduced to under 5 weeks (last year was 6 weeks).

1.13 Missing Children

The aim is to reduce the incidence of all children and young people going missing and if they do, to reduce the risk of them suffering harm and recover them to safety as soon as possible. We do this through partnership working, information sharing, problem solving and performance management. A child or young person will be categorised as 'Missing' when their whereabouts cannot be established and/or the circumstances are out of character and the context suggests the person is subject of a crime or at risk of harm to themselves or another.

Introduction of Missing Children Officers in Feb 18 has shown a significantly positive impact on the number of missing children incidents and on the numbers of individual children involved in incidents through 18/19. Timeliness of Welfare Return Interviews has significantly improved since embedding of this new role. There has been a decrease in missing children incidents and children involved in incidents by approximately 50%.

2. WSCB Strategic Priorities

2.1 Children subject to Neglect

- 79% of all Child Protection Plans have neglect as a category (last year was 65%).
- 19% of all Child in Need Plans have neglect as a factor (No comparable figure for last year).
- 36% of all Child Protection Plans have neglect as a factor (No comparable figure for last year).
- 32% of all Looked After Children have neglect as a factor (No comparable figure for last year).

The rise in the number of children subject to plans for neglect is reflective of increasing awareness and proactive action to identify Neglect as a serious issue of harm to children. Informal work was completed with managers in year and the formal WSCB Neglect Strategy and Toolkit was launched towards year end. The reduction in the use of the category of emotional abuse is reflective of work done with chairs and partners to ensure the Child Protection threshold is clear to parents and partners.

2.2 Children witnessing Domestic Abuse

- There was a monthly average of 218 contacts with Domestic Abuse as a factor (No comparable figure for last year).
- There was a monthly average of 127 Section 17 assessments with Domestic Abuse as a factor (No comparable figure for last year).
- 30% of all Child in Need Plans have domestic abuse as a factor (Last year was 35%).
- 45% of all Child Protection Plans have domestic abuse as a factor (Last year was 48%).
- 30% of all Looked After Children have domestic abuse as a factor (Last year was 31%).
- West Mercia Police remain unable to report data in respect to children with repeated domestic abuse offences.

2.3 Children vulnerable to and experiencing Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

- Monthly CSE referrals have increased to 34 (last year was 32).
- The current number experiencing CSE is 12 (last year was 16).
- The current number vulnerable to CSE is 164 (last year was 155).
- 3% of all Child in Need Plans have CSE as a factor (No comparable figure for last year).
- 2% of all Child Protection Plans have CSE as a factor (No comparable figure for last year).
- 3% of all Looked After Children have CSE as a factor (No comparable figure for last year).

Appendix 5 Glossary

CAFCASS	Children and Families Court Advisory and Support Service
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Groups
CDOP	Child Death Overview Panel
CiN	Child in Need
CME	Children Missing Education
CPC	Child Protection Conference
CPP	Child Protection Plan
CQC	Care Quality Commission
CRC	Community Rehabilitation Company
CSC	Children's Social Care
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
EH	Early Help
EHA	Early Help Assessment
EHE	Elective Home Education
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
HACT	Health and Care NHS Trust
HMIC	Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary
HWB	Health and Well-Being Board
ICPC	Initial Child Protection Conference
IMD	Index of Multiple Deprivation
LAC	Looked after Child
LGA	Local Government Association
LSOAs	Lower Layer Super Output Area
MACFA	Multi Agency Case File Audit
MEG	Monitoring Effectiveness Group
NPS	National Probation Service
SCR	Serious Case Review
SUDIC	Sudden, Unexpected Deaths in Infants and Children
WCC	Worcestershire County Council
WFADA & SV	Worcestershire Forum Against Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
WMP	West Midlands Police
WSAB	Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board
WSCB	Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board
YABS	Youth Advisory Board (Safeguarding)
YJS	Youth Justice Service

Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board

www.safeguardingworcestershire.org.uk

