



Corporate Parenting Board

Serious Case Reviews

Author: Tina Russell - Director of Social Work and Safeguarding

Meeting Date: 6 February 2020

Introduction

1. Report prepared for Corporate Parenting Board to provide an overview of Serious Case Reviews for the year 2019.
2. The report will provide an overview for:
 1. New Safeguarding Board arrangements and specific details for reviewing Child Deaths and Serious Case Reviews
 2. Cases Referred to the Child Serious Practice Review Group and Decisions

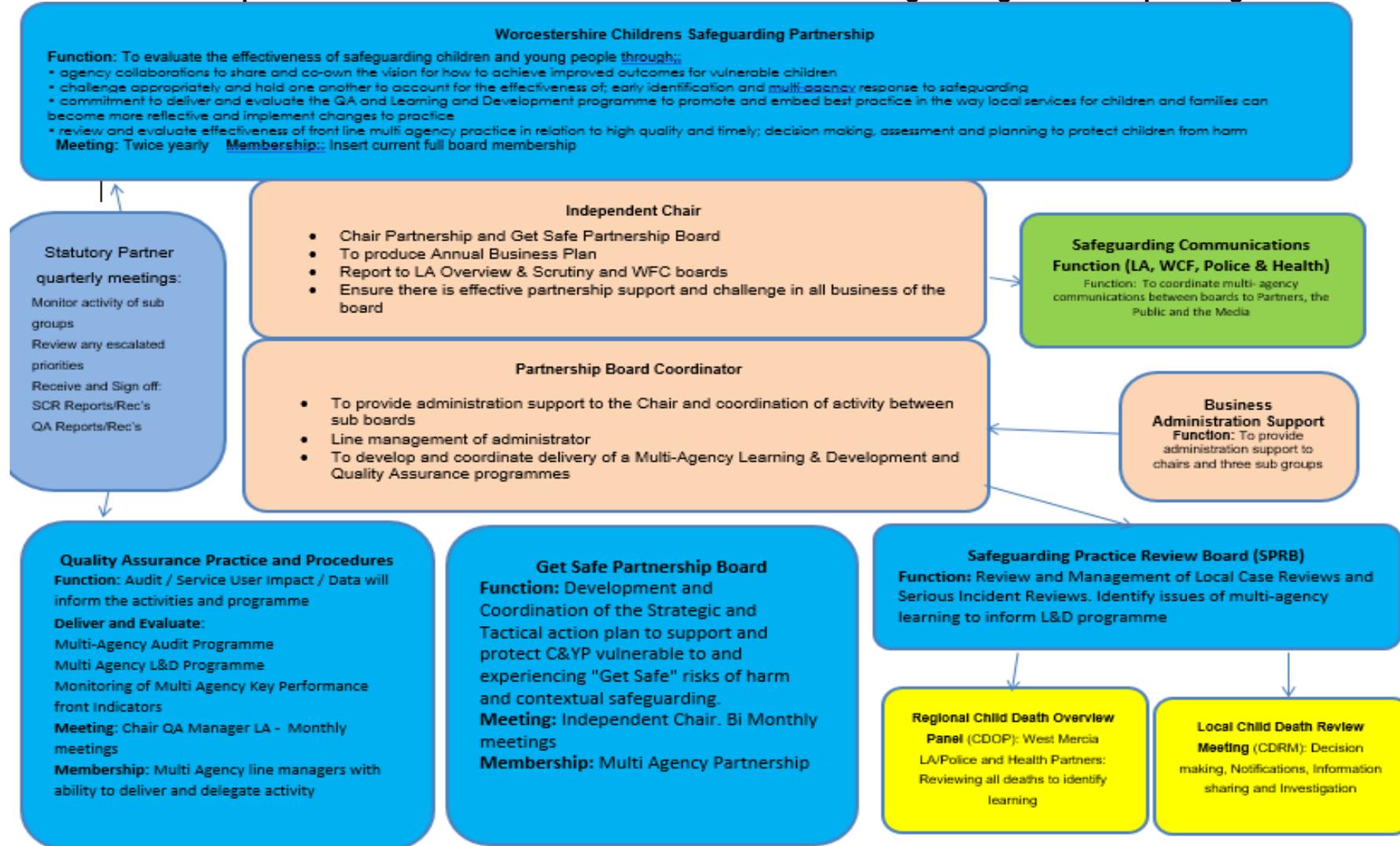
New Safeguarding Board arrangements for reviewing serious cases.

3. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 supported by guidance in Working Together 2018 set out requirements for each area to re-design safeguarding arrangements previously provided by Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs).
4. Responsibility for the design and implementation of the new arrangements rests with the three named Safeguarding Partners; the Local Authority, the Police and Clinical Commissioning Groups.
5. For Worcestershire the chief officers/executives for the three partners are;

Chief Executive;	Worcestershire County Council
Chief Constable;	West Mercia Police
Accountable Officer;	NHS South Worcestershire, NHS Wyre Forest, and NHS Redditch & Bromsgrove Clinical Commissioning Groups
6. Working Together 2018 set out a requirement for local areas to publish their new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements by 29 June 2019 and implement them by 30 September 2019.
7. The new **Worcestershire Safeguarding Children's Partnership (WSCP)** arrangements, as shown in the diagram below, have been in place since 30 September 2019.

8. The approach we have taken is to build on the existing strong and effective partnership in Worcestershire, retaining the best of the current arrangements and integrating new and innovative ways of partnership working.

Below is a visual representation of our new Worcestershire Children's Safeguarding Partnership arrangements.



Quality Assurance Practice and Procedures (QAPP)

9. As a partnership we are committed to service development and consider ourselves a “learning partnership”.
10. With strong multi-agency representation our QAPP sub group will deliver a multi-agency programme of Quality Assurance through; audits, understanding service user experience and monitoring of Key Performance Indicators. The findings of these activities, along with any identified area of learning from the Safeguarding Practice Review Group will inform the multi-agency programme of learning.

Get Safe – Exploitation of Children and Young People.

11. As a partnership we have identified that Contextual Safeguarding and the exploitation of children and young people as being a key priority area of safeguarding for us all.
12. '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, sexual **E**xploitation, **T**rafficking, modern day **S**lavery, **A**bsent and missing, **F**orced marriage, honour based violence and female genital mutilation, and criminal **E**xploitation
13. This sub group will develop and co-ordinate the strategic and tactical action plan to support and protect children and young people at risk of or who are experiencing exploitation. Our action plan sets out a range of activities under the headings of: Prepare Prevent, Protect and Pursue

Safeguarding Practice Review Board

14. A key responsibility for the WSCP will be to commission and publish child safeguarding practice reviews and our revised arrangements for this are outlined below.

Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews: arrangements for commissioning and publishing child safeguarding practice reviews

15. The purpose of child safeguarding practice reviews at both local and national level is to identify improvements to be made to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
16. At a national level responsibility for identifying learning from serious incidents lies with the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (National Panel). The interaction between the local and national levels is still evolving and future developments will be monitored by the Executive Group and the Safeguarding Practice Review Board in Worcestershire.

Serious harm and notifications

17. 16C (1) of the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017) states:

Where a local authority in England **knows or suspects that a child has been abused or neglected**, the local authority **must notify the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel if:**

- (a) The child dies or is seriously harmed in the local authority's area, or
- (b) While normally resident in the local authority's area, the child dies or is seriously harmed outside England.

18. The local authority must also **notify the Secretary of State and Ofsted where a looked after child has died, whether or not abuse or neglect is suspected.**

19. Serious harm includes (but is not limited to) serious and/or long-term impairment of a child's mental health or intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development. It should also cover impairment of physical health. This is not an exhaustive list. When making decisions, judgment should be exercised in cases where impairment is likely to be long-term, even if this is not immediately certain.

20. **Any notification of an incident referred to the Panel will also be referred to the Safeguarding Practice Review Board for a local decision on whether the case:**

- meets the criteria for a Child Safeguarding Practice Review
- whether the case may raise issues which are complex or of national importance.

Decisions regarding local child safeguarding practice reviews.

21. The criteria below will be used by the Safeguarding Practice Review Board in order to determine whether to carry out a local child safeguarding practice review by considering whether the case:

- Highlights or may highlight improvements needed to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, including where those improvements have been previously identified.
- Highlights or may highlight recurrent themes in the safeguarding and promotion of the welfare of children.
- Highlights or may highlight concerns regarding two or more organisations or agencies working together effectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- Is one in which the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel have considered and concluded a local review may be more appropriate.

22. Recommendations on whether to undertake reviews will be made by the Safeguarding Practice Review Board to the Independent Chair with whom the responsibility sits for making the final decision.

23. Child safeguarding practice reviews will be a standing item at the Executive Group's quarterly meetings. If it is considered that the case raises issues that are of national importance then the Executive Group will be informed in between the quarterly meetings. Decisions will be made transparently and the rationale communicated appropriately, including to families.

Commissioned Serious Case Reviews

24. Since the implementation of the new arrangements in September 2019 one Serious Case Review has been commissioned – this is in the early stages and is therefore confidential at this stage. This young person was Looked After.

25. Terms of Reference for the Serious Case Review have been written and the author appointed. Timeline for completion is July 2020.

Cases Referred to the Child Serious Practice Review Group (CSPR) and Decisions

26. Two further cases have been referred to CSPR for consideration for Serious Case Review; both subject of the rapid review process but decision made, and in both cases supported by the National Panel, that criteria for SCR not met.

Recommendations

- 1. Report to be presented to Corporate Parenting Board – 6 February 2020.**
- 2. Corporate Parenting Board to receive the overview and learning reports of SCR or Case Reviews for any Looked After Children.**

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

Email: worcestershirehub@worcestershire.gov.uk

Specific Contact Points for this report

Tina Russell, Director of Social Workers and Safeguarding

Tel: 01905 843184

Email: trussell@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Director of Children's Services) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.