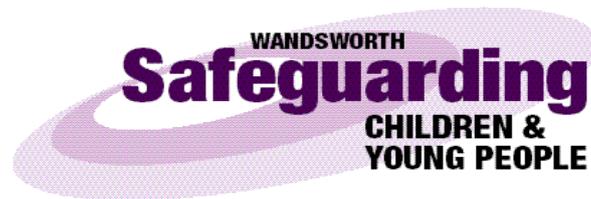




Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Board

Annual Report 2018 - 2019



Foreword by the Independent Chair



As the Independent Chair of the Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) I am pleased to present the annual report for the period April 2018 to March 2019. This will be my last annual report as I intend to step down from the role in June 2019.

Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) were established with the purpose of ensuring that agencies keep local children and young people safe and that where they have intervened they have made a positive difference in children's lives. The WSCB has a really important role in coordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of what is done by each and every person involved

in protecting children and it carries statutory responsibilities for safeguarding children in Wandsworth. It is made up of senior managers within organisations in Wandsworth who hold responsibility for safeguarding children in their agencies, such as children's social care, police, health, schools and other services including voluntary bodies. The WSCB monitors how they all work together to provide services for children and ensure children are protected.

The last year has seen the development of the new Multi-agency Safeguarding Arrangements which will replace LSCBs. The Partnership Plan for Wandsworth will be published by the end of June 2019 and the new arrangements will be in place by September 2019. There has been careful planning and consultation over the last year to develop this plan. Where possible the plan focusses on reducing duplication, joining up with other partnership groups and across boundaries as much as possible, with a real focus on making a difference to front line practice to safeguard children and builds on what we know works well. The challenge over the next year will be to ensure that replacing the WSCB with the new arrangements is done carefully and the transition is carefully monitored and reviewed. It is recognised that the next year will be challenging for all agencies, with considerable change within their own organisations and we will need to ensure the focus and delivery of services to vulnerable children, young people and families is not adversely affected.

Finally, I would like to thank the Board staff, for their continued support in the smooth functioning and promotion of the WSCB. I would also like to thank members of the Board, from across the partnership of our voluntary, community and statutory services and all the frontline practitioners and managers for their commitment, hard work and effort in keeping children and young people safer in Wandsworth.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicky Pace'.

Nicky Pace, WSCB Independent Chair



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APPENDICES (Published separately)

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1. How effective is the WSCB in improving the safety of children in Wandsworth?

This annual report highlights progress and improvements across the partnership over the past year. It evidences both joint working and single agency focus on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children and young people in Wandsworth. The report comments on the key areas of statutory responsibility of the Board, such as the work of the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP), multi-agency training, Private Fostering and allegations against professionals and the work of the LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer).

The Board has regularly reviewed the performance of professionals working with children through its programme of multi-agency audits and by examining the results of single agency audit work. In addition to its audit work, the Board identifies ways to improve through its reviews of individual cases, including Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) and learning reviews. The Board published two serious case reviews in the report period and initiated a number of other serious case reviews and a learning review. The Board has already disseminated the identified learning to partners and Learning from Experience events were held on 4th December 2018 and 25th March 2019 to support this. Training courses have been delivered covering the subject of 'Vulnerable Babies, Vulnerable Parents' and five briefing events were held during September and October 2017 covering the learning from another of the published serious case reviews. These were well received by those professionals who attended.

The Board has continued to review its Section 11 audit process in the last year. Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a duty on a range of organisations and individuals to ensure their functions and any services that they contract out to others are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The section 11 self-assessment questionnaires designed by WSCB are the key tools being used by the Board to assess and monitor whether staff in all agencies are able to properly identify and safeguard children. It gives the Board the opportunity to assess the understanding of safeguarding amongst front line staff across the partnership.

The Board has worked on developing and confirming its dataset over the last year to ensure we have the right information and data to measure activity and to identify where possible areas of concern about performance or practice in individual agencies. The data has enabled the Board to focus on areas of multi-agency practice and the impact on safeguarding children. The WSCB dataset has been under revision, with the aim of streamlining the number of indicators and enabling more emphasis on commentary, analysis and narrative.



WSCB's key priority areas for 2018-19:

- 1. Safeguarding All Children**
- 2. Vulnerable Children and Young People**
- 3. Risk to Adolescents**
- 4. Children Emotional Health and Wellbeing**

Safeguarding All Children

Ensuring that safeguarding children remains a priority during the transition into the new working arrangements for all partner agencies.

Vulnerable Children and Young People

Address the challenges and risks faced by vulnerable children and young people, in particular:

- Going missing from care, education and home
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Radicalisation
- Self-harming behaviour
- Young carers/ Children who care
- Involvement in gangs and county lines
- Children with disabilities and special educational needs
- Female genital mutilation
- Honour Based Violence
- Forced Marriage

Risk to Adolescents

Tackling the risks to adolescents, particularly those associated with exploitation (including harmful sexual behaviour and online abuse) violence and neglect.

Children Emotional Health and Wellbeing

To ensure that Young People's Mental Health is prioritised



2.1 WSCB Activity

WSCB has undertaken development work and encouraged and monitored partners under the range of agreed priorities listed above, led by the Monitoring Sub-Committee and the Independent Chair.

Priority [1]. Safeguarding All Children: Ensuring that safeguarding children remains a priority during the transition into the new working arrangements for all partner agencies.

Early Help Assessments:

There were 1479 Early Help Assessments (EHAs) and Team Around the Child (TAC) reviews completed this year. These were completed under the new Thrive system which was introduced to ensure that support is given where there is concern about a child or young person that does not meet the threshold for social work intervention. Using the early help framework, we are empowering those families, who must overcome challenges like poverty, mental health and deprivation to become more resilient, addressing issues when they present at our Children's Services Front Door. This will contribute to keeping children safe from harm and abuse whilst families are enabled to reach their full potential. An EHA is normally completed within a family if a service has identified concerns and that would require more than one agency to help improve outcomes.

Challenges and Priorities for 2019 - 2020

There will be major changes to the structure and delivery model of service within the Early Help Division in the year ahead. This new offer will include three multi agency teams working with 0- 19 years (0-25 years with SEND), these being the Early Childhood and Learning, Young People and Families, and Inclusion. We will deliver evidence based programmes that help children and families to have better, healthier relationships, to manage their behaviours and feelings in a more positive way, build resilience and encourage safe and sensible life choices.

Privately fostered children:

Raising awareness of Private Fostering has improved in 2018 - 19, the service has been relocated and a specialist social worker has been appointed who is actively promoting the profile by delivering internal training to professionals and attendance at a community engagement event to promote this area. Raising awareness of Private Fostering remains a priority for Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Partnership and it is seen as a challenge for the partner agencies as the number of arrangements identified is still considered to be low, remain static and very likely under reported. This subject will be discussed in more detail under the statutory reporting below.



Young people in custody:

Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Board considers this area as a priority and monitors the number and outcome of these incidents within the WSCB Monitoring Sub-Committee. Work is being undertaken to deal with the concerns raised about the number of young people under 18 years old being held in police cells overnight. It is recognised that instances of keeping children and young people in custody overnight should be kept to an absolute minimum, in view of the potential impact on that child/young person. As per the data available, at any one time there can be five young people in cells around London. The Metropolitan Police Service has demonstrated a clear commitment to keeping the numbers down and ensuring that there is good communication with other support teams, notably Emergency Duty Teams within Children Services to provide alternative Local Authority accommodation. A concordat on the issues is now operational but is facing challenges; it remains unsigned in London between police and children's services. Some amendments are being considered and it is likely to be re-issued in 2019 – 2020.

Children Looked After:

The WSCB recognises that the safeguarding of children who are looked after remains a priority. It is recognised that children placed out of borough are more vulnerable. Placing children in care out of borough can be challenging in terms of safeguarding and promoting their welfare. There are arrangements in place for responding to children who go missing from care. There is more work needed to scrutinise actions taken to find missing children, undertake return home interviews consistently and learn from what they say and what is known about the 'push and pull' factors that lead them to go missing, and to prevent repeat missing episodes. There is a continuing focus on increasing the number and proportion of children in Wandsworth fostering placements, so that looked after children are placed closer to their schools, family, friends and communities.

Priority [2]. **Vulnerable Children and Young People:** Address the challenges and risks faced by vulnerable children and young people, in particular; children going missing from care, children educated at home, child sexual exploitation, radicalisation, self-harming behaviour, young carers, children who care, involvement in gangs and county lines, children with disabilities, special educational needs, female genital mutilation, honour based violence and forced marriage.

Going missing from care, education and home:

Children who go missing from home, care and those missing from education continue to be a key priority for the WSCB. We recognise the increased vulnerability that children face when they go missing to issues such as child sexual exploitation, involvement in gangs and the



possible risk of radicalisation. As a result, mapping takes place at Wandsworth Vulnerable Adolescent Panel meetings (which replaced SEMAP) and consideration is also given to whether the young person has been reported missing in the past, whether they are known to go missing frequently, etc. The Missing sub-group is supported by the WSCB.

Children with disabilities and special educational needs

The Children with Special Needs and Disability multi-agency safeguarding group is focusing on specific aspects of its work programme at each meeting. The group is working to understand the outcome of the disability question which was included in the Section 11 Audits for 2019 and any key actions particularly in relation to raising awareness that might arise as a result. It reports to the Health and Wellbeing Board's Child Health Overview and Clinical Reference Group (CHOCRG) which has been re-established to progress the needs of this vulnerable group of children.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM):

An FGM Task and Finish Group was established and was still in operation in April 2018. The group looked at how to improve the services provided to children who are at risk of FGM, and reviewed the action plan which has been implemented and worked towards over last three years to ensure that children at risk of FGM receive the safeguarding service and protection they need. The outcome of the working group resulted in a St George's Hospital Trust plan to carry out a re-audit of FGM, which is being progressed in May 2019. The repeat audit aims to provide assurance that the lessons learnt from the audit carried out by the Trust in 2016 have been addressed.

The local prevention strategy and guidelines and the FGM Mandatory Reporting & Safeguarding pathway are well used.

Radicalisation/ Prevent:

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

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



Priority [3]. **Risk to Adolescents:** Tackling the risks to adolescents, particularly those associated with exploitation (including harmful sexual behaviour and online abuse) violence and neglect.

Child Sexual Exploitation:

The learning from national serious case reviews concerned with Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) has informed the development of multi-agency arrangements to tackle CSE in Wandsworth. The use of the Chelsea's Choice play in schools continued in 2018-2019, and funding by the WSCB supported this process to raise awareness with young people at risk of exploitation. The play will be commissioned for further productions in the reporting period. Links with young people going missing are clearly known and recognised across the partnership and there is good information sharing. There has been a considerable amount of work focusing on young people at risk of CSE and missing in the last year including addressing the offer and take up of return home interviews. This remains an area of focus for the WSCB.

Honour Based Violence/ Forced Marriage:

These priorities are addressed through the WSCB Training programme and will be a key part of the Engagement Plan being developed for 2019 - 2020.

Community Safety have led on the development of a leaflet with Karma Nirvana – www.karmanirvana.org.uk – a national charity supporting victims of honour-based abuse and forced marriage. This is available on the WSCB Resources webpage: <http://www.wscb.org.uk/wscb/info/5/resources>

It is now stated policy that all cases of forced marriage and honour based violence that come to the attention of services, including the police, should be referred to the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).

Domestic Abuse:

Public Health coordinates its activities in support of the Wandsworth Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) Strategy & Action Plan 2015-18. It enables and supports other departments, internal & external, in service delivery and provides a number of bespoke services in respect of VAWG. This contributes to a greater understanding of issues related to VAWG and ensures that high-risk victims of VAWG are identified and are responded to by the appropriate use of an effective and robust multi-agency framework.

During 2018 – 19 the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) met four weekly and considered a total of 370 referrals, of which 182 included children. There were 27 repeat referrals that included children. The risk of harm to these children and adults was minimised through a multi-agency response.



Priority [4]. **Children Emotional Health and Wellbeing:** to ensure that Young People's Mental Health is prioritised

Self-Harming Behaviour:

There are ongoing concerns that have been raised both nationally and locally by schools, the local hospital and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) that there appeared to be a rise in children displaying and presenting for services in relation to self-harming behaviour. This matter was also recognised by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) which is leading on the CAMHS Transformation Plan. This Plan outlines the strategic priorities for Wandsworth to 2020. This has led to increased capacity and capability for the local CAMHS. The WSCB completed a multi-agency audit on self-harm, which was finalised and presented to the Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Board in 2017. This highlighted the need for agencies to work together in partnership and share information to understand the child's world, to support the young person at risk, and to take account of the role of social media and what impact it can have. The WSCB has also commissioned a Learning Review in relation to a young person who took their own life in February 2018.

Involving young people:

This is an area that has been identified as a priority for the WSCB and our future safeguarding partnership arrangements in 2019-2020 as it is recognised that for capacity reasons the Board has had a limited engagement with young people directly, though reports have been received on elements of participation by local authority services including the Report on Youth Council and *CLICK*. Young people participated indirectly through engagement in the 2018 Annual Conference and have been encouraged to be involved at the professionals and community engagement events. A key priority for the next version of the Business Plan is an Engagement Plan which will address the need to hear the voice of the child much more clearly. Proposals to link this with the data and intelligence gathering of the Board will also look to monitor participation, including through audit, continuing the work that the Child Protection Conferences audit begun in 2018. Agency reports for 2018-2019 and going forward specifically require key agencies to evidence how they are enabling participation and hearing the views of young people and families, ensuring that these are then being used to inform service improvement.

Project Tearose

The police, in conjunction with the local authority launched 'Project Tearose' during 2015-16, and this has continued very successfully to date. If police respond to a domestic incident and there are children present in the household, a summary of the information (on a need to know basis) is shared with the Designated Safeguarding Lead in the child's school the following day. Information is shared confidentially through secure email, by trained police officers. This is to make sure that a support network is put in place and the child's teachers are aware. The school will work with the parents, police and children's social care to help the child. All Wandsworth schools (including the independent schools) are involved in the project and the plan is to expand it further to become London wide (Project Encompass). The feedback from schools has been extremely positive, as having knowledge of these incidents has enabled them to better support the young person in school, and to have a better



understanding of why he or she might be behaving in a more distracted, upset or withdrawn manner or (for example) may not have completed homework or arrived in correct uniform. It has been a very successful initiative.

Data re Tearose notifications to Wandsworth schools:

School Year	Total Number of Tearose Notifications
2016 – 2017	1328
2017 - 2018	1150
2018 – 2019 (up to 23 rd May 2019)	1149

3. Governance & Accountability

The WSCB has a two-tier structure: An Executive Board and five sub-committees. The Executive is the strategic and decision making body and is made up of director level or equivalent representation from the statutory partners and other key partner agencies. The Executive meets at least six times a year. We also have a Faith, Community and Voluntary Sector representative on the Board. The Executive annually reviews the safeguarding priority areas, taking into account any key safeguarding issues brought to its attention by frontline workers; the outcome of the monitoring, analysis and recommendations undertaken by the WSCB sub-committees; key issues identified through audit and review processes; the analysis of local data provided to the WSCB through its dataset; and reflecting on regional and national issues. All the sub-committees report to the Executive Board. Each sub-committee has a clear role as set out in its won terms of reference.

The WSCB will:

- Take responsibility for monitoring action to improve safeguarding including action plans arising from Serious Case Reviews.
- Hold the other boards to account on matters of safeguarding in all their activities, providing appropriate challenge on performance and delivery.
- Undertake audits and feedback results to the other boards, advising on ways to improve and highlight areas for development.
- Feedback learning from serious case reviews and ensure that the learning is embedded in practice.
- Highlight gaps in service for the other boards to consider as part of their commissioning processes.



3.1 Monitoring Sub-Committee:

The **Monitoring sub-committee** undertakes the quality assurance and scrutiny role on behalf of the WSCB. It meets six times a year. During the last year it called in over 30 reports for scrutiny and to seek assurance that service delivery is contributing to better outcomes for children and young people in Wandsworth. Reports are sent on to the Executive Board where appropriate. The areas reviewed by the Monitoring sub-committee include:

- Anti-bullying Strategy
- Online Safety
- Gangs Multi Agency Panel
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Violence Against Women and Girls
- Prevent/ Radicalisation and Extremism
- Children with a Disability and Special Educational Needs
- Children's Services Performance Data
- LADO annual report
- Private Fostering annual report
- Section 11 report
- Annual Multi Agency Training delivery report
- CAMHS and Serious Incidents Reviews
- Gangs Multi Agency Panel
- Young Carers
- MAPPA annual report
- MARAC annual report
- Early Help
- The WSCB annual report
- Sexual Exploitation Multi Agency Panel
- Missing Children
- Health Visiting and School Nursing Service
- Quarterly Children Protection reports
- Review of the Neglect Strategy
- Data reports
- Children Looked After
- WSCB Bereavement Guidance for Schools
- The Virtual School
- Social Work Health Check
- Children & Young People's Participation



3.2 The Serious Cases Improvement and Learning Sub-Committee:

The Serious Cases Improvement and Learning Sub-Committee (SCIL) leads on Multi-Agency audits, reviewing learning from single agency safeguarding audits and considers whether a case meets threshold for undertaking a serious case review (SCR) or Local Partnership review. It coordinates and initiates the SCR reviews as required. It also reviews learning from other serious case reviews. It will also arrange rapid reviews, extraordinary meetings to consider specific cases referred for consideration whether the threshold for initiating a serious case review is met, and areas of concern raised about specific agencies' practice. During 2018-19 SCIL considered seven separate incidents to establish whether the threshold for a Serious Case Review had been met. It also reviewed learning from SCRs published by other authorities both within London and nationally.

During 2018-2019, the work of the SCIL involved the following reviews:

- Baby Eliza SCR Review – Wandsworth review
- Child J Learning Review – Wandsworth review
- Child Y SCR – Wandsworth and Southwark LSCB

Baby Eliza Serious Case Review:

All Local Safeguarding Children Boards follow the statutory guidance in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 when considering the threshold for conducting a serious case review (SCR) until the Working Together 2018 is fully implemented. A serious case review should take place if child abuse or neglect is known or suspected in a case and a child has died or a child has been seriously harmed and there is cause for concern about how the authority or other organisations or professionals worked together to safeguard the child. The WSCB had undertaken a Serious Case Review on Baby Eliza* in 2016-17, however due to ongoing police investigation, the report could not be published until 15th March 2019. There were a number of lessons identified from this review which have been communicated to the workforce across the wider partnership.

Learning Lessons from Child Y Serious Case Review:

This was a Southwark Safeguarding Children Board led SCR review, jointly with Wandsworth, with contribution from Camden Children Social Care. Both boards have recently published Child Y SCR review report on their websites. Although the child was living in Southwark, he is a child looked after by Wandsworth and the report included specific learning points for the council.



3.3 Training and Workforce Sub-Committee:

The key functions of the Training and Workforce Sub-Committee are;

- To oversee the delivery of the WSCB training offer ensuring the provision of high quality multi-agency training programmes, which support professionals and volunteers working in local statutory, private, voluntary and independent sectors to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.
- To promote and support the attendance at WSCB training by community and voluntary groups.
- To support and promote involvement of service users and young people in the development, delivery and evaluation of the WSCB training offer.

The Sub-Committee is chaired by the Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children, employed by the CCG. The WSCB training offer is well evaluated and the uptake of training has increased year on year.

Summary of the Sub-Committee activities during 2018 – 2019:

- Learning from Experience Event 24 April 2018, 'The Safety of Children looked After'
- Learning from Experience Event 4 December 2018, 'Adolescent emotional wellbeing & suicide'
- Learning from Experience Event 25 March 2019 Safety of Children Looked After placed out of Borough
- Annual Conference Safeguarding Children from Exploitation 18 October 2018
- 10 e-learning courses continuously available
- 46 classroom based training and learning events delivered 130 times over 2018/19
- Oversight of the WSCB Multi Agency Training Annual Report 2017/18
- Evaluation of the WSCB training through feedback from practitioners attending courses and observation of training
- Implementation of an improvement plan to support trainers delivering WSCB Training

The impact of the work of the Sub-Committee 2018/19 has been:

- The delivery of a high quality training offer as demonstrated by positive evaluations and successful implementation of an improvement plan to support trainers.
- Inclusive training offer accessed by community/ voluntary groups as demonstrated by 10% target being met in 2018/19.
- The inclusion in the development and delivery of training of the voice of the child as demonstrated in the inclusion in the programmes of young people and a care experienced adult.

Evaluation of the WSCB Training:



- 97.4% of attendees report trainer skills as good / excellent
- 98.8% of attendees report the aims of the training were met and would recommend the training to a colleague.

The WSCB Annual Conference: Safeguarding Children from Exploitation 18 October 2018

The theme of the annual conference was the criminal, sexual and political exploitation of young people. The conference was well attended (187). This event included a drama piece from the theatre group Alter Ego and music from some of our young people affected by exploitation and disability - The Band from Sainsbury's. Speakers included the Gangs Team, Community Safety Unit, Police and a presentation on the learning from a serious case review.

Learning from Experience Event: The Safety of Children looked After Placed Out Of Borough 25 March 2019

The number of attendees at this event was 35. The breakdown of staff attending the event was as follows; Wandsworth Council 60% (21), Emergency services 3 % (1), Wandsworth Health Service 29% (10). Foster Carers 8% (3). This event explored the learning from a serious case review concerning a child placed out of Borough.

Challenges and priorities for this year (2019/2020)

- WSCB training offer is subject to continuous improvement through a robust and effective evaluation process to ensure high quality courses responsive to the training needs of the workforce and community.
- Attendance at multi-agency safeguarding training - attendees are reflective of the multi-agency workforce and community/ voluntary groups (target 10% uptake).
- WSCB training offer includes increased participation of young people/ service users in the delivery of courses
- Annual conference in 2019

The greatest challenges in 2019 will be in regard to finance and how to progress the development and delivery of this WSCB training offer in the context of financial restraint and reduced budgets.



4. Statutory Reporting:

4.1 LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) – allegations against staff:

All agencies that provide services for children, provide staff or volunteers to work with children, or care for children are required to have a procedure in place for managing and reporting allegations, which is consistent with statutory guidance (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 (updated in 2018), London Child Protection Procedures and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018). The guidance outlines the requirement of the **Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)** to oversee the effectiveness, transparency and record retention of the process, not only in terms of protecting children, but also to ensure that staff or volunteers who are the subject of an allegation are treated fairly and that the response and subsequent actions are consistent, reasonable and proportionate.

Referrals to the LADO Service

The LADO Service has received and processed 483 contacts from 1 April 2018 until 31 March 2019. This is an increase of 58 contacts from the previous reporting year. A full analysis of the LADO Service data is underway and will be included in the annual LADO report.

The LADO Service has continued to support agencies to effectively manage those staff and volunteers against whom allegations have been made to ensure that the necessary safeguarding measures are put in place to keep the children they work with and their own children safe from harm.

The LADO Service has continued to deliver training to partner agencies, to develop their understanding of the role of the LADO and to empower them with the knowledge of what action to take should an allegation be made against a member of staff or volunteer, thereby safeguarding children within their organisations.

Challenges and priorities for this year (2019/2020)

- There is still a knowledge gap within some Faith Groups about the role of the LADO. Further efforts therefore need to be made to raise awareness and improve practice in relation to allegations made against their staff and volunteers. This continues to be work in progress.
- Due to the significant changes in the Police Service, a number of teams do not understand the role of the LADO and when it is appropriate to share information so that we can work together to safeguard children who may be at risk of harm. In particular those cases where the concerns raised relate to the private life of the staff or volunteer, which have led to police involvement – for example: offences related to violence, drugs, gun crime, crimes of a sexual nature etc.



- Many organisations are worried about sharing information and that they may be in breach of GDPR. Further training therefore needs to take place to remind them about their safeguarding responsibilities and when information has to be shared to safeguard a child.

Improvements planned for the coming year:

The LADO Service has delivered more training sessions to partner agencies as well as voluntary and community groups. This means that the LADO role is better understood, and more agencies make use of the LADO Consultation Service to seek support if they are unsure whether the LADO threshold is met. There is often an increase in consultations and referrals after a training event, which means that more children are being safeguarded. Every consultation with the LADO is followed up in writing to reflect the advice and guidance given. This means that the referrer has a clear record of their correspondence with the LADO and the actions they need to take. It also holds the LADO accountable for advice given.

A better understanding has been developed about the need to provide age appropriate feedback to children about what happens when they make an allegation, how it is investigated and followed up to keep them safe. This sends them a clear message that the matter is being taken seriously. As such a leaflet has been developed (it will be distributed to schools in September 2019) to provide guidance to professionals about how to support children through this process and how to inform them about the outcome, which is especially difficult if the allegation has not been substantiated.

A leaflet for parents to support their children through the process is also planned.

4.2 Private Fostering:

The number of children known to be living in private fostering arrangements in Wandsworth at the end of March 2019 was four.

Wandsworth Children Social Care appointed a qualified social worker to assess and visit the identified privately fostered children. The allocated social worker for this cohort of children worked closely with WSCB and engaged in the awareness campaign within the borough of Wandsworth.

1). Activity and Outcomes - Changing the way in which we work on Private Fostering

- ❖ In October 2018, the decision was made to move the responsibility for assessment and support for Private Fostering arrangements to the team providing Post Permanence Support for kinship carers and adopters in the Children Looked After Service. This affords the specialist Private Fostering Senior Social Worker the support of a team who are supporting similar families. The move to Post Permanence Support is also intended to



enable us to increase the profile of Private Fostering and better support agencies raising of awareness about these arrangements in Wandsworth.

2). Challenges and future priorities

We are working to improve practice in respect of Private Fostering in the following ways:

- ❖ Increased awareness of Private Fostering across Wandsworth in all agencies working with children and young people, and also within the general population, including within Social Work teams, and also within targeted organisations (like language or international schools) that use private fostering.
- ❖ Inclusion of relevant screening on school admissions forms and health registration to identify arrangements that may be Private Fostering.
- ❖ Increased notifications of situations that may be a Private Fostering arrangement.
- ❖ Increased identifying of actual Private Fostering arrangements.
- ❖ Consistent and improved quality of assessment, monitoring and support for Private Fostering arrangements in the borough.
- ❖ Participation by children and young people in developing our materials for them.
- ❖ Availability of better information and written materials for children, parents, carers and professionals.

4.3 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Children Missing from Home, Care and Education:

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

Action to address these points has resulted in:

- A reduction in the number of all children going missing from 45 in May 2018 to 35 in February 2019
- An Increase in return home interviews accepted by Children Looked After from an average of 49% in May-Jul 2018 to 93% in December-February 2019;
- An Increase in return home interviews accepted by all children, excluding CLA, from an average of 80% in May-Jul 2018 to 87% in December-February 2019;
- Reduced risk for young people tracked through the Vulnerable Adolescent Multi Agency Panel. Of the 11 tracked, five have reduced from red to amber or green, five have remained



the same RAG rating and one has increased from amber to red. Fourteen CSE cases have been “cease to review” at the panel due to risk being reduced sufficiently that they no longer require tracking.

- Increase in cases brought to the Vulnerable Adolescent Multi Agency Panel due to concerns about broader exploitation, missing, county lines, gangs and criminal exploitation, with 25 additional cases brought to the Panel since November 2018.

To achieve these outcomes, there has been the following activity in the last twelve months:

- Actively looked at best practice in other areas, with learning visits to Tower Hamlets, Calderdale, Greenwich, Croydon and Merton. The learning from these areas and national best practice has shaped the Local Authority’s new approach below.
- Created a dedicated, specialist vulnerable adolescents’ team, bringing together professionals from the CSE and Missing Team, the Ending Gangs and Youth Violence team as well as other key professionals from the multi-agency partnership, including two additional adolescent outreach workers coming in to the new team from within Children Services, three police officers, health safeguarding, adults safeguarding, clinical psychology and voluntary sector. This team will be fully operational in May 2019 when recruitment is complete and will be based in a new co-located hub in Lavender Hill, which is accessible to young people. The team will offer a range of services to young people, families and the community as well as gathering intelligence and using it to plan proactive preventative workstreams with partners.
- Invested in increasing capacity for vulnerable adolescents through a new service manager post, an assistant team manager and a dedicated analyst. These posts are currently being recruited to.
- Developed a Wandsworth Partnership Vulnerable Adolescents Strategy and action plan.
- Decommissioned Wandsworth’s contracted missing service and brought the service in-house as part of an integrated team. These workers now ‘hold’ cases so that all missing children have a dedicated missing worker who they will continue to see if they go missing again and can build a trusted relationship with. Missing workers can then identify if further support is required regarding risk of, or experience of exploitation and provide fast-tracked referral routes into the team for ongoing support. This has resulted in return home interview acceptance rates increasing.
- Invited external review of our CSE work by the National Working Group CSE Response Unit and implemented the recommendations from this review by creating a new Vulnerable Adolescents’ Multi-Agency Operational Panel in October 2018. Feedback shows that



professionals across the partnership are considering additional vulnerability factors and extra familial risk as shown by 25 new referrals into the panel for high risk (non CSE) cases.

- Expanded the remit of the Strategic CSE Steering Board to include broader exploitation. This steering board will lead the implementation of the Vulnerable Adolescents Strategy and Action Plan and monitor the impact of the newly created and launched collocated hub.
- Introduced risk assessment meetings for all new referrals to the Vulnerable Adolescents Operational Panel and a single CSE risk assessment tool in Mosaic. Risk assessments are led by the current CSE/Missing team with associated meetings attended by the police, social workers, parents, the Edge of Care team, Intensive Intervention Team, YOT and occasionally the young person. This approach has greatly assisted in bringing together a multi-agency team to ensure all involved professionals are able to understand and contextualise the risk that a young person faces, and the actions required to mitigate those risks.
- Increased awareness of exploitation through targeted training for individual teams and partners, including school nurses, sexual health clinic staff and Accident and Emergency staff. The Local Authority also organised a multi-agency safeguarding conference on Exploitation in November 2018 and a cross borough learning event in November 2018 on transitional safeguarding for vulnerable young people into adulthood. This event was across the four London boroughs which are now covered by the South West Borough Command Policing Unit, with senior members of this police team also in attendance, with presentations on the national picture from the NWG, and a learning from experience presentation from Rochdale. This event has strengthened working relationships between children's and adult's departments in Wandsworth and has supported work on improving transitions arrangements for vulnerable/exploited children into adult's services. We will build on this work in 2019/20 once the new hub is fully established and operational.
- Increased awareness of contextual safeguarding across the Council through a presentation from Jenny Lloyd on Contextual Safeguarding to all Directors and Assistant Directors last December.
- Invested in training for the CSE and Missing workers in Dyadic Development Psychotherapy (DDP), a model which focus on children's experiences of trauma and how their behaviour can be best understood in the context of such trauma. The team have also all been trained, to Level 1, to use the skills of PACE to interpret the complex behaviour of young people involved in exploitation in a non-judgemental way. Initial feedback from a few young people who regularly go missing and are involved in county lines is that the non-judgemental, curious approach of the missing worker is different to anything they have experienced before and has yielded more honest, beneficial conversations that have been used to create more informed safety plans. The team will continue to develop their skills set with supervision from an external DDP consultant.



Priorities for 2019 - 2020 include:

- Launching, establishing and embedding the work of the new collocated team, including broad communication of new referral pathways and processes so that there is clarity about what support is in place for vulnerable adolescents across the multi-agency partnership.
- Embedding the Vulnerable Adolescents Strategy across the multi-agency partnership with commitment from all partners – to clearly defined actions, workstreams, timescales and impact measures.
- Roll out of updated multi agency vulnerable adolescents training offer – building on previously delivered CSE/Missing training to include other forms of exploitation, youth violence, gangs and county lines.

Child Protection information

The WSCB receives a regular quarterly update on child protection data and activity. It primarily focusses upon children subject to child protection plans (CPP) but places it within the wider context of child protection work.

Child Protection Plan numbers have continued to reduce through the year. Threshold consultations by Child Protection Coordinators (CPC) are required prior to an Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) being arranged. The decision to hold an ICPC rests with the Operational Manager. CPP numbers are monitored and fed back to the Director of Children Services and Assistant Director every week for their scrutiny.

Children Social Care are aware of the developing trend in relation to the increase in emotional abuse and decrease in neglect plans. This may be linked to the increased understanding of the impact of children from domestic abuse situations, however from serious case reviews we are also keen to increase our understanding of the physical risk to babies and children within domestic abuse settings. This will be supported by a dip sampling of specific cases to identify learning.

The numbers of child protection plans ending at 3 months showed a slight but steady increase over the second half of the year. Any child protection plan ending at 3 months continues to be reviewed within supervision of the CPC to review the decision-making threshold and rationale. An audit of child protection plans ending at 3 months was completed in Dec 2018 as part of regular analysis.

The numbers of children subject to child protection plans for more than 12 months are tracked and reviewed at a Quality Assurance Panel. After a significant rise in child protection plan numbers 12-18 months ago those children are now coming to the point of stepping down. This is one of the reasons for the number of child protection plans reducing.

Most children currently subject to a child protection plan are white. However Black or Black/British children are over represented. In Wandsworth the 2011 Census found that 44%



of the 0-19 population was BME. Similarly, BME children are disproportionately over represented within the children looked after population.

The majority of children subject to Child Protection Plan are school age reflecting the safeguarding work undertaken by schools and the level of contact they have with children.

At 31st March 2019 307 children were looked after (CLA) by the Local Authority, this compared with 306 children who were looked after (CLA) by the local authority in March 2018. The number of CLA children continued to increase until October 2018, before then starting to reduce again.

Children's views are reported in CLA visits and reported by CLA s in their reviews. CLICK has trained young people to chair their reviews, encouraged participation and attended some reviews as a supporter. Surveys conducted by CLICK on Reviews, contact, semi independence units have impacted on the way services are delivered.

5. Multi-Agency Audits & Reviews

Section 11 Self-Assessment Audit

Section 11 (4) of the Children Act 2004¹ requires each person or body to which the duties apply to have regard to any guidance given to them by the Secretary of State and places a statutory requirement on organisations and individuals to ensure they have arrangements in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. One of the key functions of a Local Safeguarding Children Board is to monitor and evaluate 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 advise them on ways to improve. The WSCB discharges this function by carrying out a Section 11 assessment on an annual basis. This provides information from all the relevant partners and the Local Authority which is analysed and enables WSCB to evaluate the effectiveness of the partnership workforce's safeguarding knowledge and practice.

The WSCB process involves a practitioner's survey and a strategic survey. The practitioner's survey has now been used for some years and provides a high level of data from frontline staff across all agencies. Therefore, the process has become a familiar one to most agencies and is seen by most of the safeguarding leads as an opportunity for agencies to self audit and identify issues that require action as well as it providing the data required by the WSCB. The process is steered by a Multi-Agency Working Group which works well together.

¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/31/section/11>



The survey is circulated to safeguarding leads across the WSCB and each is expected to ensure as many staff as possible complete the survey. Larger organisations are expected to ensure a minimum of 10% of the workforce complete the survey. The results of the survey are analysed, and summary of the response data is provided which enables the organisation to put together an Action Plan to address any gaps or weaknesses identified as a result of reviewing the summary.

Each designated lead is also required to complete the strategic survey and assess practice in their agency against the eight Section 11 requirements. Comments are invited against each requirement and the agency should be prepared to provide evidence to support their self-assessment if required.

All statutory partners and a selection of other partners are then invited to meet a panel of WSCB representatives for an interview/ discussion. Feedback from these sessions is recorded and key points are included in the Section 11 Report to WSCB.

Practitioners' Individual Survey:

An online process was used in the last three years in response to requests from some partners to ease the burden of managing a high number of paper forms. To encourage greater participation by individual agencies, 13 agency specific questionnaires were created that has the first 6 questions in common. The result was positive, as we collected 7,549 responses, a large increase from the previous years and the highest record achieved locally and has put Wandsworth SCB in the lead nationally. The number of practitioners participated increased by 327 practitioners comparing to last year 2018 (7222) and by 2,738 comparing as the number achieved in 2017 was (4,811).

The online system is a specialist survey software that is suitable for Section 11 Audits. The process was made easier in 2019 as agency specific surveys were created and the number of questions were aligned and reduced to focus on the main issues to ensure the survey remained relevant to all the practitioners involved. Once practitioners had completed the survey, the WSCB Manager sent reports (created by the specialist software) out to each agency enabling them to review the responses from their staff teams and feedback the findings to services or individual practitioners as appropriate.

The majority of agencies welcomed the new online system, and also welcomed the reduction in the size of the survey reducing the questions from 40 in total in 2017 to 26 and 16 questions in one survey in 2019. All surveys created this year were user friendly and quick to complete for individuals. In 2019, we have kept the number of questions low to pick up the key issues, e.g. ensuring practitioners know how to respond to concerns about a child; that all practitioners know who to report concerns to in their organisation etc. This will continue to be a priority for 2020.



The responses overall indicate a very encouraging level of awareness of safeguarding across the range of services to children and families in Wandsworth, particularly in respect of their knowledge of what to do when there is concern about a child. It was also encouraging to note the high levels of training attended across agencies.

