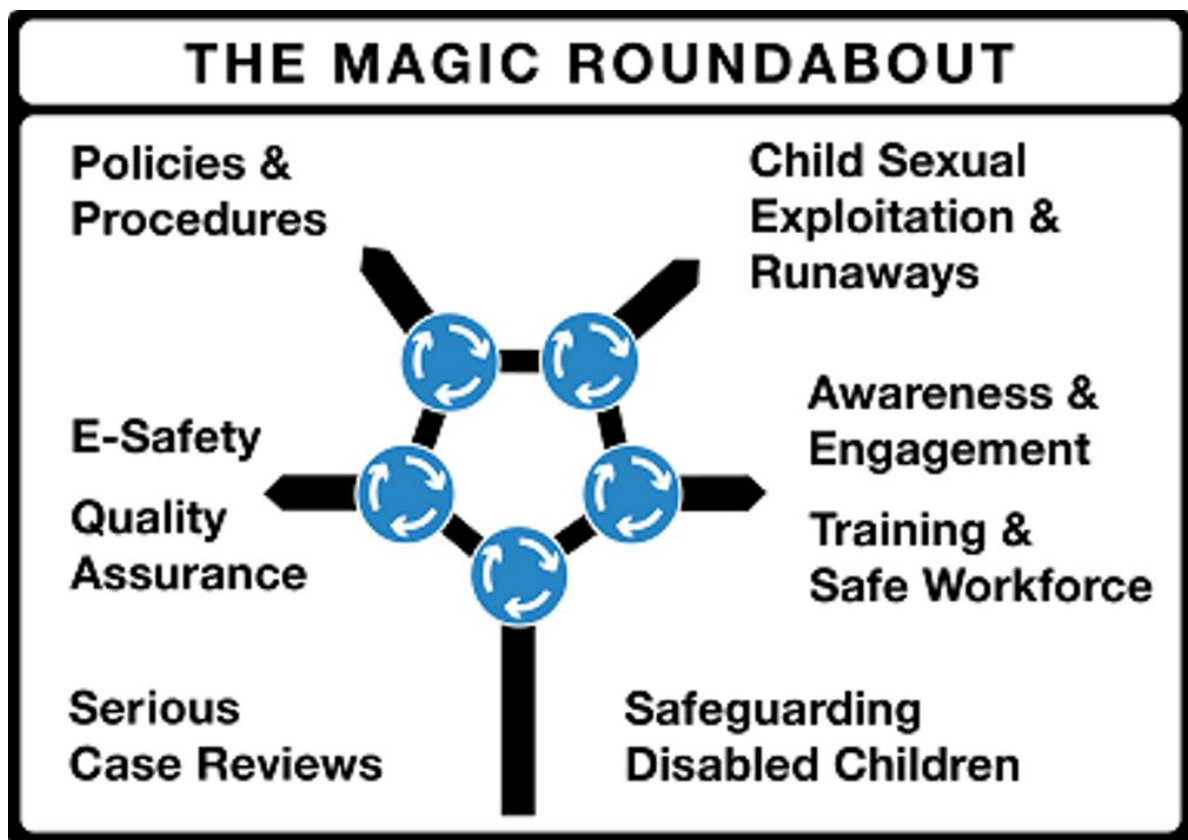
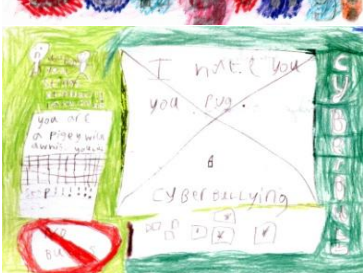
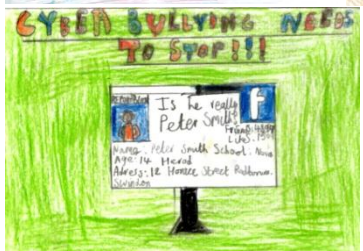
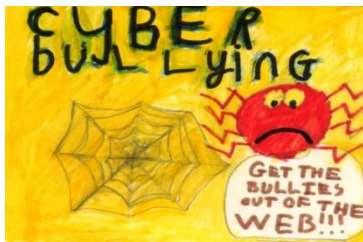




# Swindon LSCB Annual Report 2013/14





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# Chair's Introduction & Foreword

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As the chair of the Local Safeguarding Board for Swindon, I am pleased to present its Annual Report covering the period from April 1st 2013 to March 31st 2014.

Each year, the Board agrees a business plan to monitor how everyone works together to deliver safeguarding priority areas for Swindon's children. The Executive Summary lists the progress made against each priority, whilst the achievements and impact of the work are shown in the relevant sections of this report.

The Board's effectiveness was reviewed by Ofsted in March 2014 as part of their inspection of local authority services for children in need of help and protection, children in care and care leavers. This review was wide ranging and the reviewers asked searching questions of both myself and LSCB members about the impact of the Board, and how I hold member agencies to account for their safeguarding work; in short 'what difference has Swindon's LSCB made to our most vulnerable children?'

Ofsted judged the effectiveness of Swindon's LSCB as 'good' saying that 'The LSCB co-ordinates the activity of statutory partners and has mechanisms in place to monitor the effectiveness of local arrangements'. I was very pleased that we received such recognition; as at mid-August 2014, Ofsted had reviewed 29 LSCBs and we were one of 10 receiving a 'good' grading. Their report is shown on pages 53 and 54.

As mentioned earlier, the annual report gives more detail about all our achievements but I would like to highlight the Board's engagement with young people. In my Foreword last year, I mentioned the on-going challenge of how the Board can ensure that Swindon's children are engaged with our safeguarding work.

In December, 2013, in response to the results of the annual Schools' Internet and Feeling Safe survey, the Board organised an awareness-raising campaign around cyber bullying.

We held a competition to design a postcard about cyber bullying and received over 500 entries. Students were then asked to vote for their favourite design and the Board produced 30,000 postcards of the winning design.

These cards have been used by schools and were distributed by safeguarding staff during 'meet the public sessions' in February. Another exciting development is that Thamesdown Transport is now displaying posters based on the winning design, now aimed at both children and adults, on all their buses (see page 49). Other designs from the competition are included in this report.

Yet despite our sense of achievement, this initiative highlighted a lack of engagement of the secondary school sector with the Schools Internet survey. The Board aims to ensure that this survey is better suited to the lifestyle of the respondents by enlisting the help of the Youth MP and Youth Forum to redesign the questions. This is just one of the challenges faced by the Board going forward. The Ofsted review highlights three specific areas for improvement (see page 54) and mentions other areas for improvement within the narrative of their report.

Central to our work is the 'Child's journey' through the safeguarding process which is explained on page 12 and is the third Ofsted area for improvement. The subsequent

analysis of performance highlights the higher re-referral rate suggesting that the original referral objectives and outcomes for the child are not being met. Similarly timeliness of initial assessment and the number of children subject to a protection plan are all areas for further analysis and review by the Board.

Work is underway to address these issues; the Council is undertaking an analysis of cases where children who have received early help later became subject to a child protection plan and the council has resourced additional staff to improve the timeliness of assessments. The report also identifies other safeguarding issues which will need to be addressed by the Board during this business year.

It is my responsibility to ensure that members work together to address these challenges. The Board meeting has been re-structured and now focuses on a particular safeguarding subject at each meeting. The impact of these changes is best demonstrated by our work on neglect which is shown on pages 32 to 34. Using the same approach, the Board is now critically evaluating every agency's response to domestic abuse (see pages 35 to 36).

Board members have responded positively to these changes. Whilst attendance at our quarterly meetings remains good, I have challenged two agencies within the NHS about their lack of representation at Board meetings. It is encouraging to report that following my interventions, these agencies are now 'back on board'.

My Foreword can only be a 'snapshot' of the Board's performance and work over the past year. The report's format is designed so that it can be used as a reference document as well as providing detailed insight into how everyone has worked together to ensure the safety of Swindon's children. The business plan for 2014/15 will ensure that areas of challenge are addressed whilst maintaining the momentum of our progress and achievements during the past year.

I would like to thank everyone on the Board for their work and commitment over the past year, especially those members who volunteer to chair the sub-group meetings; these groups are vital to the work of the Board and their contributions are listed within the Report.

Mike Howard

August 2014



# Executive Summary

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## **Achievements against the LSCB Business Plan 2013-2014**

The LSCB Strategic Business Plan is reviewed annually. The review is conducted through a board member workshop and the plan is monitored and updated quarterly by the LSCB Chairs Group.

**Priority Area One** Detailed strategies and comprehensive approaches to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Domestic Abuse that keeps children and young people safe and promote effective intervention with those who are at risk

### Progress

- The annual CSE Audit was completed in October 2013 and results presented to the March 2014 Board meeting
- A CSE strategy and local delivery plan structured around the themes of Prepare, Protect, Prevent and Pursue/Prosecute has been developed by the CSE & Runaways sub-group
- A multi-agency risk management operating protocol is in place and monthly risk management panels have been established, which are supported by the LSCB Business Team
- The LSCB Chair raised links between the LSCB and Community Safety Partnership (CSP) with Director of Children Services and changes in governance have been introduced to strengthen links between the Health & Wellbeing Board and the LSCB and LSAB
- A CSE awareness raising e-learning module is currently under development
- The LSCB commissioned a Domestic Abuse Needs Analysis, owned by the Health & Wellbeing Board, through consultation at Board meetings
- A Domestic Abuse worker has been seconded for 2 years to the Family Contact Point from January 2014
- Work is underway to implement a Daily Domestic Abuse Conference Call (DDACC) and there has been significant investment in technology for video strategy meetings
- Domestic Abuse is included in the LSCB Multi-agency training programme, with the effectiveness and impact of training being assessed through the training evaluation framework
- Domestic abuse, drug and alcohol information is included in GP training

**Priority Area Two** The LSCB can demonstrate that children and young people in Swindon receive effective early intervention that meets a range of needs in different communities

### Progress

- The Children & Young People's Early Help Strategy has been agreed and reviewed
- The LSCB Performance sub-group reports on key safeguarding risks to every Board meeting and performance data has been developed to reflect the journey of the child

- A Local Case Review focussing on Neglect was undertaken. The findings were considered by the Board and actions identified
- An in-depth domestic abuse audit was undertaken and reported to the Board
- Family Contact Point has been operating from 4th September 2013, with a dedicated worker to support the team around systems and processes, capturing daily data for a good understanding of the types of calls received and responses
- The Board has overseen implementation of DDACC through regular reports to the Board
- The LSCB Thresholds document has been reviewed and is available on the LSCB website for workers
- A Neglect Framework has been developed and Neglect Pocket Guides have been produced for workers
- Supervision principles have been agreed and are available on the LSCB website

**Priority Area Three** The LSCB and partner agencies communicate effectively with children and young people; their families; the community (including different sections of the community); and staff at all levels from partners agencies

#### Progress

- Young people were involved in the development of Domestic Abuse Needs Analysis (through Swindon Ten to Eighteen Project)
- Swindon has an active Junior Good Citizen Programme. Young people's views are obtained through the annual Feeling Safe and Schools Internet surveys, which this year led to the Cyber Bullying Strategy
- Cyber bullying postcards were given to all children in KS2 and above for Safer Internet Day February 2014
- Young carers and students participated in the 2013 LSCB Annual Conference. Young people were consulted regarding the LSCB website re-design
- The competition to design the front cover for the LSCB Annual Report was co-ordinated through STEP for the 2012/13 report
- The LSCB Chair attends the Children's Trust Board (CTB), Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) and is the LSAB Chair, providing synergy across the boards. LSCB agendas are co-ordinated with CTB agendas and a protocol between LSCB/LSAB/HWB has been agreed. The LSCB Chairs Group was established July 2013 to facilitate communication between sub-groups and the Board
- The LSCB receives regular reports from the advocacy service, which includes the young people's voice. The Board agreed to double the funding to the advocacy service for parents with learning disabilities, and also to fund the development of some easy read leaflets
- There are targeted sections on the LSCB website for children/young people and for parents/carers. Safeguarding information and offers of an awareness-raising visit sub-group



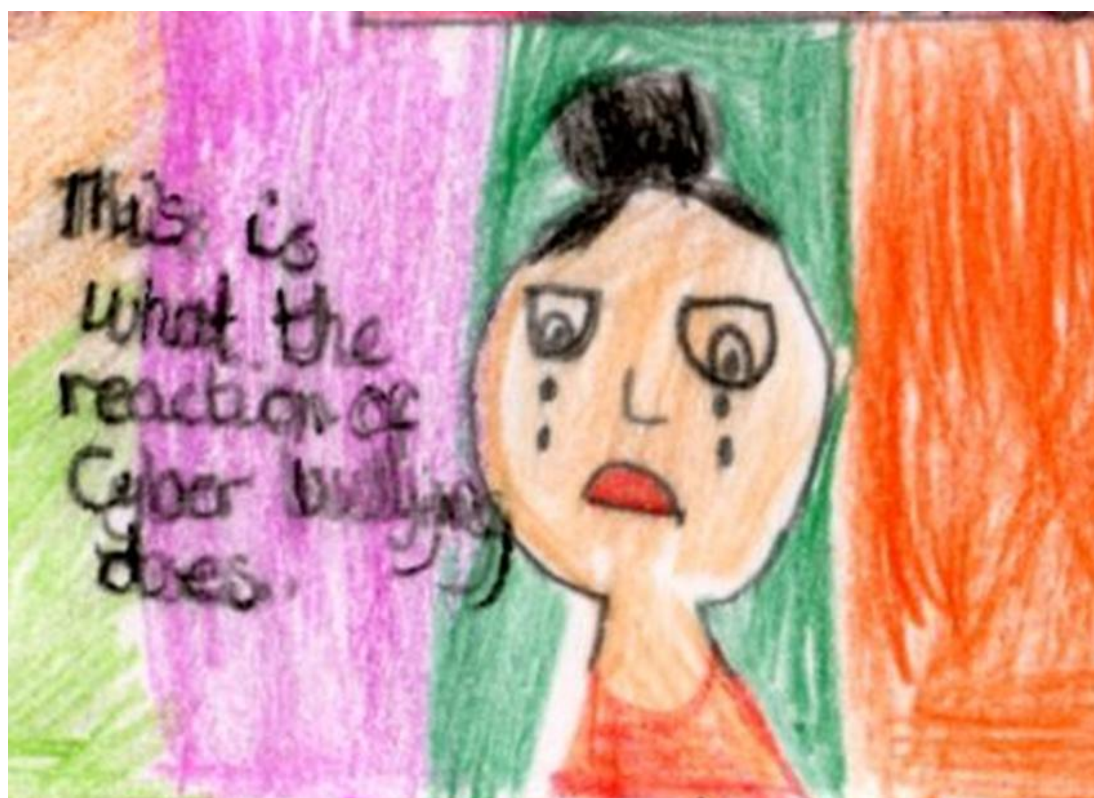
- Awareness-raising sessions using the Community Safety Partnership bus were undertaken in a number of locations across the community during February 2014

**Priority Area Four** The LSCB has a performance management framework which promotes different ways of knowing and learning about the effectiveness of early intervention for and safeguarding of children and young people in Swindon

The LSCB performance management framework supports and promotes effective challenge by the LSCB so that early intervention and safeguarding improve

#### Progress

- The LSCB Performance sub-group was established and meets quarterly, reporting to every Board meeting
- Health check reports from AWP, Wiltshire Police, Wiltshire Fire & Rescue, GWH and Children & Families have been introduced and form part of the Performance report to Board meetings
- The programme of audits for the year has been followed and practice has been challenged by the Board
- The LSCB Learning Improvement Framework has been developed to outline where and how learning happens within board activity
- Action plans from the annual Section 11 audit were reviewed at the Performance sub-group in November 2013 and organisations where action plans need updating were notified



# The Local Context

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Swindon is a small unitary authority, with one of the fastest growing populations in England, now at 212,000 and forecast to increase by 10-15% in the next 10 years.

There are approximately 47,000 children under the age of 18. This is 22.5% of the total population living in the area. There are 49,952 under the age of 19.

Children from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities account for 16% of all school age children. 117 languages are spoken in Swindon schools. Swindon has the highest proportion of children with English as an additional language in the South West, with 13.9% in primary schools (national average is 18.1%) and 11.8% in secondary schools (national average is 13.6%).

At any time, about 10% of children will be in receipt of early help services, and 2.8% (about 1,300 children) receiving specialist social care, or support through permanent exclusion or drug user treatment services.

Of the 1,300 children receiving specialist services, about 218 children will be on a child protection plan, and 252 children will be a child in care. Around 60 children are receiving education through the tuition service, and there are around 1,200 children with Statements of Special Educational Need.

Strong and effective governance and partnership arrangements are in place. The LSCB has built effective working links with the Children's Trust Board, the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Adult Safeguarding Board.

Swindon is one of the few local authorities where services are fully integrated through formal structures. Local authority services for children, including early help and social care, are fully integrated with community health services through National Health Services Act Section 75 agreements. 200 Health staff (health visitors, school nurses, speech and language therapists, paediatric therapists and nursing for children with complex needs) are employed by the Local Authority.

Priorities for services for children are developed based on a detailed analysis of what is working well, what needs to be improved and what children and young people say about our services.

A [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment](#) informs our strategic planning for children and young people.

JSNA Bulletins provide more detailed analysis on specific issues, and during 2013 Bulletins were developed on Learning Disability and Domestic Violence, both of which are influencing future service development.

During 2014/15, detailed needs assessments are being completed for Early Years, Mental Health, and children with disabilities and additional educational needs. Together with the JSNA, these needs assessments will provide us with a more sophisticated analysis of our population of children which will allow us to commission early and effective local interventions to counteract the adverse impact of multiple risks throughout childhood which contribute to poor emotional, educational, economic and social outcomes.

[One Swindon](#) is the joint public and voluntary sector partnership which leads a joint set of priorities for Swindon.

The [Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013-2016](#) sets out the vision and long term improvements in local people's health and wellbeing that we want to achieve in Swindon. It focuses on health and social care issues for everyone living in Swindon, but also recognises the wider factors that affect health and wellbeing including education, housing, employment and leisure.

The [Children and Young People's Early Support Strategy 2013-2016](#) is driven by the Children's Trust Board. The Strategy sets out our vision and the long term improvements that we want to see in the lives of children and young people - their health, wellbeing, safety, aspiration and achievement, and their contribution to and participation in their communities in Swindon.

The Plan is our 'Statement of Early Help' and applies to all children and young people in Swindon aged pre-birth to 19 years, and beyond for children in care and those who have a disability.

The impact of early help on safeguarding and the critical part that early help plays in the journey of the child is well understood and this is central to the joint working between the LSCB and Children's Trust Board.

A significant outcome of collaborative working between the Boards has been the ability of Board members to hear from, actively engage with and be more directly accountable to a wider range of Swindon's young people.

# Swindon Performance Information – the Child’s Journey

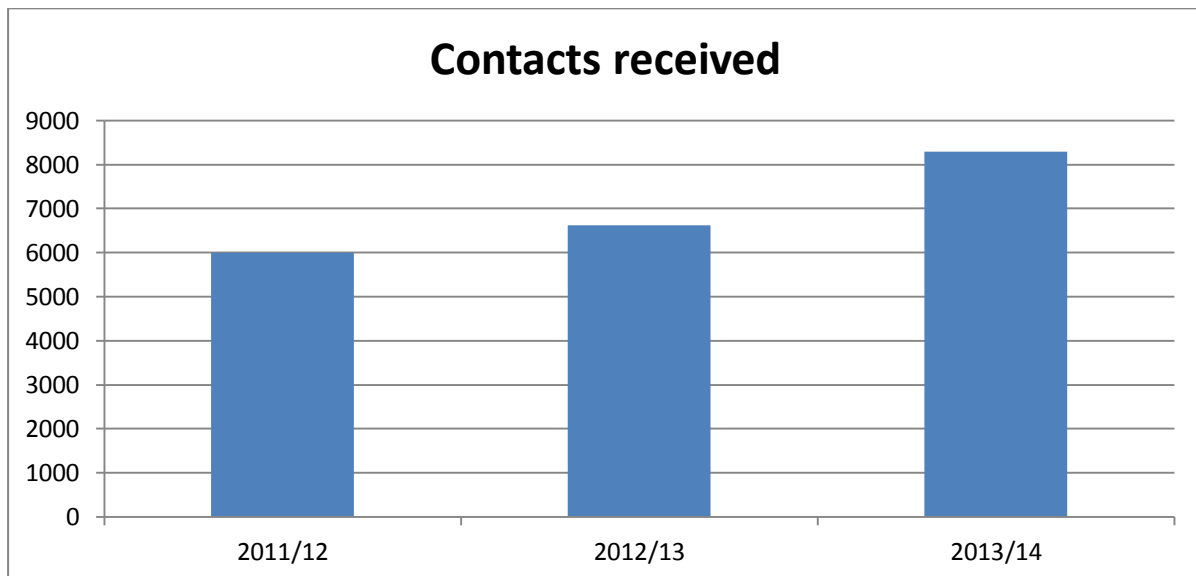
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## The Safeguarding Process Explained

1. Each professional, family member and resident who gets in touch with Children’s Social Care and is seeking advice on a potential safeguarding matter is counted as a **contact** by Family Contact Point (FCP). If the concern is of a child protection nature or further consultancy is needed to explore the degree of concern, then a caller can have direct contact either with social workers or an Assistant Team Manager, within FCP. In accordance with the Threshold document, and if a query details concerns which indicate that the child or family are in need of social care assistance, then the contact is accepted as a **referral to Social Care**.
2. A social worker takes the details of the referral and if necessary makes further enquiries with other agencies about the child and family. This information is given to the Assistant Team Manager within FCP who makes the decision within 24 hours on, whether the case should be referred to another agency (Early Help) or universal services or whether the case meets the threshold of a child in need. The referrer is contacted in all instances to feedback what the decision was. If the case is referred, as a child in need, to the Assessment and Child Protection Team (ACP) for an assessment of need, then a social worker will complete a **Statutory Assessment** within 1 – 45 working days.
3. Following a Statutory Assessment a case may be closed, or referred to another agency or allocated to a social worker for provision of a service if the child is deemed to be a child in need. If the manager decides that the child may be at risk of harm and this is a child protection referral, then a Strategy discussion takes place with the police and other agencies. The Strategy discussion decides whether a full investigation is required and whether this should be led by the Police or social care, or be undertaken jointly by both agencies. This is called a **Section 47 child protection investigation**. If following the investigation the allegations are substantiated, the manager will decide whether a child protection conference is required which will be held within 15 days of the strategy discussion. The child protection conference decides whether the child should have a child protection plan.

## Safeguarding Performance Analysis 2013/14

### Contacts to children's social care



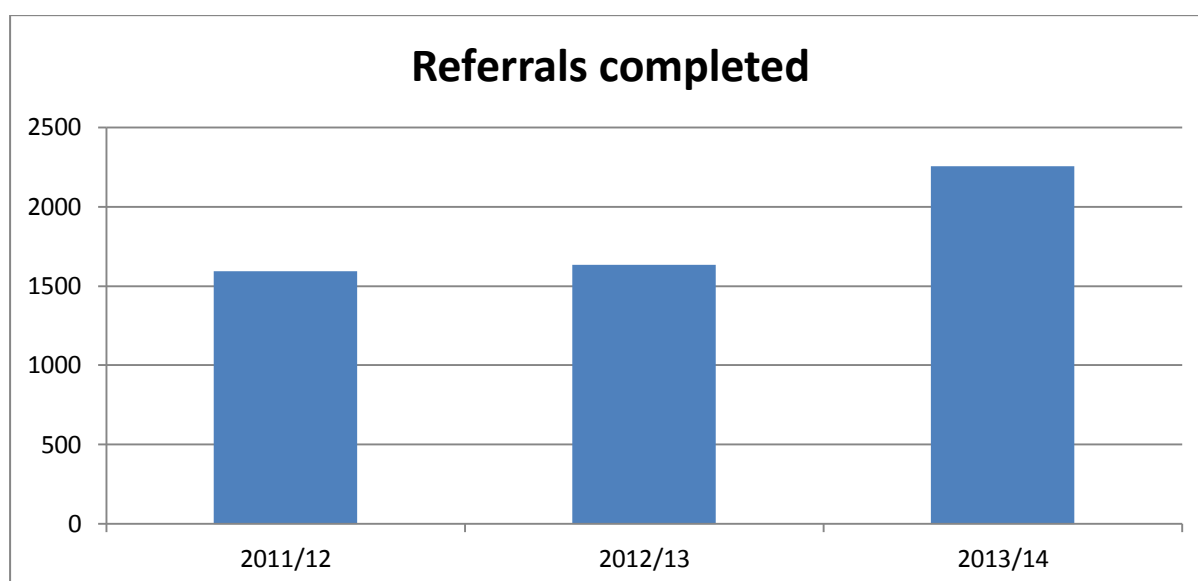
#### Commentary:

Swindon receives nearly 700 contacts a month. On average, 30% are accepted as referrals to Children's Social Care; the remainder are dealt with through information and advice (33%), or referred to Early Help (34%), with 3% inaccurately recorded on the system.

There were 8,297 contacts to social care during the year 2013/14 compared to 6,625 in the previous year, an increase of 26.4%. 2,254 of these contacts progressed to referral to social care. In the 2014 inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children in care and care leavers, Ofsted judged that thresholds into social care were widely understood across the system and that interventions in families at the threshold were proportionate to risk and need.

Family Contact Point is designed to ensure that at the key decision point of referral to Children's Services, the issue to be considered is not exclusively whether a case meets the threshold for social care. Rather, triage provides a shared space in which information is shared, and options considered; what are the child and family's needs and how best can they be met?

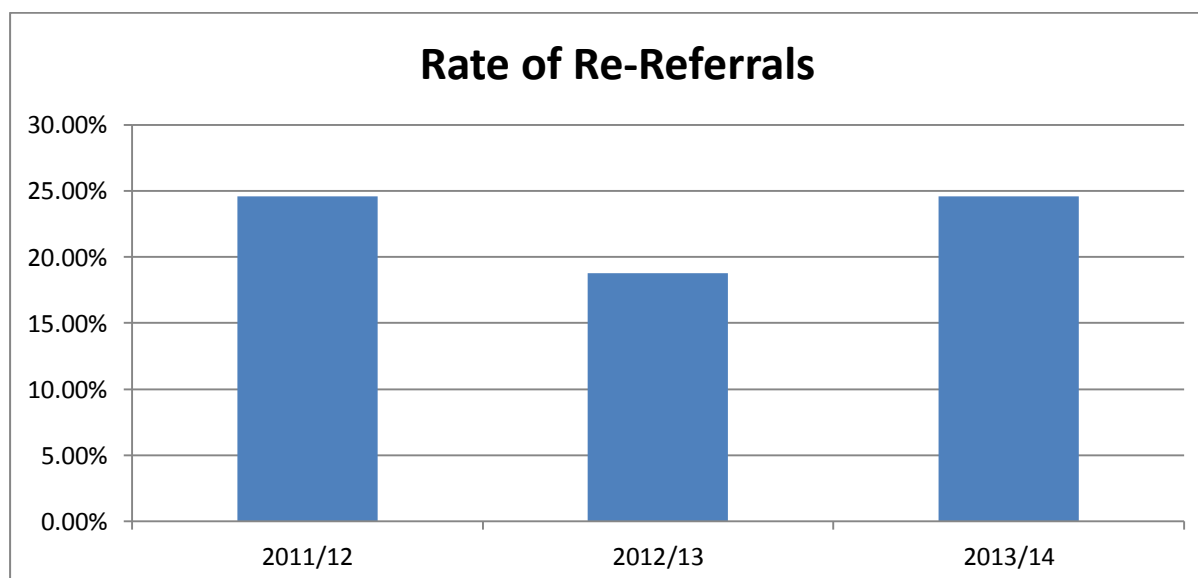
## Referrals



Demand at the front door continues to be at a higher level than in the previous year. The national trend for 2012/13 reported a slight decrease in referrals, but this is not the case in Swindon.

2,254 referrals were received during 2013/14. Swindon has seen an increase from 346 referrals per 10,000 population in 12/13 to 479 per 10,000 population in 2013/14. This translates to an extra 622 referrals. The average monthly number of referrals for 2013/14 is 188 compared to 136 in 2012/13, a 38% increase. It is in line with the South West region.

## Re-referrals



Of the 2,254 referrals received in 2013/14, 544 (24.6%) were re-referrals. This compares to 306 (18.8%) in 2012/13.

There are of course instances where a re-referral is the result of changing circumstances in a family, not necessarily linked to the previous referral reason.

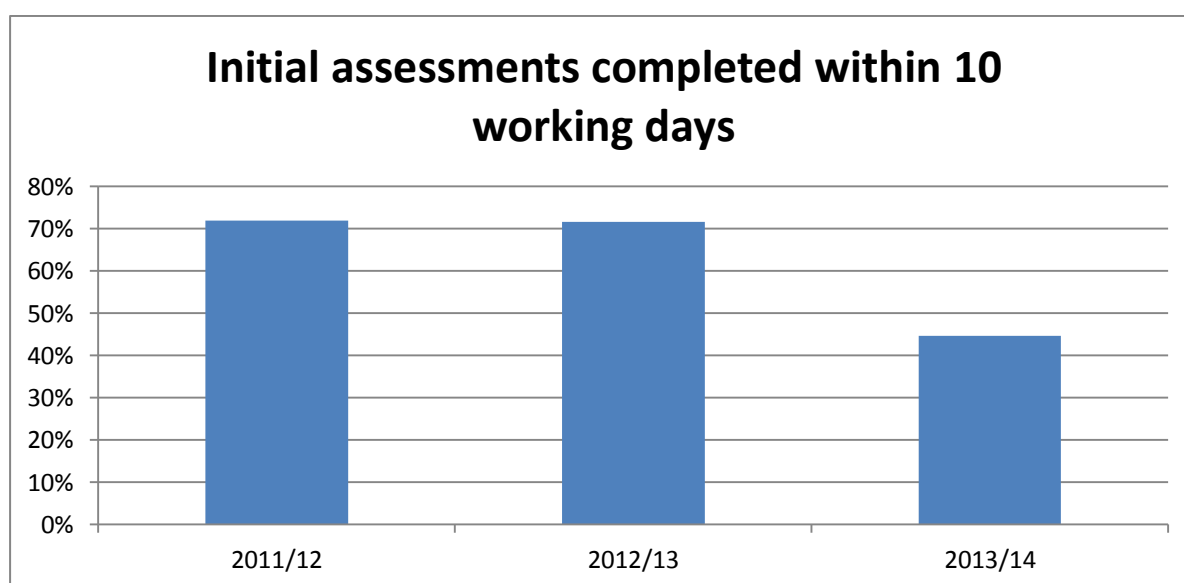


However, the higher rate of re-referrals for 2013/14 is the subject of detailed further analysis and review, as it could suggest that the original referral objectives and outcomes for the child are not being completely met. This will be reported to the LSCB during 2014/15.

### Referrals to Assessment

71.7% (1578) of referrals progressed to assessment. This is lower than the 2012/13 position of 75.5%, however the higher referral rate might suggest that the conversion rate is probably not very different. Swindon is in line with the national average (74.4%) and the statistical neighbour average (71.9%).

### Initial Assessments within 10 days

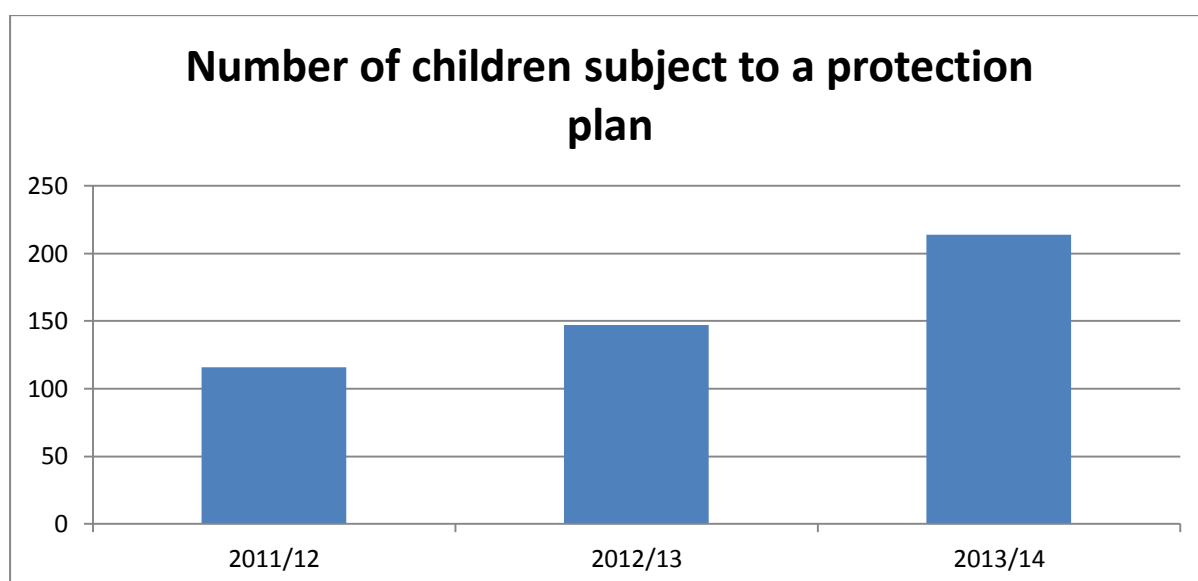


Timeliness of Initial Assessments has been an area of performance challenge during 13/14 and has been well documented in reports both to the Performance sub-group and to the Board. Management action has been taken to address performance, and additional capacity has been committed to the Assessment and Child Protection Team. Performance has shown steady improvement during 2014.

1,536 Initial Assessments were completed in 13/14, up from 1,016 in 12/13. 44.7% of Initial Assessments were completed within 10 working days, compared with 71.6% in 12/13.

The new Statutory Assessment, introduced in 2014, combines timescales for Initial and Core Assessments, and performance will be reported to the LSCB for this single statutory assessment.

### Children subject to a child protection plan



214 children were subject to a child protection plan at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014, up from 147 in 12/13. This is a 45.6% increase. Swindon now has a higher rate (45.4 per 10,000 population under 18) than the national average (37.9) and statistical neighbours (37.3).

Of these 214 children on child protection plans, 98.8% had their reviews completed on time compared to 90% at the end of 12/13. The national average for 12/13 was 96.2%.

### Children subject to a child protection plan by category of abuse

Category of abuse	2011/12 (number)	2012/13	2013/14
Neglect	81	75	64
Physical abuse	14	35	72
Sexual abuse	9	16	15
Emotional abuse	10	21	63
Total	116 (2 multiple)	147	214

Neglect and Physical abuse are the two main categories leading to a child protection plan. In 2013/14 there has been a large increase in emotional abuse.

### Percentage of children subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time

For 2013/14, the rate of children starting a child protection plan for the second or subsequent time was 12.4% (36 out of 290). This is an increase from 8.9% in 12/13, but is lower than the national average of 14.9% and below the statistical neighbour average of 15.8%.

Swindon has relatively small numbers of children starting a plan for the second or subsequent time. It should be noted that one family with a large number of children causes fluctuations in this performance data which should be borne in mind when analysing performance in this area.

## Percentage of children ceasing to be subject of a child protection plan, who had been the subject of a child protection plan continuously for two years or more

In 2013/14, 5.4% (12 out of 221) of children ceasing a child protection plan remained on a plan for two years or more, compared to 2.5% in the previous year. This is above the 12/13 national average of 5.2% and above the statistical neighbour average of 4.5%.

## Missing children

All reports of missing children from the police are received by Family Contact Point and those that do not reach the threshold for a social care initial assessment are referred for Early Help from the Integrated Locality Teams. The social care lead for missing children meets each month with the Wiltshire Police Missing Persons coordinator to monitor and review the data and ensure that actions have been put in place, including return interviews for each child where appropriate. Those children and young people at highest risk are also reviewed at the multi-agency risk panel.

The number of reports between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 are detailed below; this includes repeat episodes of missing /absent and may relate to the same child who has been reported on more than one occasion over this period.

	2013/14
<b>ABSENT</b>	
Number of reports missing & absent	684
Number of absent reports	226
Number of absent looked after children	103
Number of individuals who have repeat absent episodes e.g. more than once.	18
Number of repeat absent children who were looked after	18
<b>MISSING</b>	
Number of reports of missing children	458
Number of reports of missing children who are looked after children	183
Number of individuals who have repeat missing episodes e.g. more than once.	26
Number of repeat missing children who were looked after.	26

**Missing:** Anyone whose whereabouts cannot be established, and where the circumstances are out of character or the context suggests the person may be subject to crime or at risk of harm to themselves or another. **Absent:** A person is not at a place where they are expected or required to be

### **Primary risk and the Toxic Trio**

The toxic trio has a high profile in Swindon. Attention is further heightened when a fourth element, parental learning disability is present. A needs profile has established that Swindon has more children living in families where parents are receiving alcohol treatment than nationally. A report on Hidden Harm was taken to the LSCB in December 2013 which set out data from providers to show the number of children affected in Swindon based on adults in treatment in 2012/13.

There are 289 families receiving alcohol treatment.

### **Children in care**

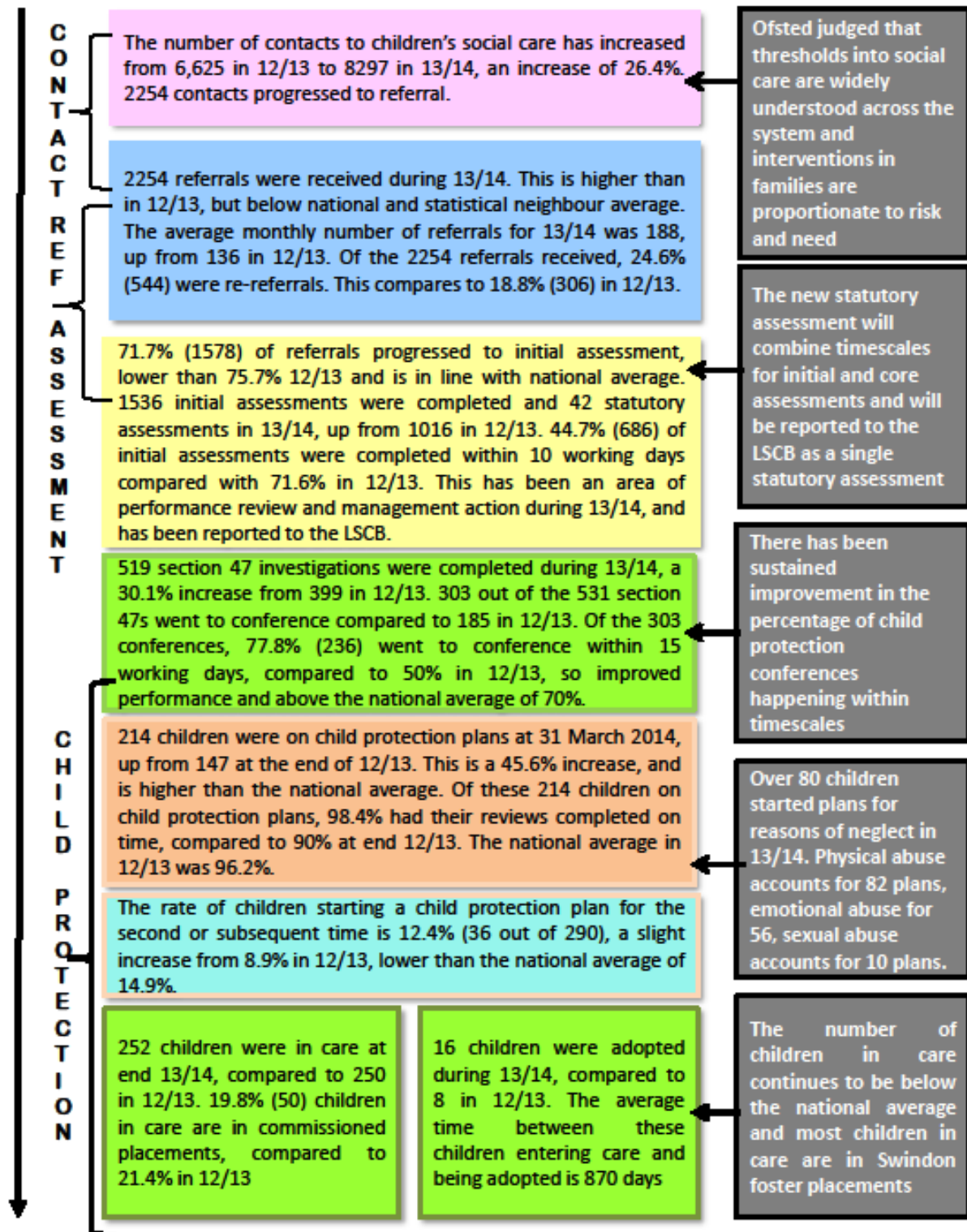
252 children were in care at the end of 2013/14. This compares with 250 at the end of 12/13.

50 children in care (19.8%) were in commissioned placements at end 13/14. This compares with 21.4% in 12/13. Swindon has a lower percentage of children in commissioned placements than nationally (29% in 2012/13).

Fostering is strong, with the majority of children in care placed in in-house placements (69.8%). 85.4% (211 out of 248, which does not include unaccompanied asylum seeking children) of children in care live within 20 miles of home, ensuring minimal disruption to important networks of family, friends and school.

Swindon's profile for children in care shows higher than average teenage care entrants into care, and a higher rate of teenagers in the care population. This is the subject of focused work during 2014/15. There is a relatively low rate of infant and under-5 entrants, which correlates with the very successful Family Nurse Partnership.

## Headline Messages from the Data for Children's Social Care Safeguarding 13/14



# Serious Case Reviews & Quality Assurance Activity 2013/14

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## Serious Case Reviews

This area of work was led by the LSCB Serious Case Review sub-group, chaired by Stephanie Bailey, Named Nurse for Safeguarding (Swindon Borough Council)

Although Swindon LSCB has not undertaken any Serious Case Reviews in 2013/14, any relevant learning from national SCRs has been taken into account and a range of quality assurance activity has been completed to examine local safeguarding practice.

The Serious Case Review sub group was formed in October 2013, its purpose being to consider cases within the parameters advised in Working Together 2013 and make recommendations to the LSCB Chair about whether a Serious Case Review is needed.

The group has developed the following:

- A leaflet for parents and carers about serious case reviews
- A model for conducting serious case reviews
- A model for condensing the learning from national reviews
- A process for recording and agreeing decisions by the LSCB Chair

### **Cases considered**

Since October 2013 the group has considered five children who either died or suffered severe significant harm. For these children there are two local case reviews on going.

### **Future work**

The group will be considering how best to ensure and evidence that learning from serious case reviews is embedded in practice.

## Quality Assurance

This area of work was led by the LSCB Quality Assurance sub-group chaired by Lucy Young, Head of Safeguarding

### **Achievements**

- Staff have reported an improved understanding and knowledge of working with neglect and domestic abuse
- Development of neglect framework and pocket guide, new training module and conference
- Increased funding to Swindon Advocacy Movement for parents with learning disability
- Revision of guidance and protocols for domestic abuse



- Supervision principles developed and new safeguarding supervision course included in LSCB training programme
- Developments and improvements in midwifery information gathering processes by midwifery safeguarding lead

## **Overview**

The LSCB Quality Assurance Sub-group monitors and evaluates the effectiveness of work completed by partners, individually and collectively, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and provides guidance on ways to improve. Individual audit reports and case reviews are presented to the LSCB during the year at each meeting.

Quality Assurance sub-group members disseminate lessons learnt from audits to their own agencies and make recommendations to improve practice to practitioners and managers.

Sub-group membership includes representatives from a range of agencies in Swindon: Children's social care and early help delivery; community child health; acute health (paediatrics and midwifery) ; Police; Probation; adult mental health; child and adolescent mental health (CAMHS) ; and the drugs service (CRI). The involvement of so many agencies provides a comprehensive multi-agency perspective on the quality of multi-agency safeguarding work in Swindon.

The Swindon LSCB quality assurance framework aims to help organisations to: keep children safe; manage the risk inherent in this area of work; drive improvement in outcomes for children and their families; and promote organisational reflection. The LSCB quality assurance programme is a three year cycle focussing on cross-and inter-agency themes and issues.

In 2013-14, Quality Assurance activity has included:

### **Neglect review**

The LSCB QA sub group undertook a local case review to see how well agencies in Swindon were working together to address the issue of child [Neglect](#).

### **Domestic abuse review**

A range of practitioners were involved in a [Domestic Abuse](#) case review through individual conversations and two case group meetings.

### **Safeguarding supervision audit**

The safeguarding supervision audit found that all agencies were aware of the need for safeguarding supervision and all have a policy. The nature and quality of supervision varies according to the professional role however QA sub group has developed safeguarding supervision principles to which it expects agencies to adhere. As a result of the audit, some agencies have reviewed their current supervision policies.

### **Child protection audit**

The purpose of the audit is to: assess the effectiveness of multi-agency working in child protection; to identify areas of good practice and areas in need of improvement; and to learn more about how to work effectively with cases where children become subject to a

plan more than once. In September 2013 an increase in children becoming subject to a child protection plan for a second time was identified, although Swindon is below the national average in this category it was important to understand more about how effectively agencies are working with these children and families to improve outcomes. Generally it would be expected that a child protection plan should be effective in making children safer and improving outcomes for the long term.

The audit found that capacity issues within some agencies are impacting on attendance at child protection conferences. The audit also found that some child protection plans lacked clarity and outcomes focus. This was an issue also picked up in the Ofsted inspection of safeguarding in March 2014 and improvements have been made to child protection plans.

### **Teenagers at Risk audit**

In February 2012 the QA sub group completed an audit to look at the effectiveness of multi-agency work to safeguard young people aged 13 year or more. The audit was repeated in February 2014 to review how practice has developed with young people. An Ofsted SCR Report on Teenagers found that young people were treated as adults rather than being considered as children, because of confusion about the young person's age and legal status or a lack of age-appropriate facilities. A co-ordinated approach to the young person's needs was lacking and practitioners had not always recognised the important contribution of their agency in making this happen.

This audit found that the majority of audits that provided a grading judged practice to be good, some audits judged practice to be outstanding. In the majority of cases the auditors found evidence of effective multi-agency working and information sharing. One case showed good understanding amongst professionals of the risk of CSE in both social care and school.

The audit also found that the largest area judged as requiring improvement was record keeping and particularly the recognised issue of child protection records not being transferred between schools on admission. The audit report has made recommendations following these findings.

### **Impact**

The recent Ofsted inspection reviewed the work of the QA sub group and concluded:

*The SSCB undertakes case file audits and also commissioned a 'deep case dive' in October 2013 into the multi-agency responses to work to protect children living with domestic violence. The Board also audited six cases of children subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time, published in February 2014, with associated learning and action points captured in an overview report. Such activity yielded learning issues and action points. The domestic violence audit recognised the complexity of working with families in this area and the need for staff to have time to work with such families. However, this work has not yet been translated into a dialogue with the local authority about high caseloads and social work capacity, thus reducing the impact of the audit.*

## Future Challenges

A recommendation from the recent Ofsted inspection was:

*SSCB should ensure that information provided by agencies to enable the monitoring of performance contains sufficient qualitative information and analysis in order that the Board can build up a picture of effectiveness and quality of services for children, young people and their families.*

The quarterly performance reports presented to the LSCB have been developed to include quantitative data and qualitative audit reports from the Quality Assurance sub-group.

## Section 11 Audit

Local Authorities, NHS bodies, the Police, ambulance service, probation, prison services and youth offending teams all have a duty under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 to ensure that their functions are discharged with regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

The LSCB is expected to monitor the effectiveness of organisations' implementation of their duties under Section 11.

Every year Swindon LSCB audits each organisation's governance arrangements and compliance with national standards for safeguarding as described in Section 11 Children Act 2004 using an agreed pan-Wiltshire audit tool. Over the past year the LSCB has strengthened its quality assurance framework to include scrutinising Section 11 audits to show how effectively organisations work with the LSCB to ensure they have in place their safeguarding functions (accountability, procedures, training, whistle blowing, etc).

A standardised Section 11 template has been used across Swindon and Wiltshire so that reports can be used for organisations that cover a large geographical area. The findings of the 2013 audit exercise were that a number of the audits required further follow up. Some reports were largely descriptive and some lacked analysis of the effectiveness of their services. Particularly organisations that submitted their national reports, the focus was what is expected within an agency rather than what is local practice. Agencies have emphasised the processes that their organisations employ using expressions such as 'in process of review' or that the safeguarding issue is 'regularly reviewed'. The LSCB Performance sub-group follows up on the audit action plans further to ascertain levels of safeguarding practice and action plans to address any shortfall.

Work is planned in 2014 to develop the section 11 tool to explore particular areas such as safer recruitment processes and supervision.

# Child Death Overview

## Achievements

- Effective partnership working has been evidenced with services using the palliative care pathway
- Safe sleeping advice and information is given as part of new birth visits and subsequently if required
- A partnership between Health Visiting services and Public Health teams has developed a Safe Sleep Thermometer for use in infant's bedrooms
- The NICE advice on accidents was reviewed following the local case review undertaken by the LSCB and was included in updates and feedback to staff
- There is a care pathway to ensure consistent standards and best practice for children who receive palliative care.

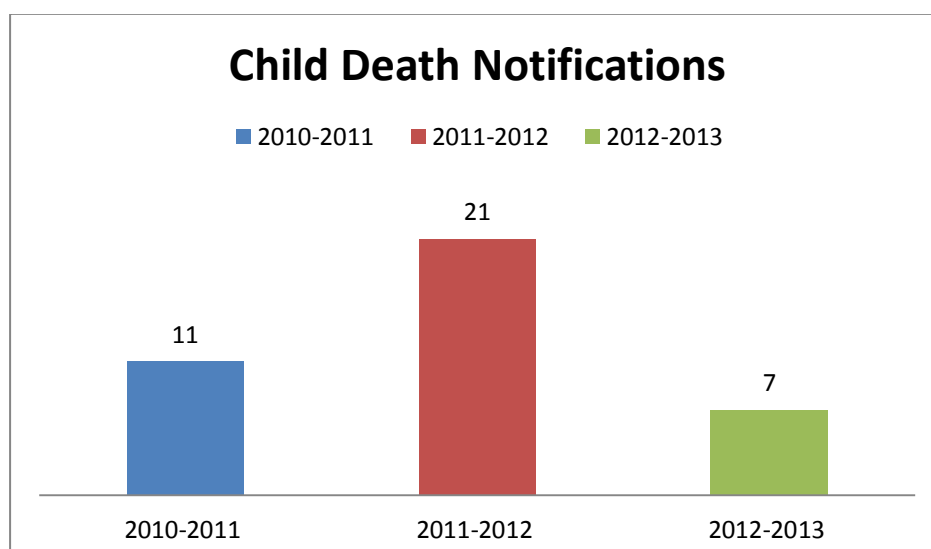
## Overview

The Pan-Wiltshire Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) reviews all child deaths across the Swindon and Wiltshire area. Over the past year agency representation at the panel has been good and consistent. The CDOP panel is primarily concerned with prevention. It aims to identify those factors in the course of a child's life, and leading to the child's death, which might have been amenable to modification, and to make recommendations which will help to prevent similar deaths occurring in the future. The panel may also make recommendations related to service improvement, where changes in practice could lead to improved experiences for children and young people at the end of life.

## Detail

During the period 2010-2013, 39 child deaths were notified. Year on year variation in notifications is to be expected because the number of notifications is small.

Number of child death notifications by year.

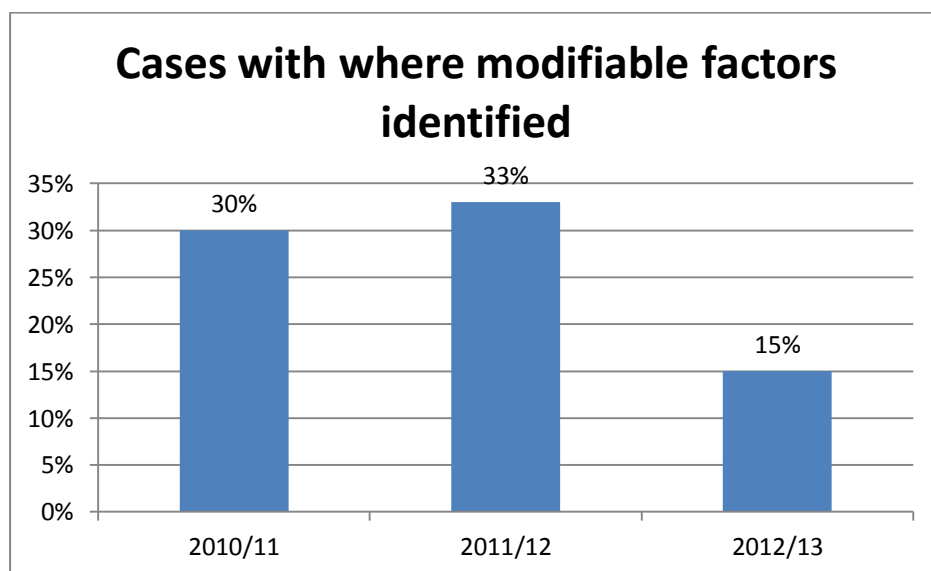


- Babies dying in the neonatal period (under one month of age) equated to the largest proportion (43%) of notifications
- When looking at the deaths of children resident in Swindon between 2010/11 and 2012/13, 39% of children died in the neonatal period and 62% died in the first year of life
- The majority of deaths (44%) occurred at the Great Western Hospital
- 59% of deaths in Swindon were male. This is in line with national trends for childhood deaths
- The data shows that the majority of deaths are children of White British ethnic origin
- In Swindon 18% of deaths were children of Asian or Asian British origin, which includes those of Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Chinese ethnicity. 6.4% of the population of Swindon is of Asian or Asian British origin. This apparent disproportionate representation of children from Asian backgrounds may be due to the small number of total deaths and associated random variation. However, further investigation will be carried out by CDOP

CDOP has reviewed 125 cases between 1st April 2010 and 31st March 2013 of which 37 were children resident in Swindon. The third CDOP annual report recommended that CDOP should review every child death within 1 year. Between 1st April 2012 and 31st March 2013 the deaths of 39% of children were reviewed within a year, compared to 20% in 2011-12. There is an inevitable time lag between the notification of a child's death and the discussion at CDOP. There are various factors that contribute to this including return of statutory paperwork by professionals, receipt of the final post mortem report and receipt of the report from the local case review meeting.

The Child Death Review process aims to identify modifiable factors in each case. A death identified as having modifiable factors, may not necessarily be due to a failure of the Local Authority or other agencies to safeguard the child's welfare. In the majority of cases (28/37) over the three year period, no modifiable factors were identified.

Percentage of cases where sufficient modifiable factors were identified:



## **Challenges and Future Work**

- Focus on improving timeliness of review of child deaths is maintained, through on-going work to maintain frequency of meetings and identifying and addressing blockages to timely reviews working towards the aim of reviewing 50% of deaths within 12 months in 2013/14
- Ensure CDOP annual report and mandatory Department for Education returns are completed within required timescales
- Report findings and recommendations of the CDOP panel to the LSCB, in line with agreed timescales
- Review the causes of death in BME children to identify any need to target any specific preventative work with this community
- Ensure improved communication between maternity and health visiting services and CDOP is a priority. Feedback from CDOP is to become a standing item on the Maternity Services Liaison Committee which covers both Wiltshire and Swindon
- Over the past year CDOP has received a number of requests to access its records from parents, solicitors, police and other agencies for a variety of purposes. CDOP recommends development of an information sharing policy for use by professionals across all agencies as a useful tool to formalise responses to these requests
- Confirm with providers that appropriate support is available through our health visiting services for families who have previously experienced a Sudden Infant Death



# Training & Workforce Development

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This area of work was led by the LSCB Training & Safe Workforce sub-group chaired by Kevin Leaning, Head of Service Restorative Youth Services

## **Achievements**

- An already extensive multi agency training programme has increased in response to local and national need and learning from case reviews and audits
- LSCB training is well attended with 1249 delegates completing training in 2013-2014 representing a 7% increase compared to the previous year
- All Child Protection Courses at Level 2 and Level 3 ran at full capacity. These new courses for 2013-2014 are underpinned by prerequisite Level 1 training. Evaluation data indicates that the training has been well received
- Swindon LSCB has commissioned a range of trainers to deliver specialist courses and awareness training is offered as an easily accessible online module
- All training courses remain free to agencies that contribute to the LSCB budget
- The training programme is financially stable generating income that has been reinvested in to training further learning and development opportunities

## **Impact of Swindon LSCB Training Programme**

- 1249 delegates have completed LSCB training in 2013-2014 compared to 1125 in the previous year
- A new LSCB website provides clear guidance on training pathways and learning appropriate to staff roles and competencies
- Participants came from a wide range of agencies including schools, early years, health and children's services
- There was greater participation from the police who represented the highest increase in delegates by agency with 57 members of staff completing training compared to 21 in the previous year
- In response to learning from Quality Assurance case reviews, Neglect training has been revised and Risky Behaviours in Adolescents and Supervision training has been commissioned
- The training pool of professionals continues to grow and training is supported by NSPCC, Police, Disabled Children's Social Worker, Swindon Women's Aid, and The Named Nurse for Acute Health. The LSCB commissions specialist professionals for delivering specific training for CSE (Barnardo's), Domestic Abuse (Swindon Women's Aid), Supervision (Independent Consultant)

## Impact of the LSCB Annual Conference 2013

- The theme of the annual conference was 'See The Adult, See The Child'
- Evaluation surveys were distributed online for the first time. 71 delegates from a possible 210 completed an evaluation, which provided a representative sample
- The majority of delegates completing an evaluation rated the conference content as good or very good. Comments included:
  - *The conference made me think more about the concerns that children can have about their parents and how it can help the child if the parent is receiving the support they need. I will be making more of an effort to work more closely with services supporting the adult and building up stronger working relationships*

## Results of impact surveys and course evaluations

- A new evaluation survey was introduced in September 2013 to track the assimilation of learning against specific course objectives. The impact of training is also assessed longitudinally with learner and manager questionnaires completed four weeks after training has taken place
- Overall the responses to all questions indicated that staff confidence, together with their application of skills had greatly improved with the following comments being made from learners:
  - *As deputy designated safeguarding officer I am now much more aware of my role and the reporting process (Child Protection Training Level 2)*
  - *Although, a lot of what was discussed at the course could be seen as common sense, this qualified my understanding of child sexual exploitation and taught me things that I was unaware of (Child Sexual Exploitation Training)*
  - *I had to complete a referral and attend a CP conference which I would have been totally unprepared for before the training (Child Protection Training Level 3)*
- The following comments were made by managers:
  - *Staff were mindful of risk and CP issues with YP within the team before the training, however are now clearly considering CP throughout all his work and contact with YP (Child Protection Training Level 2)*
  - *(Staff member)Has made sure all available relevant information regarding CP young people is legible, commutative and in a confidential shared place for reference when needed (Child Sexual Exploitation)*
  - *The team member works with vulnerable adults (and) is more confident completing risk assessments and referring on concerns (Domestic Abuse)*

## Challenges

- Attendance statistics show that there continues to be difficulties in encouraging practitioners from adult services to access relevant LSCB courses

- To encourage the completion of evaluation surveys from participants' managers as to how practice has improved

### **Future work plan**

- Deliver the LSCB Annual Conference, responding to learning from local case reviews and evaluate its impact on practice
- Consolidate the existing training plan to ensure consistency
- Complete analysis of data for attendance
- Analysis of safer recruitment audit as part of section 11 audit



# Other Achievements and Challenges

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## Child Sexual Exploitation

This area of work was led by the LSCB Sexual Exploitation & Runaways sub-group chaired by Detective Superintendent Caroline Evely, Wiltshire Police

### Achievements

- An active LSCB Child Sexual Exploitation and Runaways Sub-group
- A CSE Operational Lead in post
- The LSCB delivers training on CSE, providing level 1 and 2 courses
- A Pan Wiltshire CSE Strategy and Swindon Local Action Plan in place
- Implementation of Multi Agency Risk Panels

Child Sexual Exploitation is a form of child abuse which involves children and young people receiving something, which may be tangible or emotional, in exchange for sexual activity. Many victims of sexual exploitation do not recognise themselves as such. The Child Sexual Exploitation and Runaways Sub-group has been established since 2008 and has worked to address the national Action Plan for CSE as set out by the Department for Education in November 2011, as well as the Action Plan from the Children's Commissioner's Report published in November 2012.

### Impact

- The Multi-Agency Risk Panel is well attended and individual children are discussed with bespoke action plans being agreed
- Workforce awareness raising is on-going and is incorporating the use of the CSE handbook and the screening tool
- All missing children reports are directed through the Family Contact Point (FCP) and are also reviewed by the police missing person coordinator to ensure effective partnership coordination and safeguarding measures are in place
- Audit processes are being built into the delivery plan in order to evaluate the take-up and effective use of the CSE handbook and screening tool and the LSCB CSE training and how these can be linked to positive outcomes for the children and young people
- The Subgroup is also developing processes to debrief victims of CSE investigations and, wherever possible, perpetrators with a view to learning lessons and improving practice. Also case papers will be examined by the CSE Detective Inspector to understand why cases fail to reach prosecution stages

### **The sub-group has led on the following work:**

- Development of a Pan Wiltshire strategy and local delivery plan to tackle child sexual exploitation. Multi-agency activity is captured under the categories of Prevent, Protect and Pursue
- This group has collated data to inform about numbers and of young people vulnerable to CSE, and has led on a data collection exercise in October 2013
- The LSCB website provides information to children and professionals, giving advice, guidance and support regarding CSE
- Barnardo's have been commissioned to deliver CSE training at Level 2. 93 delegates have undertaken training in 2013/14
- Chelsea's Choice (an awareness raising play) has been delivered to over 100 professionals and 9 secondary schools. An evaluation completed after the event indicated that the play was positively received. Feedback from students included: *'I learnt that you should be careful when making decisions about relationships' 'I learnt that it (CSE) can happen to anyone, you should be careful about people and who to trust. Some people may not always be who they seem'*
- The LSCB has contributed to the development of an online CSE awareness raising training course
- The police now have a Missing Person Coordinator and dedicated CSE Detective in place for Swindon

### **Challenges**

The recent Ofsted Inspection found that despite the work around CSE completed at strategic level there was little impact on frontline practice. An action plan is being developed and research and a CSE audit is taking place in children's services looking at any service delivery and resourcing gaps. The particular challenges in this relatively new area of work is to ensure that front line staff are aware of the possible signs of CSE, and that they are clear about appropriate local support services available.

There is still a need to improve data collection and collation across key agencies to gain the most accurate picture possible as to the size of the problem in Swindon.

### **Future Work Plan**

- LSCB training will continue to be provided, particularly focusing on frontline staff. Awareness raising sessions will continue, ensuring that all schools across the county are aware of the issue of CSE and how best to respond to it
- Auditing activity will be developed to understand the profile of sexual exploitation in Swindon and how individual organisations are responding to CSE
- Evaluation of the work of the Swindon Multi Agency Risk Panel

## Neglect

This area of work was led by the LSCB Quality Assurance sub-group chaired by Lucy Young, Head of Safeguarding

### Achievements

- There is a conceptual neglect framework for use by all agencies in Swindon, available on the LSCB website
- Swindon LSCB has produced a Neglect Pocket Guide for workers, more than 2,000 of which have been distributed to date
- Swindon LSCB has doubled the amount allocated from its budget for commissioning advocacy to support parents with learning disabilities
- Training in Working with Neglect, has been revised and the first course was delivered in March 2014
- Swindon LSCB commissioned an independent consultant to deliver multi-agency supervising child protection training in January 2014, with two further courses planned for 2014/15
- Neglect was the theme of a safeguarding across agencies conference organised by Swindon Borough Council Children & Families on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2013

### Overview

In 2012 the LSCB undertook a review of a neglect case using the SCIE (Social Care Institute for Excellence) Learning Together systems case review methodology. The Quality Assurance sub-group selected a case of two children who were removed from the care of their parents because of neglect. The purpose of the review was to learn more about how safeguarding systems work in Swindon to protect children from neglect.

A final report was presented to the LSCB Board meeting in June 2013. Members were asked to consider the findings from the review and the implications for safeguarding children in Swindon. This presented an opportunity for partners to learn more about the complex issues surrounding cases of neglect, and to drive improvement in practice.

### Report Findings:

***Finding 1:*** *The absence of a conceptual framework for neglect in Swindon denies professionals a common language and impacts on the effective safeguarding of children and young people*

***Finding 2:*** *There is an insufficient acknowledgment of the emotional toll for professionals of working with very chaotic and hostile families and this leaves professionals overwhelmed and struggling to undertake their professional role*

***Finding 3:*** *There is a pattern locally that tends towards parent centered practice among professionals, limiting their ability to consider the voice of the child and see the world from their point of view*



***Finding 4:*** Professionals are not routinely recognizing the needs of Learning Disabled parents, or the impact on parenting capacity when it co-exists with other parenting capacity concerns such as substance misuse and poor mental health, leaving children at risk of harm

***Finding 5:*** A culture of limited authoritative challenge amongst professionals prevents the exploration of disagreements and hinders effective practice to address child neglect

***Finding 6:*** The reluctance of professionals to make professional judgments make addressing child neglect difficult.

***Finding 7:*** The priority of working alongside families and the perceived necessity to keep families on board has created a norm of 'tempering' descriptions of risks and concerns masking the true extent of the neglect of children

Board members were asked to respond to key questions raised by the review and feedback how their agencies were addressing the findings. The summary of responses received was presented to the Board meeting in September 2013.

**A summary of feedback from agencies is supplied below.**

Probation: more home visits and discussions around what professionals are looking for in the home observations

Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust: incorporated into training; information used to make referrals

NSPCC: safeguarding programme/home visits around neglect for children under 5 years

Swindon Association of Secondary Heads (SASH) – information sharing at SASH and raised awareness, also work with Family Support Workers and supervision

Wiltshire Police – briefing for all public protection staff; tool kit and pocket guide distributed to all investigation officers and incorporated into briefing for all frontline staff; Domestic Abuse internal training starting in the new year

Children & Families – tool-kit taken to all Children Centre Co-ordinators; talked through cases; very positive response; more awareness and wanting to understand and work closely with colleagues in Social Care to ensure these families are identified

### **Impact**

Swindon LSCB developed a multi-agency conceptual framework, together with a Pocket Guide, which provides an easy to use summary of the five key areas of enquiry to assist practitioners. The framework, guidance and toolkit are made available through the Swindon LSCB website and copies of the Pocket Guide are distributed free of charge by the LSCB business team.

The Board agreed to double the amount allocated from the LSCB budget for commissioning advocacy to support parents with learning disabilities, provided through Swindon Advocacy Movement.

The LSCB developed a new training course in Working with Neglect, incorporating learning from the review.

An independent consultant was commissioned to deliver multi-agency supervising child protection training in January 2014, with two further courses planned for 2014/15. The evaluation from this training was positive.

### **Challenges**

The Ofsted report 'In the Child's Time – Professional Responses to Neglect' published in March 2014 recommends that LSCBs should 'ensure that all staff are aware of their duty to escalate concerns when they consider that a child is not appropriately protected and/or is suffering from neglect, and that all agencies have appropriate escalation policies and procedures, including a procedure for challenging the decisions of children's social care services where cases are not accepted for assessment or child protection investigation.'

The LSCB is working to develop a local escalation policy to supplement the policy contained in the South West Child Protection Procedures, and recognises the challenge of raising the profile of this with front-line workers.

Performance information presented to the LSCB in March 2014 noted that activity data at the front door to social care indicated an increase in demand that was likely to be at least in part linked to work to further develop the early identification of neglect. The challenge for the LSCB is to be able to assure itself, through scrutiny of both data and quality assurance information that front-line workers continue to recognise and respond appropriately to neglect.



## Domestic Abuse

### Achievements

- Domestic Abuse Needs assessment commissioned by the LSCB
- Domestic Abuse case review completed by the Quality Assurance sub group
- Close collaboration with the Domestic Abuse Steering Group and involvement in domestic abuse strategy
- Delivery of LSCB courses on domestic abuse provide training to a large number of practitioners and increase the skills of the workforce when responding to domestic abuse
- Local Case Review held into domestic abuse case

### Impact

- **Training and awareness-raising:** from April 2013 until March 2014, a number of training courses on domestic abuse were delivered through the LSCB. The courses have included training on recognising and responding to domestic abuse and working with families where domestic abuse is a factor. A new course, Domestic Abuse and Substance Misuse, was added to the LSCB training programme in 2013 and explores the relationship between domestic violence, drugs and alcohol.
- **Quality Assurance:** As part of its annual business plan, the LSCB Quality Assurance (QA) sub-group agreed a 'deep dive' audit activity to learn about multi-agency work to safeguard children living with domestic abuse. This led to a 'systems review' of one case (the M family) where safeguarding concerns centred on domestic abuse. It considered the following questions:
  - What assumptions do we think are made by professionals in Swindon about the impact of domestic abuse on children and the ability of the non-violent parent to protect them?
  - Do we have a framework for working with domestic abuse in Swindon?
  - How effective are we in Swindon at protecting children from domestic abuse?

The purpose of the review was to shed light on a particular part of the system, and to then work together to achieve a safer safeguarding system. The following actions were identified for the LSCB:

1. Develop good practice guidance for working with Domestic Abuse to include working with perpetrators
2. Revise Protocol 'Children Who Experience Domestic Violence'
3. Continue to provide and promote Domestic Abuse training for all staff and managers

4. Revise LSCB Information Sharing Guidance to include information on Professionals Meetings and publish on LSCB website
- **Daily Domestic Abuse Conference Call (DDACC)** This is a police generated process to share all Domestic Abuse incidents for the previous 24 hours with relevant agencies by way of a daily conference call. The aims of the DDACC are to;
    - share timely, appropriate and proportionate information to safeguard victims of Domestic Abuse, including children, young people and family members
    - build on the initial risk assessment completed at the point of incident , and to agree on appropriate early intervention
    - ensure perpetrators and serial perpetrators are readily identified to enable more effective management and intervention

Agencies currently signed up to the process across Swindon and Wiltshire include: Police, Probation, Housing, IDVA, Military, CAMHS, AWP, Health, CSS, Women's Aid, Substance Misuse.

When fully functioning, the DDACC will ensure improved service delivery to children, young persons and victims of domestic abuse against a common threshold. The DDACC will improve early and appropriate intervention from appropriate services and ensure that risk assessments and safeguarding decisions are based upon a rich partnership intelligence picture. Both the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and DDACC systems will allow early identification of and better management of perpetrators and in particular serial perpetrators. It is anticipated the DDACC will be operational from July 2014.

### **Future Challenges**

- Monitoring of the DDACC and the impact on children young people and families
- Monitoring and contributing to the Domestic Abuse Strategy and Implementation Plan developed by the Domestic Abuse Steering Group
- The LSCB to continue to deliver high quality Domestic Abuse awareness training that meets the needs of the local workforce and link with the Community Safety Partnership to extend training opportunities in related safeguarding subjects e.g Forced Marriage

# Effective Lay Members

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## Achievements

- Swindon LSCB's lay members have challenged around safeguarding issues on behalf of the wider community since March 2012
- A lay member has received training from the Swindon Borough Council Equalities Officer, which has strengthened her skills to challenge around issues of diversity and equality, and she now acts as Equalities Champion for the LSCB
- One lay member has made contact with local community groups, as part of the Awareness & Engagement sub-group's awareness-raising activities

## Overview

Swindon LSCB's two lay members attended their first Board meeting in March 2012. One of the lay members has also joined a number of sub-groups, including the Awareness & Engagement sub-group, in which she has taken an active role in contacting organisations to speak about safeguarding issues and raise awareness. The role of the lay members will be reviewed in June 2014.

## Impact

Lay members are representatives of the local community, who can challenge, question, and offer alternative perspectives to the work of the LSCB. They are able to speak to any group who would like to find out more about what the LSCB does. Community groups that have been contacted so far have found the information and discussion about safeguarding useful.

## Lay member's Perspective

*The main achievement in respect of my position as one of the lay members has been to explore the increasing possibilities of the role, matching the time that is needed to the time I have personally available, and to make the input count. I have been impressed by the passion and commitment of all involved and at times the enormity of the task has been overwhelming.*

*I have realised that contacting community groups in the Borough is a vital focus for the next year and the challenges that arise to ensure this occurs. The Community Safety Partnership bus event in various parts of Swindon was a useful exercise, and demonstrated that many people were aware of safeguarding issues, especially the children who had obviously benefited from the work done in schools by members of the LSCB. Also interesting and beneficial was the contacting of groups by letters and phone calls, tasks that make the role seem more "real".*

*Attending the various sub-groups has given me a complete picture of safeguarding and I would recommend that this forms part of the induction for lay members if time allows.*

*My overview of the work of this last year is that it has been one of learning and exploring to discover how the role I have can grow to be of benefit to the Board. I look forward to working with the team for the next year and continuing to develop the work to the benefit of the Board.*

## Challenges

Make contact with more groups and young people, including adult groups who could pass on information.

Accompany members of the sub-group on awareness-raising sessions.



# Private Fostering

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## Achievements

- The LSCB multi agency training programme includes a session on private fostering in its child protection training. Induction sessions for new staff include information about private fostering and who to contact if they have any queries
- Schools are regularly updated about private fostering through the termly child protection briefings and newsletters. The private fostering social worker has also visited all the Children's Centres in Swindon to talk about private fostering
- The LSCB has funded posters to raise awareness about private fostering which have been displayed throughout Swindon

## Overview

A private fostering arrangement is one that is made privately for the care of a child under the age of 16 (under 18, if disabled), by someone other than a parent or close relative, with the intention that this should last for 28 days or more. Parents and carers have a legal duty to notify the local authority when entering into a private fostering arrangement; local authorities are then required to carry out an assessment, and to monitor the arrangement.

A specialist social worker, overseen by the Team Manager, is responsible for the assessment, visiting and reviewing of all privately fostered children within Swindon. Assessments are presented to the Fostering Panel for a recommendation as to the suitability of the arrangement. The Director of Children and Families, as Agency Decision Maker, considers the recommendation of the Fostering Panel and makes a decision.

The private fostering social worker visits each child and speaks to them alone at least every six weeks in the first year and thereafter three monthly. Private foster carers are also offered support including advice on finance and benefits, negotiating and encouraging the relationship with parents, health and education.

There are leaflets available for: people who work with families and children; parents thinking about private fostering for their children and for private foster carers themselves with information about who to contact. These are distributed widely in public areas of council offices as well as community and leisure facilities, voluntary organisations, GP surgeries, solicitors' offices and courts.

## Impact

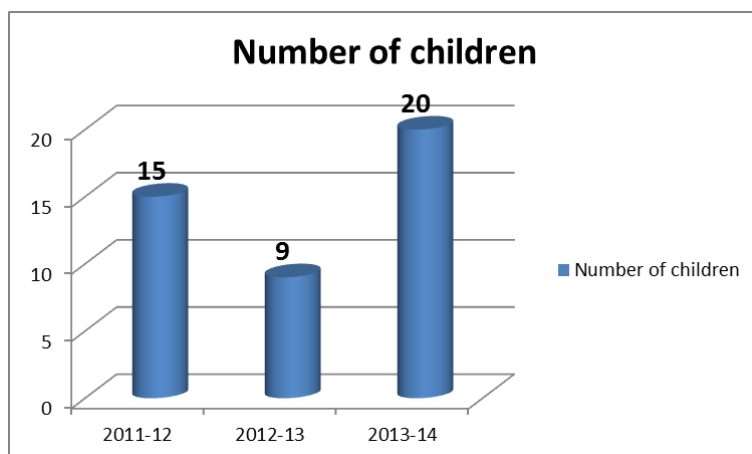
In 2013 – 2014 Swindon received 20 notifications for privately fostered children within the area. In 2012 – 2013 there were 9 notifications and in 2011 – 2012 there were 15. The number of notifications was significantly higher than the figure reported to Ofsted during the recent inspection. Weak data management accounts for the under-reporting and a new data reporting system is being implemented that will enable data to be made available on:

- The source of notifications
- The reason for a child becoming privately fostered
- The period of time a child remains within a private fostering arrangement

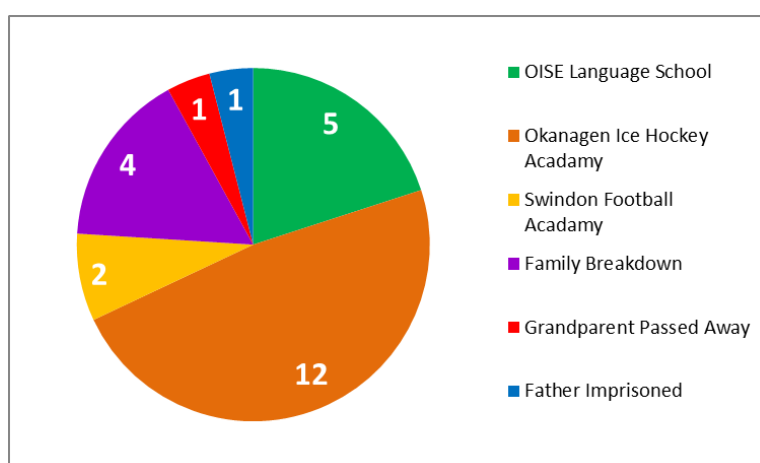


- How many notifications led to private fostering arrangements; if not; what was the outcome;
- How many private fostering arrangements a child had

**Table1: Number of privately fostered children 2011 – 2014**

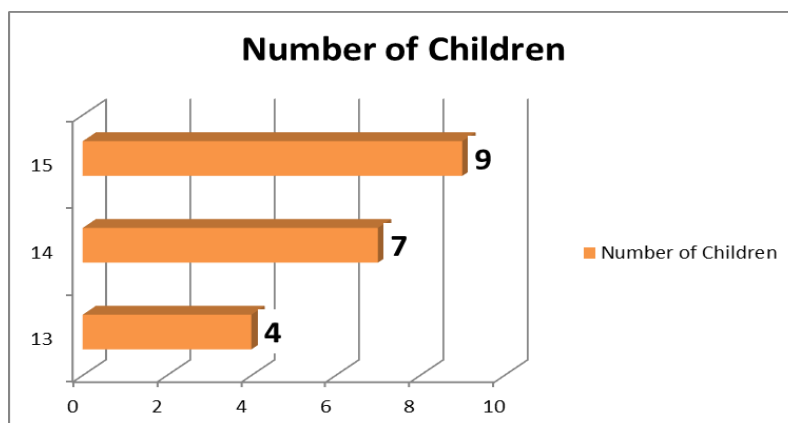


**Table 2: Reason for a child becoming privately fostered 2013 – 2014**



Swindon supports the national data indicating that the majority of children privately fostered are born 'overseas'.

**Table 3: Breakdown by age of children privately fostered 2013 – 14**



Nationally the 10 – 15 year age group has the highest number of privately fostered children. Swindon has no children in a younger age group being privately fostered.

*Case Study One girl, aged 15 years from Belarus was brought over by Chernobyl Children In Need Charity - Swindon Link. This is a Charity which was formed to help the children of Belarus. The Belarusian people are reported to be suffering from the legacy of a nuclear disaster. Children are sent to the UK as it is believed that a month away from the radiation, eating nourishing food, and breathing clean air may significantly increase their life expectancy, by giving their immune systems a chance to recover.*

### **Future Challenges**

The social worker responsible for private fostering has resigned with effect from the end of July 2014. An options paper is being compiled, taking into account best practice in other Local Authorities, to propose where the service should be based and the role of the lead officer, to ensure that Swindon can deliver a quality service to privately fostered children.

Swindon's awareness raising campaigns have been satisfactory and no fundamental change is planned, though more creative use of social media is planned to further strengthen awareness-raising.

# Advocacy

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## Voice

Coram Voice has been commissioned by Swindon Borough Council Children's Services to provide a children's rights service in Swindon since 2008/9. The contract has three distinct elements, Participation, Independent Visitors and Advocacy.



Swindon LSCB contributed £28,000 during 2013/14 towards advocacy in the child protection process, return Interviews for missing children and advocacy for disabled Children in Need.

## **Impact/Achievements**

### **Advocacy in the Child Protection System**

The take up of advocacy in child protection is the highest that Coram Voice have experienced due to the unique opt out service that is offered in Swindon. The Ofsted inspectors viewed the arrangement positively and commented on the availability of the service for Swindon's children.

### **2013/2014 Key Output Data**

#### **Child Protection**

- 124 children and young people were referred for support at Child Protection Conferences during 2013/14. In addition the year started with 106 open cases. All were seen bar two, one whose parent refused the service and another who was not contactable
- 4 young people subsequently refused the service following an initial meeting with the advocate
- None of the young people had a change of advocate.
- Advocates supported or represented young people at 219 Child Protection Conferences, 86 Core group meetings and 4 Child In Need meetings
- In total 2530 hours of advocacy support was provided for young people subject to child protection procedures

#### **Service User Feedback**

- 196 evaluation forms were sent to young people following their Child Protection Conference, Family Group Conference or Looked After Review
- 18 of the respondents stated that they felt that their voice had been heard and felt supported at conferences and reviews
- Comments from young people: The most helpful thing about having an advocate was:
  - *'I found the meetings have been easier having C there, she's helped me get my point across, she listens, understands my views and opinions which is lovely to know that someone understands.'*

- *'It (advocacy) has helped a lot in terms of having the courage to communicate and share my feelings with an advocate I can trust.'*
- Carers comments include:
  - *'A is very much liked and admired by S. She has had difficult times at the start of being in care and A was the only person she trusted. He made sure her views were clearly delivered to decision makers. He was always there on time, dependable and easily contacted by phone.'*
- 216 evaluation forms were sent to Social Workers and carers. 19 were returned. 15 reported that the child/young person was supported in expressing their views at their meeting
- Comments received from IRMs on the quality of advocacy range from average, satisfactory, good, very good to excellent

### Case Studies

- A disabled young person was referred for Child Protection support. The parents were separated and the mum was struggling with 3 siblings all disabled. Mum responded very well to the interventions made and the advocate was able to put forward the child's wishes to spend quality time with both parents and this was achieved along with other safety factors and the young person moved to a ChIN plan.
- A young woman referred for Child Protection due to self-harming and risk of Child Sexual Exploitation contributed to her safety plan with the support of her advocate. As a result although the risk of self-harm remained at the review there was positive feedback about how she was keeping herself safe. She was reassured by her Social Worker that she would not have to go into foster care if this improvement continued.

### Future Challenges

Over the years that Voice (then Coram Voice) has delivered the advocacy service the number of children supported during the CP process has consistently risen, most significantly in the last 2 years from 173 (2012/13) to 230 (2013/14).

The number of looked after children and young people supported has also risen, most significantly in this reporting year: 81 (2012/13) 98 (2013/14).

The number of children in Swindon advocated for this year has risen to 328. This is a higher number than the 211 young people Coram Voice is contracted to deliver advocacy support for. Discussions are progressing to review the balance between supply and demand for services.

Gillian Morris

Swindon Children's Rights Service Manager

April 2014

## **Swindon Advocacy Movement**



In December 2013, Swindon LSCB agreed to double to existing funding to Swindon Advocacy Movement to provide advocacy service to parents with learning disabilities within the child protection system. The LSCB contributed a total £16,325 to SAM in 2013-2103 which also included a contribution towards the development of 'easy read' child protection materials for parents with learning disabilities.

### **Parent Referrals Report 2013 – 2014**

#### **Overview**

- 44 referrals ( increase from 2012 – 2013 by 64%) of which:
  - 9 were self-referrals
  - 23 were new clients
  - 21 were known to the service
  - 27 of were Child Protection
  - 17 of the referrals were general parent advocacy
- The service actively worked with 22 parents
- The service has had a waiting list for the parents all year; capacity has been to its fullest at all times
- The service has been unable to respond to the highest priority cases which involve parents going through child protection procedures because of the increase on the demand for advocacy in these cases

#### **Case Studies**

- Parents of toddler - Child remaining in home under a full care order. Support parents at all LAC reviews, enabled social worker to best communicate with parents, attended solicitor appointments, attended PLO meeting, facilitated parents through a very difficult process when child was removed from their care. Subsequently support parents through a very complicated legal process of injunction and appeal for the return of their child. These parents would not have been able to access any of this information without our support and would not have had the opportunity to challenge the decisions made about their son.
- Parents of new born – Parents returned from out of county parent assessment unit having failed their assessment. Child was in interim foster care, SAM supported parents through court process and supported parents to attend court in Chippenham and Salisbury. Parents have no other support from any other service. Parents would not

have been able to get to court outside of Swindon without support would not have been able to understand the proceedings or make positive statements in this case. SAM supported parents at contact and all issues around contact, and supported parents at final contact before adoption. SAM arranged adoption counselling for parents and attended to ensure it was accessible. SAM prepared a post adoption story book and communicated Social Work requests to the parents as this relationship had broken down.

### **Future Challenges**

It is often reported in research that parents with learning difficulties are at a higher risk of becoming subject to child safeguarding procedures and are an overrepresented group in child protection conferences and court proceedings. It is also estimated that between 15 to 22 percent of parents involved in child protection conferences and care proceedings have a learning disability. Due to changes in the law, child protection cases have shorter time frames resulting in the service needing to become involved at the very earliest stage. The increase of referrals has had a huge impact on the service and SAM has not been able to meet the need.

Increased referrals from solicitors have resulted in the service receiving large amounts of information that then needs sharing accessibly to our client group. This has resulted in work being completed outside of paid hours. It is becoming clear that there are a greater number of child protection cases that involve parents with learning difficulties, most of these are borderline and receive no other service. It is also clear that the service is making a difference to parents regardless of the outcome and therefore it is a concern to have waiting lists fixed in such short timeframes.

[www.swindonadvocacy.org.uk](http://www.swindonadvocacy.org.uk)



# See the Adult, See the Child (STASTC)

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This area of work was led by the LSCB STASTC working group, chaired by Jeannette Chipping, NSPCC Service Manager

## Summary

The Swindon See the Adult See the Child Protocol was developed to provide a framework for Children's and Adult services to better work together. The protocol has a particular focus on parental mental health, substance and alcohol misuse, domestic abuse and parental learning disability, sometime referred to as the 'Toxic Trio'. A short term STASTC working group was formed in April 2013 with representatives from Adult Social Care, Commissioning, Alcohol and Substance misuse agencies, Children's Services, Probation, Adult and Child Mental Health services, Community Safety Partnership, Young Carers and the Salvation Army. The group was chaired by a service manager from the NSPCC. The focus of work included:

- Refreshing the See the Adult See the Child Protocol
- Facilitation of practitioner workshops for adults and children's services
- Creation of good practice case studies for use in training
- Development of See the Adult See the Child themed training
- Organisation of a See the Adult See the Child Conference to raise awareness of the 'Toxic Trio'

The working group meetings facilitated multi agency discussion on good joint working practice and made recommendations for auditing within the represented organisations. The group considered and made recommendations following the findings from the Neglect and Domestic Abuse case reviews completed by the Quality Assurance sub group and the Ofsted report *'What about the children? Joint working between adult and children's services when parents or carers have mental ill health and/or drug and alcohol problems'*

## Achievements

- Revision of See the Adult See the Child Practice Guidelines - available on the LSCB website
- Well attended practitioner workshop held on the theme of substance misuse in families
- Toxic Trio is a priority within the LSCB Strategic Business Plan
- See the Adult See the Child training courses (domestic abuse, substance misuse, parental mental health) are part of the LSCB training programme
- Well attended conference held in 2013 on the theme of See the Adult See the Child with positive evaluation
- Wiltshire Probation, Adult Social Care and Crime Reduction Initiative provided good practice case studies for use in training



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Avon Wiltshire NHS Partnership audited the Crisis Intervention Team caseload and implemented recommendations about recording service user contact with children</li></ul> |
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### **Recommendations**

The working group went far to raise awareness of the need for children's and adults services to work together. In 2014, the Pregnancies, Early Years & Young People Group was developed through the LSCB Performance sub-group to monitor and report on effective working across children's and adults services with particular focus on pregnancies and children and young people whose parents are service users of adult substance misuse treatment services.

Within the group's terms of reference is to enhance working relationships through See the Adult See the Child, Hidden Harm and specific commissioned areas. The membership of the group is made up from the Local Authority, Voluntary Sector, Health Services and Drugs & Alcohol Services.

The group meets bi monthly and reports to the LSCB Performance sub-group. The chair of the group is the Senior Commissioner for Drugs and Alcohol.

To avoid duplication and overlap of work, the See the Adult See the Child Working Group supported the recommendation that its work comes to an end in May 2014 to be replaced by the Early Years & Young People Group.

# Cyber Bullying Strategy

## Achievements

- Swindon LSCB produced a postcard for every young person in Swindon at Key Stage 2 and above, giving them advice about where to go for help about cyber bullying
- A poster has been designed signposting young people and vulnerable adults where to find help about cyber bullying

## Overview

In response to the results of the 2013 Annual Schools Internet Survey and Feeling Safe Survey, the LSCB organised an awareness-raising campaign around cyber bullying.



A competition was launched in December 2013, open to children in Swindon, to design a postcard about cyber bullying. The LSCB received more than 500 entries, which were short-listed to 6 designs. These were put on the LSCB website and students were invited to vote for their favourite. The LSCB produced 30,000 postcards of the winning design.

A poster was designed, based on the postcard but relevant to vulnerable adults as well as children. Thamesdown Transport has offered display space on all their buses and the LSCB Awareness & Engagement sub-group is exploring other possible locations for this.

**Cyber bullying**  
**Don't be a victim**

If you, or someone you know, needs help contact:

<b>Childline</b>	<b>Adult Careline</b>
<b>0800 1111</b>	<b>0800 085 6666</b>

If the problem is serious, contact the Police on 101

[www.swindonlscb.org.uk](http://www.swindonlscb.org.uk)   [www.mycaremysupport.co.uk](http://www.mycaremysupport.co.uk)

Logos at the bottom: Thamesdown Transport, Swindon Borough Council, NSPCC, and the Police.

## Impact

- Swindon schools, colleges and other education settings were given a postcard for each of their students (Key Stage 2 and above) to be distributed on or around Safer Internet Day on 11th February 2014.
- Conversations with children and parents during the LSCB Awareness-raising sessions in the community evidenced that the postcards had been widely distributed and found to be useful.
- The Schools' Safeguarding Adviser has seen evidence of the use of the postcards through her safeguarding visits to schools.

*The Head teacher at X Primary School confirmed that the cyber-bullying postcards (produced by the LSCB) were circulated to all children and shortly after a parent visited school to report that the advice from the card had been followed, in relation to an internet safety issue with their child.*

*The Junior Good Citizen e-safety questionnaire, carried out with approximately 1300 10 year olds, asked:*

*'If you or your friend receives a bullying text message, should you delete it?'*

*81% said no in 2014, compared to 42% in 2012*

It is anticipated that evidence of the impact of the cyber bullying strategy will be seen through the next pupil Internet Survey.

## Challenges

There is anecdotal evidence that children comment that they are being cyber bullied from a single event. At the other end of the scale, children appear in some cases to have normalised to cyber bullying due to the prolific nature of abusive comments across the internet. Therefore the challenges are to educate children, working in partnership with schools and other agencies, and to break down the acceptance of negative and derogatory comments online. The online behaviours of some parents also need to be challenged, in setting an example of responsible role modelling. Coupled with these challenges are the ever changing platforms that children use to communicate, many of which offer anonymity, which in turn break down positive social behaviour due to the absence of accountability.

In response to these concerns the LSCB e-safety subgroup are developing a targeted survey to establish children's understanding of online bullying. The evidence obtained will be used to advise agencies and specifically schools, in addition to reforming parental sessions to raise the awareness of appropriate online behaviours.

# Safeguarding in Schools

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All schools and colleges, including academies, are asked to complete a safeguarding audit, evaluating practice and outcomes from the previous academic year. The audit takes the form of a self-evaluation tool and a copy is returned to the schools' safeguarding adviser during the autumn term. Where an aspect of the audit is highlighted as needing development, actions are identified and feed into the schools' development/improvement plans.

The completed audits inform the completion of the section 175 review. The audits inform school monitoring visits which are completed by the schools' safeguarding adviser (SSA) over a three year rolling cycle. At the end of a monitoring visit the SSA will make a judgement about whether the audit accurately reflects how well safeguarding requirements are being met and will identify actions to move the school or college forward.

Actions from this report inform the schools' safeguarding adviser's work-plan.

- This year 96% of schools / academies completed and returned the safeguarding audit
- From the audits completed and returned (75):-
  - All schools report that there is a designated child protection co coordinator (DCPC) and deputy in place, with 97% of DCPCs being members of the senior management team
  - 97% of schools have a link governor for child protection and safeguarding
- Half day monitoring visits took place in 23 schools between January 2013 and December 2013 - 2 infant school visits, 15 Primary school visits, 4 secondary school visits and 2 special school visits. A joint visit was also undertaken with the Early Years Adviser to a children's centre
- A total of six school safeguarding briefings were held, with 70 % of schools/ academies/ colleges attending the final round during the summer term. 53% of delegates evaluated this briefing as excellent, 46% as good and 1% as satisfactory. Two additional sessions were run for those new to the role of designated CP co coordinator

**To access the full audit report,** visit the 'LSCB related information' on Swindon Schools Online <[Schools Safeguarding Report](#) >

# Safeguarding in Early Years

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The Early Years Safeguarding Adviser's (EYSA) role has steadily grown over the past year and to reflect this growth the EYSA is now employed for 26 hours per week (previously 18 ½ hours). The EYSA manages and supports the early year's sector with safeguarding policy and practice.

## **Audits/Reporting**

A revised annual audit was distributed to all group settings and Children's Centres in September 2013. This enabled settings to check that they were meeting all of the EYFS safeguarding and welfare requirements. The EYSA monitors all safeguarding audits and uses the information to identify settings to prioritise for a safeguarding visit.

- 100% (87) of group settings and Children's Centres returned the audit; this is an improvement on last year when approximately 70% were returned
- The feedback from settings was wholly positive and included comments that the process of auditing was very useful
- Child-minders were sent a safeguarding audit for the first time
  - 42% (137/330) of child-minders returned the audit. The audit will be sent out again next year with further work to encourage completion and return. Trio are following up those where no information is held
  - 99% (136) of child-minders who returned reported having an up to date child protection policy; 1% (1) reported that they were in the process of updating their policy as a result of the audit
  - Approximately 66% of child-minders have attended, or are booked onto, safeguarding training at the appropriate level. There are no comparison figures as this is the first time data has been collected
- Trio Childcare is commissioned to support child-minders in Swindon. As a result of the audit, Trio have been issued with a RAG rating report enabling them to identify child-minders who need additional safeguarding monitoring or support
- Since March 2014, Trio have reported to SBC quarterly on the levels of safeguarding support offered to child-minders. This has enabled the EYSA to monitor the levels of safeguarding support given to child-minders where there are safeguarding concerns

## **Monitoring Visits**

The EYSA visits all group settings and Children's Centres on a 3 year cycle. The monitoring visit covers a review of the child protection policy, staff safeguarding knowledge and practice, safer recruitment and allegations procedures, record keeping, site security and effective information sharing. Currently 85% (71) of settings have been visited. The EYSA also completes support visits for settings with an 'inadequate' or 'requires improvement' Ofsted grading.

- 31 settings received a monitoring visit between September 2013 and July 2014
- 3 settings judged as inadequate by Ofsted between September 2013 and July 2014 have been supported with safeguarding procedures. One of these settings has since been re-inspected and graded 'good' (May 2014)

### **Supervision**

The results of a supervision questionnaire in March 2013 suggested that under half of EY providers were delivering supervision sessions for their staff and managers were not confident with the delivery of supervision.

- A supervision policy and template for supervision was circulated to all EY providers in November 2013. The EYSA will circulate a further supervision questionnaire to settings to monitor the impact
- Two single agency supervision training sessions ran with 40 delegates attending. Due to the popularity, there are another two single agency training sessions running in the 2014/15 training timetable
- In the last 6 monitoring visits completed by the EYSA, managers have reported to the EYSA that regular supervision is embedded in practice

### **Early Help Record and Plan**

Early Years Providers have been supported with implementing the new Early Help Record and Plan. The training sessions have been well attended by the EY sector. Kathy Macdonald has made two presentations at EY Briefing sessions introducing Early Help Record and Plan and providing guidance on completion of the paperwork.

- Approximately 80% (64) of settings attended the EY Briefing sessions

### **Future Challenges**

- To improve the number of child-minders who are trained to the appropriate level increase (i.e. level 2 safeguarding within the last 3 years) currently about 66%
- To ensure EY staff make a valuable contribution to multi-agency meetings by increasing the proportion of EY managers attending conference and core group training, currently at 55% (45)
- Further develop effective sharing of information between agencies involved with pre-school children. EYSA to liaise with other professionals in Children's Centres, Health and Social Care
- Monitoring visits by the EYSA have identified child protection records, in group settings, as an area in need of development. The EYSA will provide support and training on keeping records through EY Briefing sessions and individual support
- Further monitoring of Safer Recruitment Procedures within EY group settings by the EYSA

# Ofsted Review of the LSCB

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In March 2014 Ofsted undertook an inspection of Swindon Borough Council's services for children in need of help and protection; children looked after and care leavers, and a review of the effectiveness of the LSCB in Swindon.

The overall judgement For the Local Authority was 'requires improvement':

*'There are no widespread or serious failures that create or leave children being harmed or at risk of harm. The welfare of children in care is safeguarded and promoted. However, the authority is not yet delivering good help, protection and care for children, young people and families.'*

The judgement of the effectiveness of the LSCB was 'good':

*'The LSCB coordinates the activity of statutory partners and has mechanisms in place to monitor the effectiveness of local arrangements.'*

## Key strengths and weaknesses:

- Effective governance arrangements and good Board attendance
- Financial stability, with further income being generated from training
- A respected Chair, who also is a member of the Children's Trust Board and has built up effective working links with the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Adult Safeguarding Board, and who has been able to influence the direction of work and priority setting
- The Board and Chair demonstrate effective challenge to agencies, including undertaking a test of assurance in relation to proposed senior management changes in Swindon and challenging health services on provision of suitable accommodation for young people with serious mental health issues. In both examples change occurred to support safeguarding practice
- The Board has been restructured to improve members' interaction with each other and to allow at each Board meeting an opportunity for workshops enabling members to have a very effective learning environment. The Chair also ensures that he and sub-group chairs meet regularly to ensure that suitable progress is being made on working priorities
- The annual strategic business plan effectively identifies improvement priorities and appropriately identifies actions and timescales
- The LSCB undertakes a range of monitoring and bespoke audits, including domestic violence and children subject to child protection plans for a second or subsequent time. Although there have been no recent serious case reviews in Swindon, the LSCB has commissioned two local case reviews, including a SCIE review on neglect. Staff were familiar with the messages contained within the Neglect Pocket Guides developed as one of the actions from this review
- The LSCB is active in seeking to ensure that services providing support to adults over mental health and alcohol and drug dependency are aware of safeguarding issues

- The LSCB annual report is comprehensive in its coverage of LSCB and sub-group activity, however is overly descriptive and lacks sufficient analysis of performance or weaknesses
- The Board and Performance sub-group undertake regular monitoring of performance data. There is an over reliance on data and targets and less focus on qualitative information from agencies, which means that the Board and members are less aware of and able to challenge day to day practice
- The LSCB has highlighted issues around child sexual abuse and exploitation, including initiating an annual snapshot audit of children at risk. However, lack of information to the Board on practice in relation to CSE means that the Board is not monitoring the effectiveness of local arrangements as well as it should. The Board has been instrumental the development of the multi-agency risk panel in relation to child sexual exploitation. Such work is very effectively supported by the recent commissioning of the 'Chelsea's Choice' play, which examines issues of sexual exploitation and abusive relationships and has been performed to professional groups and young people in schools
- The SSCB has been instrumental in ensuring that there is a range of policies and procedures in place, including a multi-agency threshold document, work with the Children's Trust on the early help record as a replacement for the common assessment framework, and the development of the framework for neglect
- The Board supported updates and revisions to the domestic violence strategy and needs assessment
- A well-developed cyber-bullying strategy has been a further successful strand of work in keeping children and young people safer
- The LSCB provides a range of multi-agency training, including core areas such as child protection, domestic violence and CSE. Training is evaluated at delivery and longitudinally at four weeks after course attendance, and results indicate that the training is valued and the quality is felt by staff attending to be high. Such findings were reflected in conversations with practitioners during the period of inspection

#### Areas for improvement:

1. SSCB should ensure that information provided by agencies to enable the monitoring of performance contains sufficient qualitative information and analysis in order that the Board can build up a picture of effectiveness and quality of services for children, young people and their families
2. SSCB and relevant sub-groups must ensure that there is sufficient challenge to agencies where poor practice is identified. SSCB should seek assurances that there are action plans and timescales in place for improvement.
3. The Chair and Board should ensure that the SSCB annual report has a focus on the child's journey and experiences of safeguarding services.

Both the Local Authority and the LSCB have developed action plans to address the issues identified.



# Governance

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The Children Act 2004 places a duty on all relevant authorities to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Swindon Local Safeguarding Children Board has a statutory responsibility to co-ordinate and ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each agency/organisation on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the Borough. The LSCB is not accountable for operational work but holds partner agencies to account on the effectiveness of their safeguarding services for Swindon's children.

Swindon LSCB is composed of senior representatives nominated by each of its member agencies and professional groups.

Statutory & Other Partners, of whom 100% attendance at meetings is expected by the representative or nominated substitute:

- Swindon Borough Council, Director Children Services
- Swindon Borough Council (Service Director Head of Children, Families & Community Health; Head of Commissioning Children & Adults; Head of Safeguarding)
- Swindon Borough Council, Housing, Libraries & Leisure
- Swindon Borough Council, Economy & Attainment
- Wiltshire Police
- Wiltshire Probation Trust
- NHS England
- Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group
- Public Health
- Designated Doctor, Child Protection
- Designated Nurse, Child Protection
- Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust
- Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust
- South West Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
- CAFCASS
- Swindon Early Years
- NSPCC
- Swindon Youth Offending Team
- Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service
- Adult Services

- Public Protection & Streetsmart

Professional Representatives, who provide insights from and communication with their professional bodies but do not represent a single agency or organisation:

- Swindon Primary Schools
- Swindon Secondary Schools
- Swindon Colleges
- Swindon Special Schools
- GP Services
- Voluntary Sector
- Domestic Violence Representative
- the Chair of any LSCB sub-group not represented above

Partner agency representatives are of sufficient seniority to have control over or access to their agency's resources. They are given delegated authority to make decisions to an agreed level on behalf of their agency and have access to those responsible for making the decisions for which they do not have delegated authority.

Each representative on Swindon LSCB is responsible for disseminating information between the LSCB and their agency/professional body and for identifying any necessary actions.

The Cabinet Member for Children Services is a 'participating observer' of the LSCB, attending meetings as an observer, engaging in discussion but not being part of the decision making process. This enables the Cabinet Member to challenge, when necessary, from a well-informed position.

Two lay members have been part of the Board since March 2012. The remit of the lay members is to:

- Support stronger public engagement in local safety issues
- Contribute to an improved understanding of the LSCB's child protection work in the wider community
- Challenge the LSCB on the accessibility by the public and children and young people of its plans and procedures
- Help to make links between the LSCB and community groups

The Board is independently chaired by Mike Howard, Independent Consultant, and meets quarterly. The LSCB Independent Chair is a member of the National Association of LSCB Chairs, which is a conduit for best practice, and has established a close working relationship with the Chair of the Wiltshire LSCB. He is also Independent Chair of Swindon's Safeguarding Adults Board.

A protocol has been agreed that sets out the relationships between the LSCB, the Local Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) and the Swindon Health & Wellbeing Board. The LSCB Chair is a member of the Children's Trust Board and joint work between the two Boards ensures that the work of each Board is not duplicated, and that good practice and issues of concern are shared.

**Swindon LSCB is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share the same commitment.**

Swindon LSCB believes that:

- The welfare and safety of the child is paramount
- We are stronger in safeguarding children if we all work together. This includes statutory and voluntary agencies and the wider communities
- We should support families in bringing up their children safely, engaging with them in the wider agenda for safeguarding
- We should provide an equitable, quality service to all children and their families
- Services should be provided which are appropriate to race, religion, culture, language, gender, sexual orientation and disability
- We need to be accountable for our actions, open to challenge, and to learn from practice in order to achieve continuous improvement
- Procedures and processes should be open and transparent

**These principles should underpin everyone's approach to safeguarding children and promoting their welfare, regardless of the extent of their involvement.**

Swindon LSCB will further ensure that:

- Personal information is held confidentially and only by those who need to know
- Safeguarding children is viewed in the wider context of their needs and rights

To enable it to fulfil its responsibilities, Swindon LSCB has established the following sub-groups:

- Awareness & Engagement (joint with the Local Safeguarding Adults Board)
- E-Safety
- Performance
- Policies & Procedures (links with the South West Policies & Procedures Group)
- Quality Assurance
- Safeguarding Disabled Children
- Serious Case Review
- Sexual Exploitation & Runaways
- Training & Safe Workforce

Each of these groups has defined its membership and terms of reference and works to an annual action plan developed with reference to the LSCB Strategic Business Plan.

In July 2012 a short term working group was established with the purpose of developing an action plan to further implement the 'See the Adult, See the Child' protocol across children's and adult's services in Swindon.

There is a joint Swindon and Wiltshire LSCB Child Death Overview Panel.

A Chairs Group, consisting of the Chairs of all LSCB sub-groups and working groups, as well as the Service Director, Children, Young People & Community Health, the Designated Doctor and the Chair of the Domestic Abuse Steering Group, and chaired by the LSCB Chair was established in February 2013 to facilitate communication between the various sub-group chairs and to respond to their wish for greater direction from the Board.

Regular reports are presented to the Board for scrutiny relating to:

- Advocacy
- Allegations Management
- Awareness & Engagement
- Child Death Overview Panel
- Domestic Abuse
- E-Safety
- Licensing & Gambling
- Looked After Children
- Performance
- Policies & Procedures
- Private Fostering
- Quality Assurance
- Safeguarding Disabled Children
- Safeguarding in schools
- Section 11 audit
- Serious Case Reviews
- Sexual Exploitation & Runaways
- Training & Safe Workforce

The LSCB commissioned an independent facilitator for its business planning workshop/development session in January 2014, to which members of the Swindon Children's Trust Board were also invited.

During the last year, the LSCB has reviewed how it conducts business, to enable it to more robustly challenge the local authority and its partners on the effectiveness of the help and protection offered to children, young people and families locally. LSCB Board meetings have become more interactive, with the introduction of breakout sessions, to allow all Board members to participate in discussions and challenge in depth issues such as neglect and domestic abuse.

<b>LSCB Budget</b>	<b>2013-14 Budget</b>	<b>Outturn Position</b>	<b>Variance</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
<b>Employment Costs</b>			
LSCB Posts	104,000.00	96,555.45	-7,444.55
Lay Member expenses	100.00	0.00	-100.00
Child Protection Minuting	20,800.00	20,800.00	0.00
Independent Chair	16,500.00	18,052.20	1,552.20
	<b>141,400.00</b>	<b>135,407.65</b>	<b>-5,992.35</b>
<b>Multi-Agency Training</b>			
Training Programme	40,000.00	40,089.79	89.79
Events & Conferences	8,000.00	6,227.37	-1,772.63
	<b>48,000.00</b>	<b>46,317.16</b>	<b>-1,682.84</b>
<b>LSCB Projects &amp; Statutory Agenda</b>			
Advocacy - Voice	28,000.00	28,000.00	0.00
Advocacy – SAM	10,800.00	16,325.00	5,525.00
Missing & Runaways	500.00	350.00	-150.00
Awareness & Engagement	5,000.00	3,391.13	-1,608.87
Child Protection Procedures	2,000.00	1,922.32	-77.68
Child Death Review	359.00	364.05	5.05
	<b>46,659.00</b>	<b>50,352.50</b>	<b>3,693.50</b>
<b>Business Support</b>			
Staff & Member Development	7,000.00	1512.28	-5,487.72
General Supplies	200.00	45.47	-154.53
Design & Printing	1,500.00	1231.21	-268.79

Hospitality	500.00	587.00	87.00
	<b>9,200.00</b>	<b>3,375.96</b>	<b>-5,824.04</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>245,259.00</b>	<b>235,453.27</b>	<b>-9,805.73</b>
<b>Funding</b>			
<b>Annual Contributions</b>			
CCG	-44,150.00	-44,150.00	0.00
GWH	-17,699.00	-17,699.00	0.00
Police	-12,448.00	-12,448.00	0.00
Probation	-4,473.00	-5,048.00	-575.00
CAFCASS	-389.00	-389.00	0.00
	<b>-79,159.00</b>	<b>-79,734.00</b>	<b>-575.00</b>
<b>Local Authority Budget Allocation</b>			
Local Authority	-116,300.00	-115,894.27	405.73
Swindon Early Years Training	-4,000.00	-4,000.00	0.00
	<b>-120,300.00</b>	<b>-119,894.27</b>	<b>405.73</b>
<b>Training Income</b>			
Course Income	-18,000.00	-27,080.00	-9,080.00
Events & Conferences	-6,000.00	-8,745.00	-2,745.00
	<b>-24,000.00</b>	<b>-35,825.00</b>	<b>-11,825.00</b>
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>-223,459.00</b>	<b>-235,453.27</b>	<b>-11,994.27</b>
<b>Total Balance</b>	<b>21,800.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-21,800.00</b>
Prior Years Underspend Balance	82,307.64	82,307.64	
Funding required to support in year budget	-21,800.00	0.00	
<b>Remaining Underspend Balance</b>	<b>60,507.64</b>	<b>82,307.64</b>	

# Other LSCB sub-group activity

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Swindon LSCB has a number of sub-groups that are crucial in ensuring that the Board's business plan is delivered. Each sub-group has a clear remit and a transparent reporting mechanism to the LSCB, with each group's terms of reference and membership reviewed annually.

## Awareness & Engagement

Chair: Doug Bale, Adult Safeguarding Manager (to February 2014)/ Dale Colsell, Team Manager-U-turn (Young People's Substance Misuse Service) (from February 2014)

### **Achievements**

- Developed a database of groups within the town which enabled the LSCB & LSAB to contact 113 organisations with information about safeguarding and offers of awareness-raising sessions
- The lay member of the LSCB supported this work by making direct telephone contact with these groups to prompt further interest
- 5,733 people accessed safeguarding messages by visiting the new LSCB website – accessibility is much better for children and families
- Hundreds of members of the community visited the Community Safety Partnership bus in February
- There is direct evidence that receipt of a safeguarding pack led to one organisation referring appropriately through the allegations management process

### **Overview**

The Awareness & Engagement sub group has been set up in partnership with Swindon's Safeguarding Adults Board to improve and increase awareness around safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk. The objective of the group is to engage with groups within the community who are less involved in other forums, and provide awareness sessions and information to pass on to their members and people they have contact with in the community. During the last year, the sub-group has focussed particularly on faith groups, voluntary sector organisations and private leisure providers.

The sub-group has also considered the publicity available and approved versions of material prior to publication. The LSCB website was redesigned in 2013 and its content and usage is monitored by the sub-group.

To engage directly with the community about safeguarding children and adults at risk, in February 2014, the Community Safety Partnership bus was used to deliver these messages in a variety of locations across the town. One of the outcomes from this initiative was to

check out the impact of the cyber bullying strategy. (See section 7). The Awareness & Engagement sub-group participated in the judging of the postcard campaign and the design of a poster being displayed on buses in the town.

### **Impact**

Although it is difficult to identify direct improvements for children and young people, the sub-group believes that raising awareness within the community will contribute to safeguarding children and young people, as those living and working in the community will be aware of what to do and who to contact if there is a safeguarding concern.

### **Future Work Plan and Challenges**

- Community groups understanding the relevance of safeguarding to them and taking ownership of this by asking for help
- Lack of resources to respond to requests from groups for awareness-raising sessions
- Identifying existing groups and new groups where initial contact is required

### E-Safety

Chair: Huw Ford, Children Services ICT Manager

#### **Achievements**

- The sub-group undertook the 5th internet pupil survey in 2013 to obtain the views and trends of children and young people
- Staff, pupil and parental sessions have been delivered directly by the sub-group to 25% of the schools during the business planning year of 2013/14
- The LSCB e-safety course offers training to all agencies and continues to provide current advice and trends of children and young people in the ever changing in light of their online behaviours
- The sub-group continues to work alongside the CSE sub-group and contribute to the action plan
- The e-safety scenario was delivered in the 2013 Junior Good Citizen programme, directly working with approximately 1500 year 6 children from across Swindon, that are defined as the most vulnerable online age group. Members of the sub-group also deliver targeted sessions with children in conjunction with the young wardens summer engagement programme
- Members of the sub-group provided advice and obtained the views of the general public via the LSCB community safety bus awareness-raising sessions in February 2014.

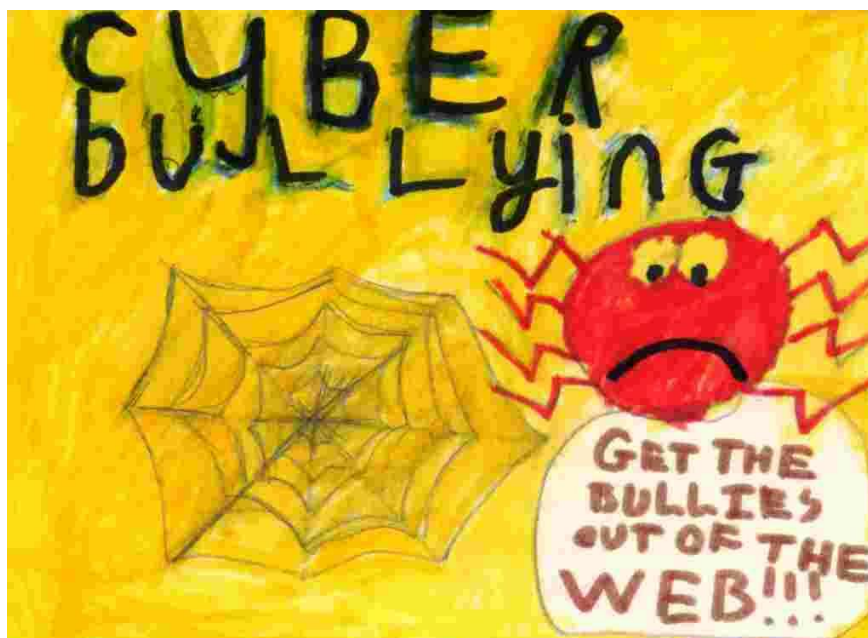


## Impact

- Working closely with school Child Protection officers and the Schools' Safeguarding Adviser, the sub-group provides specific advice and guidance to agencies. Such advice is backed up by support from the National Crime Agency, (specifically CEOP) and the Safer Internet Centre, ([www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk))
- During this year the general focus has been relating to issues of parental online public postings targeted at individuals working with children, the diversity of apps and risky behaviours taken by young children, the issues of trolling and cyber bullying, the public misinformation raising concerns of paedophiles developing apps and the growing trends of video posting of substance misuse
- Whilst the development of a free online self-assessment for all agencies has been completed and is enabling the sub-group to determine the provision of safeguarding children online from across the borough, greater engagement is required and is therefore an identified action
- Whilst there is a focus on working with schools, the sub-group is seeking to engage with a wider group of organisations that work with children and young people and the internet

## Future Work Plan and Challenges

The sub-group is currently signing off a revised version of the Schools Internet survey to obtain a greater focus on outcomes for children in a primary school setting. Whilst there will be a loss of continuing trend data from the previous 5 years, this is out-balanced by the changing attitudes and use of the internet.



The decline in engagement of the secondary sector within the Schools Internet survey is being addressed in co-ordination with the Feeling Safe and Social Norms surveys in a targeted approach during 2014.

## Policies & Procedures

Chair: Joanne Smith, Named Nurse for Safeguarding (Great Western Hospitals NHS Trust)

### **Achievements**

- Escalation Policy –developed to ensure professionals are escalating concerns regarding decision making at the right time to the right level
- Allegations Management Guidance - this guidance sets out and clarifies the roles and responsibilities of LSCB members, Senior Managers, Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and all professionals in relation to allegations against adults who work with or volunteer with children. An accompanying flow-chart sets out the process for considering and referring an allegations
- CSE Guidance and Handbook – the CSE Handbook has been designed to support practitioners in understanding CSE, linking them into existing processes according to the child's circumstances (vulnerable, at risk of or being exploited or abused). It includes tools for identifying risk as well as clarifying sexual offences and types of grooming
- See The Adult See the Child

Neglect Framework and Pocket Guide - the neglect framework was designed, as a result of national developments and Swindon SCIE review, to raise awareness across all agencies of child neglect. The pocket guides have been developed to provide quick reference information to all practitioners

Other protocols and policies that have been developed and produced by partner agencies in conjunction with the Policies and Procedures sub-group include:

- Pan Wiltshire Children Missing from Home and Care
- Pre-birth Protocol to safeguard unborn babies

### **Overview**

The Policies & Procedures Sub-group meets quarterly and has a multi-agency membership. The group reviews, revises and develops safeguarding procedures in response to lessons learned from Serious Case Reviews, as well as local and national issues, changes in legislation and any gaps emerging from practice.

The Policies & Procedures sub-group has produced a range of policies and protocols in the last year, to support effective safeguarding practice and reflect national and local priorities.

### **Future Work Plan and Challenges**

- There is a schedule for revision of existing policies and procedures in light of Working Together 2013 and in response to national and local developments
- There is a consistent challenge to promote the use of multi-agency child protection procedures especially where there is considerable staff turnover within organisations

## Safeguarding Disabled Children

Chair: Mark Green, Integrated Service Manager for Disabled Children

### **Achievements**

- Two representatives of the Group reviewed how the Intimate Care Guidance was being implemented in schools. There was no evidence of poor practice. There was evidence that some children had contributed to their care plans. We will undertake another audit in 2014-15
- The child protection training specific to disabled children and young people was positively evaluated by those who attended the most recent course. We are in the process of developing a second course which will be specific to practitioners who work directly with children and young people with a disability or those who want to enhance their knowledge as a result of completing the initial course
- We held one multi-disciplinary case review where learning was identified in the areas of working in partnership with families, case management and communication between agencies. We will undertake a further “deep dive” case review in 2014/15 and any learning will be encapsulated within a sufficiently smart and measurable action plan
- The Group reviewed and updated the child protection procedures specific to disabled children

### **Impact**

The impact has been in discreet areas as outlined in the above narrative. We want to increase our influence in 2014/15 particularly in the areas of training and the disseminating of learning from practice, also through the analysis and dissemination of research and literature in the area of safeguarding and disabled children.

We will have additional members on the group in 2014/15 with representation from the Police and a Paediatrician from Great Western Hospital.

### **Future Work Plan and Challenges**

The challenge is to use the capacity of the membership of the group to focus on a small number of areas where outcomes can be delivered and measured which will have the greatest impact for children and young people with a disability and their families.

# Board Member Agency Activity

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## CAFCASS

### **Overview**

Cafcass is a non-departmental public body, sponsored as of April 2014 by the Ministry of Justice. Its principal functions are to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who are subject to family proceedings, and to provide advice to the family courts. It employs about 1870 staff, over 90% of whom are frontline.

In the period 1 July 2013 – 30 June 2014:

- a total of 126 Public Law cases were received by Wiltshire (including Swindon)
- of these 95 were Care cases
- This shows a decrease against the same period the previous year (1 July 12 – 30 Jun 13) of 15 Public Law Cases and 25 Care cases
- there has been a decrease of 109 Private Law applications where a total of 443 cases were received against 552 Private law cases in the period 2012-13
- A decrease was recorded in s7 reports where there were 221 reports received, compared to 241 in the previous year
- There were 190 children in Public Law proceedings which had a split of Male 48.9%/Female 51.1%

### **Achievements**

- Cafcass have been fundamental in the creation of a private law sub-group, within the Family Justice Board to address performance within private law, so the children in this area of law, have a focus on the improvement of family justice for their cases
- Cafcass Wiltshire have been instrumental in leading on liaison with the Independent Reviewing Officers to ensure any Pre-proceedings Protocol work, includes the IRO's and that there is a Practice forum for Practice leads within the Local Authority to address challenges and best practice within the Public Law Outline
- Contributing to the development of the Public Law Outline and Child Arrangements Programme and working with partners to reduce the duration of care cases
- Care duration for Swindon has decreased from an average of 51 weeks (as recorded at Quarter (1 Jan 13 – 31 Mar 13) down to 30 weeks during (1 Jan 14 – 31 Mar 14), with Swindon Local Authority's last quarter being at 28 weeks
- Cafcass has delivered training regarding the Child Arrangements Programme and the writing of Section 7 assessments to 15 Swindon Borough Council social workers
- Revision of the Child Protection Policy, Operating Framework and Complaints and Compliments Policy
- 99.7% of all Care cases were substantively allocated to a Children's Guardian and that the average time to allocate these care cases took 0.4 days

- The same applied to Private Law Wiltshire ensured that 99.9% of cases were all allocated to a practitioner and also that 100% of s7 reports were filed by their agreed filing dates

Deborah Murphy

Service Manager, Wiltshire, Cafcass.

### Swindon Children's Trust Board

The Swindon Children's Trust Board (CTB) and Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) have continued to work well together over the last year to secure effective early help strategies and to provide focused challenge of performance reports. This relationship has been strengthened by the scheduling of meetings to enable time relevant reporting on the work of the Children's Trust Board at LSCB meetings by the CTB Chair.

The close working of the two boards is exemplified by the development and implementation of the new Early Help Record and Plan (EHR&P). Both boards in their respective monitoring roles challenged the decline in use of the CAF and impact on referrals. Board members also effectively articulated their concerns about the CAF and participated in the development of the EHR&P which replaced it. The pilot and full roll out of the EHR&P has been monitored through performance reports and in December 2014 will be the evaluation for impact by the CTB.

Participation by both the LSCB and CTB Chairs in the development of business plans for both boards has continued. This joint working provides for challenge around how lessons learnt inform early help and translate into prevention. In planning the work of the CTB for 2014/15 the LSCB's input has ensured, when consideration of the Toxic Trio was added to its schedule of work, Child Sexual Exploitation was also included.

The innovative work of the LSCB chair to promote the need for a test of assurance which would be undertaken by the independent chairs of both the LSCB and CTB delivered effective challenge which resulted in change. The council clearly valued the work done in 2012 as it requested a further test of assurance be done in the autumn of 2013. The scope of the 2012 and 2013 tests was determined by the LSCB and CTB chairs and resulted in formal consideration of the observations contained in the two reports and realignment of some roles and responsibilities of key officers as well as some reporting lines of staff.

Liz Holmes

Independent Chair, Swindon Children's Trust Board

### New College

#### **Overview**

Safeguarding referrals at New College in 2013/14 have almost doubled compared to the previous academic year. The reasons for this are unclear but could be a result of a combination of factors: greater student awareness of support available through work in

schools and at College; continuing work on staff awareness led by New College safeguarding committee; helpful bulletins from the Schools Safeguarding Adviser; stories in the press raising national awareness and a growth in some concerns. The particularly noticeable increase has been related to mental well-being and suicidal intentions reported to staff in college. Reports on the FE College's Student Services network indicate that this is a national pattern.

### **Achievements**

New College has organised joint meetings with Swindon College, Children's Services, CAMHS and others to overview support and referral arrangements for students with mental health concerns. These have been productive and helped all parties to better understand the strains we all face. We have held a training session on the Early Help Record and Signs of Safety.

We have appointed additional part time support for safeguarding in college in light of increased referrals – a Senior Safeguarding Officer will support the Student Services & Safeguarding Manager from September.

### **Impact**

The students supported with safeguarding issues have a good overall level of retention in college. In 2013/14 the retention rate of referred students was 90%.

### **Future Challenges**

Public sector budget cuts will challenge us all in college and partner agencies. We anticipate increased in referrals as a result of the recent high profile child abuse cases in the national media and agencies such as the NSPCC report a leap in calls to telephone help lines.

Duncan Webster  
Safeguarding Manager, New College

## [Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust](#)

### **Overview**

The Great Western Hospital provides various health services for children and their families and includes maternity services which deliver over 4000 babies a year.

### **Achievements**

- This year we opened a dedicated Paediatric Emergency department which is purpose built to provide a child friendly environment
- The CQC (Care Quality Commission) inspected the service early this year and praised the Named Nurses across the services for providing strong safeguarding leadership
- The sexual health service was identified as being exemplary and showed their contribution to identifying and supporting young people at risk of CSE

- The joint maternity and social care meeting was recognised as an area for good practice and pro-active sharing of information to identify those mothers with potential safeguarding risks
- Maternity increased their safeguarding midwife hours to provide additional support in providing training, supervision and attendance at strategy and case conference meetings
- Local MARAC meetings are attended by representatives from both our maternity and Emergency Department services

### **Impact**

Throughout the year we have seen examples of good practice where staff have used their child protection and safeguarding learning and knowledge to protect children as identified by some case studies, for example:-

*‘Child shouted at by parent in waiting room area and pulled aggressively by arm and removed from department by mother. Reception staff alerted senior staff and liaised with Named Nurse and made an urgent referral to Social services who visited the family that day to safeguard child’.*

There are good processes in place by key departments such as ENT, Ophthalmology and Oral Surgery when children who ‘Do not attend’ their hospital appointments, this information is shared with the Named Nurse and community services and referrals made if significant concern to social care.

The increased hours for the safeguarding midwife have improved the communication within the multi-agency arena and co-ordination of patients with complex social needs and safeguarding concerns.

### **Future challenges**

Following the revised Intercollegiate Document on safeguarding core competencies the organisation this year will be focusing on delivering more training at level 3 to support practitioners in identifying and reporting on safeguarding concerns

We will this year be increasing our safeguarding supervision support to staff.

Joanne Smith,  
Named Nurse for Safeguarding, Great Western Hospital

### **[Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust \(CAMHS\)](#)**

Oxford Health provides specialist tier 3 community CAMHS, Outreach Services for Children and Adolescents (OSCA), emergency out of hours mental health assessment/treatment, and inpatient psychiatric care for under 18 year olds in Swindon. Across all CAMHS services, potential risks to the young person are assessed and planned, for including the consideration of possible safeguarding and child protection issues. Staff consult with their Manager and/or the Senior Named Nurse or Named Doctor as appropriate.

### **Achievements**

#### **Joint Working with Police & Adult Mental Health**



Oxford Health CAMHS and Wiltshire Police introduced a joint protocol in 2013 to reduce the number of Section 136 detentions under the Mental Health Act for young people, and to ensure young people in mental health crisis have the least restrictive care and support. Since it was launched, there has been a significant decrease in the need for the use of a section 136 and calls between the Police and CAMHS have increased.

### Case Study

An officer was called to a multi storey car park in Swindon following a report of a 16 year old female who appeared to be threatening to jump. The officer quickly established that she had an eating disorder and suffered from depression. The officer was concerned about the risk and rather than use S136 he contacted CAMHS to discuss available options. CAMHS confirmed that they knew this young person and agreed to contact mum and arrange an emergency assessment.

The young person was returned home by the police officer to the safety of her mum and an emergency assessment was carried out later that afternoon. An inpatient admission was not required but CAMHS community support was increased.

Where 136 detentions are required under the Act, partnership working between adult mental health providers and CAMHS have enabled all young people (including under 16 year olds), to access the designated health place of safety. Agreement was reached in early 2014 thus ensuring young people who were not aggressive/violent were not detained unnecessarily in a Police custody suite.

### Deliberate Self Harm Protocols/Guidance

Children and young people from the CAMHS Participation Team reviewed Swindon's Multi-agency Deliberate Self Harm guidelines. They made suggestions, such as including Childline as a helpful website, which were welcomed and accepted.

Young people were involved in the Swindon-wide launch of the guidelines. They shared their personal experiences highlighting helpful and unhelpful behaviours they had experienced from professionals. Those attending found the young people's contribution both powerful and insightful.

### Impact

In March this year additional qualitative feedback was sought from a sample of service users. Young people commented very favourably regarding the flexibility provided by OSCA. They felt providing young people with choice regarding where they could meet their clinician was important and valuable because:

*'It shows you respect our choice'*

The young people were also asked what they would like other young people to know about the service, from their own experience. They felt it was important for young people to know that:



*‘they will be safe’*

### **Future challenges**

In line with national trends, Swindon is experiencing an increase in the number of young people experiencing emotional and mental health concerns, and complexity in their presentation. Oxford Health is one of the largest and most comprehensive CAMHS providers in England and is currently making contributions to the Commons Select Committee National Inquiry in to CAMHS which is specifically focusing on:

- The current state of CAMHS, including service provision across all four tiers; access and availability; funding and commissioning; and quality
- Trends in children’s and adolescent mental health, including the impact of bullying and of digital culture
- Data and information on children’s and adolescent mental health and CAMHS
- Preventative action and public mental health, including multiagency working
- Concerns relating to specific areas of CAMHS provision, including perinatal and infant mental health; urgent and out-of-hours care; the use of S136 detention for under 18s; suicide prevention strategies; and the transition to adult mental health services

Michelle Maguire

Head of Service, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

# Report Authorship & Availability

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This report has been written with contributions from many different LSCB members, each writing about the work of their agency or the work of individual LSCB sub-groups. The LSCB Independent Chair, Planning & Development Manager – Safeguarding and the LSCB Business Manager have also written some sections of the report and have edited the final report.

The artwork throughout the report was created by students from Swindon schools for the cyber bullying postcard design competition in January 2014.

This report was approved for publication by the Board of Swindon LSCB in September 2014.

The final report is a public document available on the Swindon LSCB website  
[www.swindonlscb.org.uk](http://www.swindonlscb.org.uk)

The LSCB Independent Chair will present the report to meetings with key strategic partners and a limited number of hard copies have been produced for distribution to:

- Chair, Swindon Children's Trust Board
- Chair, Swindon Health & Wellbeing Board
- Wiltshire Police & Crime Commissioner
- Leader, Swindon Borough Council
- Chief Executive, Swindon Borough Council
- Cabinet Member for Children Services, Swindon Borough Council
- Director of Children Services, Swindon Borough Council

For information in relation to this report, please contact Swindon LSCB on:

[lscb@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:lscb@swindon.gov.uk)

Swindon LSCB

Civic Offices

Euclid Street

Swindon

Wiltshire

SN1 2JH

Tel: 01793 463803

# Appendix 1: What to do if you're worried a child is being abused

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Child abuse can take many forms, not all of which have visible signs. If you think that a child or young person under the age of 18 is being harmed and need to talk to someone about it, please contact:

**Children Services Family Contact Point**

Tel: 01793 466903

**Emergency Duty Service (out of hours)**

Tel: 01793 436699

**Wiltshire Police**

Tel: 101

**In emergency, please call 999**

**Allegations against staff and volunteers**

If you have concerns that a member of staff or a volunteer may have behaved in a way that has harmed a child or indicates that they may be unsuitable to work with children, you should contact the lead person for allegations within your organisation or seek advice from the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) for managing allegations.

**LADO**

Tel: 01793 466849

**Child abuse on the web**

You can report online sexual abuse and content from the CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) website.

[www.ceop.gov.uk](http://www.ceop.gov.uk)

The site also has links for the reporting of other forms of online abuse including bullying, racism, spam and phishing.

For more detailed information, please refer to the South West Child Protection Procedures on [www.swcpp.org.uk](http://www.swcpp.org.uk)

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## Appendix 2: LSCB Training Statistics 2013-14

	Level One	Level Two	Level 3	Level 4	Advanced	Allegations	Conference & Core Groups	CP Update	CSE	DV Awareness	DV Advanced	E-Safety	Neglect	Safer Recruitment	Safer Recruit Update	Sexually Harmful Behaviour	Sexual Abuse	Totals
Charity		3	3	2	2	5	2	3	7	3	1			4	1	3		39
Church/Faith Group														1				1
Early Years		60	27	2	9	30	22	11	1	4	4	4	9	31	9			223
NHS Foundation Trust		7	19		4				1	1	1	2		28	3	2		68
Police		29	5		1		4	1	13			1		1			2	57
Probation							2											2
SBC		41	10		1	3	11	7	65	7	7	18	5	5	2	15	5	202
Schools/FE		49	26	2	5	26	11	22	6	12		14	6	36	25	5	7	252
Self Employed		1																1
Seqol		3					1											4
Voluntary Sector					2		2			3	3	2						12
Other not listed above		12			1		1									1		15
	373																	373
<b>Total</b>	373	205	90	6	25	64	56	44	93	30	16	41	20	106	40	26	14	1249

## Appendix 3: LSCB Attendance Register 2013-14

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Agency	Representative	June	Sept	Dec	Mar
		Attend	Attend	Attend	Attend
Adult Services	John Hughes/Doug Bale	√	√	√	√
AWP	Clara Maweni/Newlands Anning/Paula May	√	√	√	√
CAFCASS	Deborah Murphy	√	√	Apols	Apols
CCG	Peter Mack	√	Apols	√	Apols
Designated Doctor	Janet King	√	Apols	√	√
Designated Nurse	Stephanie Bailey	√	√	√	√
Disabled Children Sub Group	Mark Green	Apols	Apols	Apols	Apols
E-Safety Sub-group	Huw Ford	√	√	√	√
Early Years	Jane Greening/Kay Kane	Apols	√	Apols	√
GWH NHS Foundation Trust	Rob Nicols	Apols	Apols	Apols	√
Lay Members	Michael Wadley/Lyn Davis	√	√	√	√
LSCB	Lesley Boorman/Catherine Clark	√	√	√	√
NHS England Area Team	Gill Brook	√	Apols	Apols	√
NSPCC	Jeanette Chipping	√	√	√	√
Oxford Health NHS	Michelle Maguire/Isobel Sanderson	√	√	√	√
Policies & Procedures Sub Group	Steph McQuade/Jon Peyton/Joanne Smith	Apols	√	√	Apols
Public Health	Janet Janeway	√	√	√	√
SBC - Children & Families	Sara Tough/Jo Olsson	√	Apols	√	Apols
SBC - DV Co-ordinator	Lin Williams	√	√	√	Apols
SBC - Group Director, Children, DCS	John Gilbert	√	√	√	√
SBC - Head of Safeguarding	Lucy Young	√	√	√	Apols
SBC - Housing, Libraries & Leisure	Mike Ash	√	√	√	√

SBC - Commissioning, Economy & Attainment	Paddy Bradley	✓	✓	✓	✓
SBC - Head of Commissioning, Children & Adults	Sue Wald	✓	Apols	Apols	✓
SBC - Public Protection & Streetsmart	Phil Thomas	Apols	Apols	Apols	Apols
SBC - Cabinet Member	Fionuala Foley	Apols	✓	✓	Apols
SCR Sub Group	Stephanie Bailey			✓	✓
Schools - Primary	Sue Kershaw	✓	✓	✓	✓
Schools - Secondary	Wendy Conaghan/Julie Tridgell	✓	✓	Apols	✓
Schools - Special	Kathie Bryan	✓	✓	Apols	✓
SW Ambulance Service	Sue Smith /Ali Mann	Apols	Apols	✓	Apols
Swindon Colleges	Duncan Webster/Jo Kelly/Mark Burton	✓	✓	✓	Apols
Voluntary Sector	Stephanie Hathaway	Apols	✓	✓	✓
Wiltshire Fire Service	Yasmine Ellis	Apols	✓	✓	✓
Wiltshire Police	Kier Pritchard/Caroline Evely	✓	✓	Apols	✓
Wiltshire Probation	Liz Hickey/Liz Rignenberg	✓	✓	✓	✓
Youth Offending Team	Kevin Leaning	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Appendix 4: LSCB Strategic Business Plan 2013-2014

PRIORITY AREA ONE: EFFECTIVE RESPONSES TO SPECIFIC SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS			
Outcome for 2013-2014	MILESTONES	LEAD/SUBGROUP /AGENCY	Date for completion and evidence
Detailed strategies and comprehensive approaches to <b>Child Sexual Exploitation</b> and <b>Domestic Abuse</b> that keeps children and young people safe and promote effective intervention with those who are at risk	1.1 A clear understanding of Child Sexual Exploitation in Swindon is informed by the LSCB Sexual Exploitation Annual Needs Analysis and recommendations are implemented via the Sexual Exploitation & Runaways action plan	Sexual Exploitation & Runaways Sub Group	September 2013. Needs analysis findings reported to the LSCB
	1.2 Inter-agency policies support and processes support the effective identification, assessment and intervention on the broad themes of Prepare, Protect, Prevent and Pursue/Prosecute and at a level appropriate to the needs of children and young people	All/ Sexual Exploitation & Runaways Sub Group/Policies & Procedures Sub Group	March 2014
	1.3 The LSCB understands the synergy between the LSCB and LSAB and how the principles of See the Adult See the Child and the Community Safety Partnership are embedded to safeguard children at risk of harm from Sexual Exploitation and Domestic Abuse, as evidenced through audit	LSCB/Chair	September 2013
	1.4 Systems are in place i.e. Sexual Exploitation Needs Analysis and Children & Young People Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment, for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of multi-agency responses to Sexual Exploitation and Domestic Abuse	Sexual Exploitation & Runaways Sub Group/Domestic Violence Steering Group/Quality Assurance Sub Group	June 2013
	1.5 The Early Support Hub has clear information sharing protocols and provides a forum to effectively share information and intelligence on Sexual Exploitation and Domestic Abuse as evidenced through file audit	Service Director, Head of Children, Young People & Families	March 2014

	1.6 Training is planned and delivered which meets the needs for knowledge and skills of staff working with children and young people at risk of Sexual Exploitation and Domestic Abuse so they are suitable skilled to intervene effectively as evidenced through the training evaluation framework	Training & Safe Workforce Sub Group/ Domestic Violence Steering Group	March 2014
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**PRIORITY AREA TWO: EFFECTIVE EARLY INTERVENTION AND SAFEGUARDING**

<b>Outcome for 2013-2014</b>	<b>MILESTONES</b>	<b>LEAD/SUBGROUP /AGENCY</b>	<b>Date for completion and evidence</b>
The LSCB can demonstrate that children and young people in Swindon receive effective early intervention that meets a range of needs in different communities	2.1 The LSCB agrees an early help statement which understands the role for the Children's Trust and sub groups	LSCB	June 2013
	2.2 The LSCB has a clear understanding of how agencies identify safeguarding risks and how they work together to build services around children and families through audit and reports to the Performance Sub Group	LSCB	April 2013
	2.3 The LSCB has a clear understanding of 'the journey of a child' and challenges the way agencies work together through different journeys of children with differing needs, through audit and learning from the SCIE Model	LSCB	April 2013
	2.4 The LSCB understands where the gaps are in service provision at all levels of need, manages them as a risk and challenges those agencies involved	LSCB/Quality Assurance Sub Group/Performance Sub Group	March 2014
	2.5 The LSCB ensures that the Early Support Hub and Single Assessment Process is established so referrals and responses for children with all types of need are effective and consistent	LSCB/Service Director, Head of Children, Young People & Families	March 2014
	2.6 The LSCB policies, procedures and training support development of knowledge and confidence to assess and manage risk at all levels of intervention, evidenced through the training evaluation framework and learning events	LSCB/Training & Safe Workforce Sub Group/ Policies & Procedures Sub Group	March 2014

**PRIORITY AREA THREE: COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

<b>Outcome for 2013-2016</b>	<b>MILESTONES</b>	<b>LEAD/SUBGROUP /AGENCY</b>	<b>Date for completion and evidence</b>
The LSCB and partner agencies communicate effectively with children and young people; their families; the community (including different sections of the Community); and staff at all levels from partners agencies	3.1 On-going engagement with children and young people, involved with acute safeguarding services and general services (schools, Junior Good Citizen); their inclusion in different LSCB activities; the LSCB takes advantage of different opportunities to communicate	School and Early Years Safeguarding Advisers/ E-Safety Sub Group/Disabled Children Sub Group	March 2014
	3.2 Systems that allow for effective communication within the LSCB and between LSCB subgroups and the Children's Trust Board through sharing of information in meetings with Children's Trust Board Chair and coordination of agendas four times per year	LSCB Business Manager	March 2014
	3.3 The LSCB is represented and creates clear links on all multi-agency partnerships where safeguarding is a focus of their work e.g. Early Hub, Domestic Abuse Steering Group and Sexual Violence Strategy Group; Health and Wellbeing Board; Adults' Safeguarding Board evidenced through minutes of those meetings and identification of areas of joint work.	Chair	March 2014
	3.3 Engagement with parents around specific safeguarding issues	E-Safety Sub Group/ Quality Assurance Sub Group	March 2014
	3.4 The LSCB communicates with the local workforce and community to raise awareness of safeguarding issues, through the LSCB website, Annual Conference, Annual Report, community partnerships and directly with public	LSCB/Training & Safe Workforce Sub Group/Engagement & Awareness Sub Group	March 2014

**PRIORITY AREA FOUR: PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT**

<b>Outcome for 2013-2014</b>	<b>MILESTONES</b>	<b>LEAD/SUBGROUP /AGENCY</b>	<b>Date for completion and evidence</b>
The LSCB has a performance management framework which promotes different ways of knowing and learning about the effectiveness of early intervention for and safeguarding of children and young people in Swindon	4.1 The LSCB supports the establishment of a performance sub group with each agency reporting, based on data: Three strengths, three risks and mitigating actions against effectiveness of early help and safeguarding. These are recorded at each LSCB meeting	Performance sub group	April 2013
	4.2 Regular programmes of quality audits, which include interviews with practitioners and support an understanding of the child's journey, are used by the LSCB to challenge practice and make recommendations to improve and are discussed and improvement actions agreed at LSCB	QA sub group	March 2014
	4.3 The LSCB receives regular 'health check' reports from each agency represented on the board (that include vacancy, turnover) and identifies areas of improvement if required	Performance sub group	March 2014
	4.4 The LSCB supports an audit and review methodology that promotes learning, and encompasses the perspective of the child and the family as well as the practitioner. Findings of audits are reported to each relevant LSCB Sub Group to ensure learning and improvement in practice and outcomes for children	Performance sub group/ QA sub group	March 2014
The LSCB performance management framework supports and promotes effective challenge by the LSCB so that early intervention and safeguarding improve	4.5 Regular high level reporting to LSCB for scrutiny and feedback with a focus on what board members can do to improve/change practice. To include learning from; SCIE methodology, Section 11, single agency audits.	Performance/QA sub group/LSCB	March 2014

# Appendix 5

## Swindon Local Safeguarding Children Board Structure March 2014

