



Meeting of the People Services Scrutiny Committee

**Thursday 10th March, 2016 at 6.00pm
In Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Priory Road, Dudley**

Agenda - Public Session (Meeting open to the public and press)

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To report the appointment of any substitute members serving for this meeting of the Committee.
3. To receive any declarations of interest under the Members' Code of Conduct.
4. To confirm and sign the minutes of the People Services Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 28th January, 2016, as a correct record.
5. Public Forum
6. Dudley School Improvement Alliance Delivery Plan (Pages 1 - 5)
7. Schools Standards Report 2015 (Primary and Secondary) (Pages 6 - 19)
8. Update on the Development of the Dudley Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (Pages 20 - 23)
9. Child Sexual Exploitation - Dudley (Pages 24 - 64)
10. Dudley Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2014-15 (Pages 65 - 116)
11. To consider any questions from Members to the Chair where two clear days notice has been given to the Strategic Director Resources and Transformation (Council Procedure Rule 11.8).



Strategic Director Resources & Transformation

Dated: 2nd March, 2016

Distribution:

Members of the People Services Scrutiny Committee:

Councillor M Mottram (Chair)

Councillor M Attwood (Vice Chair)

Councillors N Barlow, C Baugh, R Body, P Bradley, D Hemingsley, C Perks, G Simms, S Tyler and D Vickers; Mrs M Ward and Reverend A Wickens; Mr A Qadus and Mr D Tinsley.

Councillor A Goddard (Substitute for Councillor N Barlow)

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- Elected Members can submit apologies by contacting Democratic Services. The appointment of any Substitute Member(s) should be notified to Democratic Services at least one hour before the meeting starts.
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Minutes of the People Services Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 28th January, 2016 at 6.00 pm
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley

Present:

Councillor M Mottram (Chair)
Councillor M Attwood (Vice-Chair)
Councillors N Barlow, R Body, P Bradley, C Perks, G Simms, S Tyler, D Vickers; Mr A Qadus and Reverend A Wickens.

Officers:

M Williams - Chief Officer Environmental Services (Lead Officer) (Place Directorate); M Bowsher - Chief Officer Adult Social Care, A Harris – Head of Adult Safeguarding, R Clayton (Independent Safeguarding Chair), S Lackenby (Head of Integrated Commissioning) (People Directorate); I Newman - Chief Officer Finance and Legal Services and H Shepherd - Democratic Services Officer (Resources and Transformation Directorate).

24 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors C Baugh and D Hemingsley.

25 **Appointment of a Substitute Member**

It was noted that Councillor E Taylor had been appointed as a substitute member for Councillor C Baugh, for this meeting of the Committee only.

26 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor G Simms declared a pecuniary interest, in accordance with the Member's Code of Conduct, in respect of agenda item numbers 7, 8 and 9, due to her employment with the Care Quality Commission and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of these items.

Reverend A Wickens declared a non-pecuniary interest, in accordance with the Member's Code of Conduct, as he was a Trustee for the Centre of Equality and Diversity.

27 **Minutes**

In referring to Minute No. 23, in particular the request for a written response to questions 1 to 7 listed on page 17, the Chief Officer Adult and Social Care stated that the details in response to questions 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 were included in the Medium Term Financial Strategy report that would be considered at Agenda Item no. 6.

It was further stated that a response to question 2 would be provided by the Interim Chief Officer Children's Services following completion of the Ofsted inspection and a response to question 7 would be quantifiable once the Voluntary Redundancy process had concluded.

Resolved

That, the minutes of the People Services Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 18th November, 2015, be approved as a correct record and signed.

28 **Public Forum**

No issues were raised under this agenda item.

29 **Medium Term Financial Strategy**

A joint report of the Chief Executive, Chief Officer Finance and Legal Services and the Strategic Director People was submitted to consult the Scrutiny Committee on the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to 2018/19, approved by Cabinet on 18th January as a basis for further consultation, with emphasis on those proposals relating to the People Services Scrutiny Committee terms of reference. Items directly related to the People Services Scrutiny Committee were those in relation to the People Directorate, as set out in paragraphs 32 and 34 of the report submitted.

In presenting the report, the Chief Officer Finance and Legal Services referred to the forecast that had been presented at the previous Scrutiny Committee meeting and highlighted the main changes in the report compared with the proposals that were considered at that time.

The Chief Officer Finance and Legal Services referred to the important changes that had been identified in the way in which funding would be distributed between Local Authorities, which benefited Authorities with a high deprivation level. It was also stated that Councils that were responsible for Adult Social Care, would have capacity to increase Council Tax by a further 2% without the need for a referendum, provided that the additional resources was proven to be allocated to the provision of Adult Social Care.

Further reference was made to the changes within the report, with particular reference to non-pay budgets that would no longer have provision for general price increases and any inflationary pressures would need to be managed within directorate budgets and the renegotiation with social care providers with regards to the impact of the increase in the National Living Wage.

The Chief Officer Finance and Legal Services confirmed that the Council was still in a difficult financial position, but with the new proposals would be able to set a lawful budget for 2016/17. Additional savings would still be required to ensure lawful budgets could be set in future years.

In response to a question raised with regards to how the car mileage savings would be achieved, the Chief Officer Finance and Legal Services stated that it was proposed to reduce Dudley's mileage allowance to 45p in line with the allowance paid by neighbouring authorities.

Arising from a further question raised, the Chief Officer Finance and Legal Services confirmed that existing income levels only had been incorporated into the strategy, but that this had been recognised as part of the transformation and income fees and charges would be benchmarked with neighbouring Local Authorities to ensure that Dudley was as competitive as possible.

In response to a question raised by a Member, the Chief Officer Adult and Social Care stated that the Better Care Fund performance element remained in the Medium Term Financial Strategy as negotiations between the Clinical Commissioning Group were still underway. A further update would be reported to a future Scrutiny Committee and the Medium Term Finance Strategy would be amended accordingly as a result of the outcome of the negotiations.

Resolved

That, the Cabinets proposals for the Medium Term Financial Strategy to 2018/19, taking into account the considerations set out in paragraph 47 of the report submitted, be noted.

A report of the Strategic Director People was submitted to provide an executive summary of the Annual report of the Dudley Safeguarding Adult Board for 2014/15.

The Independent Safeguarding Chair presented the report and in doing so provided Members with an overview of the responsibilities and functions of the Dudley Safeguarding Adults Board and outlined the breakdown of safeguarding incidents that had been reported during the period from 1st April, 2014 to 31st March, 2015.

The Independent Safeguarding Chair considered the Safeguarding Board to work well, with a strong partnership ethos, providing support to all partners. It was stated that although the Board had a good relationship with all of its partners it would not however be afraid to challenge a partner if it was considered that they were not performing to the required standard. It was also considered that Dudley Safeguarding Adult Board worked well with other associates such as Safe and Sound, the Children's Corporate Parenting Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board to discourage silo working and duplication.

It was stated that following the reporting period of the Annual Report, two Safeguarding incidents had been reported and was currently under investigation as a result of the deaths of two individuals. The conclusion of the investigations would be reported back to a future meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

Arising from the presentation, Members asked questions, made comments, and responses were provide when appropriate, as follows:-

- That an increase in the number of incidents reported did not necessarily suggest that there was an increase in abuse occurring, but identified that there was more awareness of the reporting process and victims appeared to have more confidence in reporting an incident. Training had been provided to Social Care staff and group providers on how to deal with reported incidents.
- From the data collected, the Safeguarding Board could ascertain where abuse was taking place, the nature of the abuse and any trends or patterns that were occurring to try to find the reasoning behind the abuse and how this could be rectified. It was emphasised that each referral would be responded to.
- All staff were required to attend and partake in the mandatory basic level of Safeguarding training and any specific training, relevant to a particular job role would also be provided.
- The number of staff and Members that had attended Safeguarding Training within the last 12 months would be provided to Scrutiny Committee Members following the meeting.
- A hospital discharge process was in operation in collaboration with Russells Hall Hospital to ensure that patients were not discharged prematurely to reduce the risk of re-admission. Further work would be undertaken to analyse the discharge process from a safeguarding perspective.
- That data identifying hospital discharge issues and re-admission due to being discharged prematurely was not currently available, but work, on a national level, was currently being done to collate this information and once concluded, a summary of the findings would be submitted to both the People Services Scrutiny Committee and the Health Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

Resolved

- (i) That, the Dudley Safeguarding Adult Board Annual Report 2014/2015 and the comments made at the meeting be noted and that the information be placed on the Safeguard website and distributed to partner agencies.
 - (ii) That, the Head of Adult Safeguarding provide the number of staff and Members that had attended Safeguarding Training within the last 12 months to Scrutiny Committee Members.
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31

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)

A report of the Strategic Director People was submitted on changes to adult safeguarding since the implementation of the Supreme Court Judgement in 2014 and the Care Act 2015 and to consider the impact on adult safeguarding in Dudley.

In presenting the report, the Head of Adult Safeguarding defined the definition of 'deprived of their Liberty' and provided Members with examples of when this may occur.

The Chief Officer Adult and Social Care referred to the Supreme Court judgement that had widened the definition and focus of liberty deprivation and the significant impact this had had on the number of deprivation of liberty referrals and the additional work that had been generated. A grant had been provided by the Department of Health to assist with the training of staff and five staff had been trained as best interest assessors during 2015 with a further three staff due to be trained in 2016. Every effort would be made to retain trained staff in Dudley.

Arising from a question raised by a Member with regards to the timeframe that referrals were dealt with, the Head of Adult Safeguarding stated that prior to the judgement, referrals were processed within 5 days except for instances of a very high level of referrals. It was stated that priority would always be given to those that had previously been subjected to deprivation and those in hospital so that the hospital discharge process would not be impacted upon.

The Head of Adult Safeguarding referred to the different types of abuse and confirmed that the highest was neglect and there had been a significant increase in the number of self neglect cases, which included people that had fallen between the gaps or people that did not want to engage. These cases were referred to the Adult at Risk Team but were resource intensive.

Arising from the presentation of the report Members asked questions, made comments and responses were given when appropriate as follows:-

- The age of a person classified as an adult was 18.

- When cases were received, these were initially assessed by the Access Team and each case was assessed on its own merit with no priority given to any specific type of abuse, however the safety of a patient was paramount while the investigation was underway and this would take priority. In cases where a patient chose not to move, alternative care provisions would be put into place while the incident was investigated. Support was provided by a selection of sources such as Housing and voluntary agencies and the victim would always be consulted and asked what their wishes were, which would be honoured wherever possible.
- Various services were available to help prevent self neglect and further work was being undertaken to promote these services.
- Care providers were accountable to the Care Quality Commission and the Safeguarding Board was accountable to the Local Authority.
- The Access Team would deal with a referral with immediate effect to decide what initial action was required to make that person safe. Each case would be considered on a case by case basis and there was no blanket as to what safeguarding issue would be given priority. In the instance of financial abuse, these cases could sometimes be difficult to prove, but every case would be investigated.
- Further work would be undertaken during 2016 to promote safeguarding within the Black, Minority and Ethnic Communities in the Borough.

Resolved

That, the information contained in the report and the increased complexities and demands placed on Adult Safeguard in 2015 and the consequent risks this brings to manage adult safeguarding concerns, be noted.

Dudley New Model of Care (Vanguard) Programme Update

A report of the Strategic Director People was submitted to provide Scrutiny Committee Members with an update on the Dudley New Model of Care (Vanguard) programme.

The Chief Officer Adult and Social Care outlined the purpose and aims of the new model and stated that representatives from the Clinical Commissioning Group, Dudley Healthwatch, local GP's and Social Care were currently attending all ten Community Forums to obtain the public's view on the plans and future shaping of integrated care.

It was also stated that a powerpoint presentation, incorporating more detailed information would be submitted to a future meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

Resolved

That the information contained in the report and the good progress made, be noted.

33 **Comment made by the Chair**

The Chair and Members of the Scrutiny Committee expressed their best wishes to Roger Clayton for a long and happy retirement and thanked him for the exceptional work that he had done with regards to Safeguarding.

The meeting ended at 7.25 pm.

CHAIR

People Services Scrutiny Committee – 10th March 2016

Report of the Strategic Director People

Dudley School Improvement Alliance Delivery Plan

Purpose of Report

1. To report on the School Improvement Alliance Delivery Plan

Background

2. The establishment of the School Improvement Alliance across Dudley is a reflection of the emerging system led, profession driven landscape of school improvement. The School Improvement Alliance has a clear focus upon improving educational outcomes and upon ensuring that children's potential is maximised and achieved. This includes children in all schools - maintained schools, trusts and academies.

Every school in Dudley will benefit from being an active member of the School Improvement Alliance. The landscape of school improvement is changing. School to school support and collaborative approaches are now actively encouraged by the Department for Education and Ofsted and will become an increasingly important component of school improvement in Dudley. The School Improvement Alliance is made up of Head teachers representing all phases (Primary, Secondary and Special) and Local authority officers from across Dudley.

3. The School Improvement Alliance forms a key part of the Local Authority's School Improvement Strategy. This sets out a clear vision for how we will improve educational outcomes for all schools – of all types – across Dudley. The Strategy includes an analysis of performance and educational outcomes and will be presented to overview and scrutiny. This Strategy embraces all schools across the Borough. It will be punchy and dynamic.
4. The School Improvement Alliance has a clear remit:
 - To agree the vision of the School Improvement Alliance and its implementation via the evaluation of school improvement strategies in the Borough;

- To develop and regulate an effective systematic approach to addressing under performance in schools or the system;
- To promote the sharing of excellence in learning across the Borough; and,
- To develop and sustain effective leadership, including governance, across the Borough.

It has identified through data analysis three key priorities:

1. Leadership and management - including Governance
2. Pupil Premium and closing the gap
3. Mathematics

5. Having identified key priorities through data analysis the School Improvement Alliance has begun to establish targets and milestones for these priorities and how they might best be delivered in the form of a delivery plan. This delivery plan will be an important component of our School Improvement Strategy. Many collaborations between schools exist already across Dudley and more are under development. That growth will be nurtured and developed further through the work of the School Improvement Alliance.

In drafting this delivery plan the School Improvement Alliance has wanted:

- to consider how the School Improvement Alliance can best engage school leaders and LA colleagues to take advantage of new opportunities for collaborative and partnership working to support one another effectively.
- to explore existing and potential models and ways of working (appropriate to the context of Dudley) which ensure that every school is able to work collaboratively to get the support it needs – and/or to support others.
- to build on what already works effectively within the Borough, and to develop an approach to school improvement which is shaped by school and LA leaders working collaboratively for the common good.

Progress with this delivery plan and the plan's impact measures will be carefully monitored the School Improvement Alliance.

6. Working parties for each priority area made up of members of the School Improvement Alliance have begun work on drafting the detail of this delivery plan.

The Delivery Plan has four components:

1. Leadership and management - including Governance;
2. Pupil Premium and closing the gap;
3. Mathematics;
4. Administration and communication around the Delivery Plan.

7. The objectives of the Leadership and Management – including Governance Delivery Plan are:

1. To improve the quality of leadership and management of schools in order that the proportion of Ofsted judgements improves consistently across all phases; and
2. To improve the quality of governance in order that all governing bodies are judged good or better.

8. The objectives of the Closing the Gap – Pupil Premium Delivery Plan are to close the gap in attainment of disadvantaged pupils and their peers across Dudley via:

1. Ensuring all schools comply with regulations in respect of reporting Pupil Premium;
2. Identify existing good practice within the Borough that can be shared with colleagues Borough-wide;
3. Bringing colleagues (school staff, governors and Local Authority Officers) up to date with respect to current national thinking regarding Pupil Premium and further develop the understanding of School governors in respect of their responsibilities; and,
4. Generating opportunities for school colleagues to share revised practice in the light of 3 above and to develop strategies for no-going conversations with regard to the use of Pupil Premium.

9. The objectives of the Mathematics Delivery Plan are:

1. To raise standards of achievement within the area of mathematics for all pupils;
2. To develop links with providers to enable access to the supply of good quality maths teachers;
3. To coordinate opportunities to improve the quality of maths teaching across the borough – including training, networking, succession planning and professional development.

10. The objectives of the Administration and Communication Plan are:

1. To identify and deliver mechanisms for the sharing of good practice across the borough within each of the three identified priorities;
2. To ensure the smooth delivery of the three identified priority plans; and,
3. To ensure all stakeholders feel appropriately engaged with the Delivery Plan;

11. The School Improvement Alliance Delivery Plan clearly links to and will be a key driver of our Values and Behaviour Framework. The School Improvement Alliance will nurture and strengthen:

- Accountability – to be transparent and open about what we are doing;
- Determination - to get it right for our young people and their families;
- Empowerment and Respect – to listen to and empower colleagues across all our schools;
- Excellence – to strive for excellent educational outcomes in all we do;
- Simplicity – to communicate clearly and directly; and,
- Working together – collaborating as one Borough and one learning community partnership.

Finance

12. Within the People Directorate, the Lead for Education Outcomes officer has responsibility for budgets which enable the Local Authority to fulfil the statutory obligations concerning Schools Causing Concern. The base budget available for 2016/17 is as follows:

- Schools Causing Concern £108,300
- School Development £204,900

13. The funding outlined above will be used to implement both the Dudley School Improvement Strategy which was outlined in a Cabinet Report issued at the 28th October 2015 Cabinet Meeting and will also support the School Improvement Alliance Delivery Plan proposed within the current report. It is not envisaged that additional funding will be required in excess of resources already identified.

Law

14. “Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 empowers the Council to do anything calculated to facilitate discharge of any of its functions”.

Equality Impact

15. The Council's Equal Opportunities Policy is taken into account when considering the allocation of resources.

Recommendations

16. It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee support work of the School Improvement Alliance through its Delivery Plan across Dudley.



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Tony Oakman
Strategic Director People

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People Services Scrutiny Committee – 10th March 2016

Report of the Strategic Director People

Schools Standards Report 2015 (Primary and Secondary)

Purpose of Report

1. For Cabinet to note the standards of attainment and progress across Dudley Primary and Secondary Schools in 2015.

Background

This report has been compiled following the publication of validated performance data for Primary and Secondary schools.

Summary

Gaps at Early Years continue to widen. Although the proportion of children in Dudley achieving a Good Level of Development has improved, Dudley is further behind the national equivalent.

Key Stage 1 (KS1) reveals a mixed picture. Standards at the end of KS1 continue to improve overall. However, in 2015, national levels improved at a higher rate, leaving Dudley largely in line or slightly below national levels except at Level 3 (L3).

Key Stage 2 (KS2) results present a positive picture as to improvement over time. The proportion of pupils attaining Level 4 (L4) or above in reading, writing and mathematics combined and in core subjects, except science, improved. KS 2 attainment in Dudley in 2015 was similar to that nationally and exceeded that regionally.

At Key Stage 4 (KS4), after closing the 5A*-C gap in 2013, the gap between Dudley schools and their national and statistical neighbours has now widened for two successive years. Dudley results have declined at a faster rate than both national and statistical neighbours. Progress in Mathematics from the end of the Primary phase to the end of Secondary phase is particularly poor.

2. **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)**

- Although Good Learning Development (GLD) has improved, Dudley is further behind the national equivalence.
- The gap between boys and girls is widening.
- The gap between Looked After Children (LAC) and All Children has widened considerably
- The gap between English as an Additional Language (EAL) pupils and Non EAL pupils has remained the same
- The gap between Pupil Premium and Non Pupil Premium children has only narrowed slightly.
- The “equality gap” has widened.

3. **Good Level of Development (GLD)**

Although the proportion of children in Dudley achieving a good level of development (reaching expected level or exceeding it in 12 out of 17 Early Learning Goals (ELGs)) has improved by 3.4% from 57.2% in 2014 to 60.6% in 2015, Dudley is now further behind the national figure which has risen by 5.9% from 2014 to 66.3% in 2015.

4. Boys GLD has slightly improved from 50 to 51. This is 7.6ppts behind the national equivalent. Girls have improved by 6ppts from 65 to 71. This is 3.3ppts behind the national figure. The gap nationally between girls (74.3ppts) and boys (58.6ppts) is 15.6ppts. The same gap is 20ppts in Dudley and represents a 5ppts rise from 2014.
5. Outcomes for Looked After Children (LAC) have fallen in relation to GLD from 38ppts in 2014 to 28ppts in 2015. This means that the gap between LAC and All Children has widened considerably from 19.2ppts to 32.6ppts.
6. Although both EAL children (51ppts) and Non-EAL children (62ppts) have improved by +3ppts, the gap remains as it was in 2014 at 11ppts.
7. Outcomes for Pupil Premium children have improved. In 2014 the gap between Pupil Premium (PP) children (40%) and Non PP (62%) children was 22ppts. Although EYFS outcomes in relation to GLD have improved for both groups the gap has only slightly narrowed to 20ppts.
8. Dudley (57%) is above its geographical neighbours (Walsall 53%, Sandwell 54%, Wolverhampton 56%). However, in comparison with all West Midlands authorities, it is ranked 9th out of 14 and 7th out of 11 in relation to statistical neighbours nationally. Dudley is below the average for the West Midlands group (58%). Shropshire leads this table (64%).

9. **Total EYFS Point Score**

Although, the Average Total EYFS Point Score in Dudley has improved by 0.4pts from 33.4pts in 2014 to 33.8pts in 2015, the gap between Dudley and the national figure (34.3pts) has widened from 0.4pts to 0.5pts.

10. Overall there have been improvements in 10 of the 17 ELGs with the largest increases in Writing (+1.5ppts), Numbers (1.3ppts) and Speaking (1.1ppts).
11. The equality gap measure refers to the difference in outcomes (EYFS points) between the lowest achieving 20% and all children. This gap has widened from 37.5pts in 2014 to 38.2pts in 2015. This is considerably wider than the National figure of 32.1% which has fallen by 1.7ppts since 2014.
12. Dudley (37.5pts) is above its geographical neighbours (Walsall 40.6pts, Sandwell 41.5pts, Wolverhampton 39.3pts). This is above the average for this group (37.1pts). However, in comparison with all West Midlands authorities it is ranked 7th out of 14 and 7th out of 11 in relation to statistical neighbours nationally.

13. **Key Stage 1**

The 2015 Key Stage 1 data for Dudley reveals a mixed picture. Dudley standards at the end of KS1 continue to improve overall. However, in 2015 national levels improved at a higher rate leaving Dudley largely in line or slightly below national levels except at L3.

- There have been encouraging continued improvements in phonics;
- Dudley is broadly in line or slightly below national levels at L2 and L2b+;
- Dudley has largely maintained similar levels of performance to 2014 despite the sharp drop in boys' performance at L2b+ in writing;
- Dudley is broadly in line or above its geographical neighbours at L2+;
- Dudley slightly exceeds national levels at L3;
- Girls continue to outperform boys – and in maths for the first time;
- Continuing wide gap between boys' and girls' performance in reading and writing; and
- There is still a wider gap than nationally between pupils eligible for free school meals and others, particularly for boys.

14. **Phonics**

There are encouraging continued improvements in the proportion of pupils that met the required standard in the phonics screening check. As a result, Dudley (78%) exceeded the national levels (77%*). Although boys continued to improve, girls are improving at a better rate and the gap has widened from 4ppts to 9ppts.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	Difference
National	58	69	74	77*	+3
Dudley	61.6	67.1	68	78	+10
Boys	57.5	65.3	66	73	+7
Girls	65.8	69.1	70	82	+12

**At present this is an indicative figure of a probable national outcome*

15. Attainment at Key Stage 1

Standards in Dudley at the end of Key Stage 1 improved overall. However, in 2015, national levels improved at a higher rate leaving Dudley largely in line or slightly below national levels, except at L3 where Dudley still exceeds national equivalence in Writing and Maths and is equivalent to national in Reading.

16. Reading

Although there has been a slight fall (-0.4ppts) at L2b+ overall Dudley (79%) is now 3ppts below national, representing potentially a declining trend. There has been a drop in the performance of boys from 76.5% to 74.2%. This means that, despite the improvement in girls' performance from 82.3% to 84.8%, there is a drop in performance overall. Performance at L3+ is still in line with national figures (32%).

The gap at L2+ between Pupil Premium and Non Pupil Premium has closed slightly to 10.1% from 12.4% in 2014.

Dudley (89%) is in line or above its geographical neighbours at L2+ in Reading (Walsall 89%, Sandwell 88%, Wolverhampton 87%).

17. Writing

Despite a sharp drop in the performance of boys from 76.5% to 63.6% at L2b+, the improved performance of girls, from 75.7% to 78.8%, has led to an overall increase of 1.4ppts. However the gap between Dudley (70.8%) and national (72%) is slowly widening. Although Dudley (19.5%) exceeds national figures (18%) at L3+, the gap here is slowly narrowing. Girls (26.1%) continue to outperform boys (13.5%) at L3+ in writing.

The gap at L2+ between Pupil Premium (PP) and Non Pupil Premium has closed slightly to 12.6% from 14.5% in 2014.

Dudley (86%) is above its geographical neighbours at L2+ in Writing (Walsall 84%, Sandwell 82%, Wolverhampton 82%).

18. Maths

Dudley (81%) has improved slightly at L2b+ but is still slightly behind national (82%). Girls (27.4%) are outperforming boys (26.5%) for the first time at L3+ where Dudley overall (26.9%) is above national (26%).

The gap at L2+ between Pupil Premium (PP) and Non Pupil Premium has closed slightly to 7.6% from 9.1% in 2014. This gap is lower than both those in reading and in writing.

Dudley (91%) is in line or above its geographical neighbours at L2+ in Maths (Walsall 91%, Sandwell 90%, Wolverhampton 89%).

19. Key Stage 2

Headlines

- The KS2 tests and teacher assessments present a positive picture as to improvement over time.
- The proportion of pupils attaining Level 4 or above in reading, writing and mathematics combined and in core subjects, except science, improved.
- Key Stage 2 attainment in Dudley in 2015 was similar to that nationally and exceeded that regionally.
- In writing, the proportion of Dudley pupils making expected progress was higher than that nationally and regionally.
- However, the proportion making expected progress in reading was not as high as in England.
- Improvements in attainment and in some aspects of progress mean that Dudley has improved its position relative to national and regional performance.
- Girls outperform boys in all areas and all levels apart from mathematics.

20. Attainment

Attainment at L4+ in Reading, Writing (was English in 2012) and Mathematics combined is 80%.

Dudley is in line with the national figure (80%). This represents improvement as Dudley has been consistently 1 or 2ppts below national for 4 years and has now been at national for two years.

21. Reading

Attainment has increased by 1ppt at L4+ but decreased by 1ppts at L5. However, at L4+, Dudley has improved by 1ppt to 89%, representing our best performance so far and this is in line with the national figure (89%). At L5+ Dudley has decreased

attainment by 1ppt and is 3ppts below the national at 48%. Data at L6 is currently unavailable.

Boys at L4+ improved attainment by 2ppts and are now 1ppt below the national figure at 86%. Boys at L5+ decreased performance by 1ppt and are now 3ppts below the national figure at 46%.

Girls at L4+ maintained attainment levels and are now at the national level of 90%. Girls at L5+ decreased performance by 1ppt and are now 3ppts below the national at 52%. The gap between girls and boys at L4+ has reduced due to the improvement in boys' attainment and girls maintaining similar levels. At L5+ the gap remains at 6ppts.

22. Writing

Attainment in Writing has improved. At L4+ Dudley has improved attainment in writing by 2ppts but the national figure has also improved and we are again in line with the national at 87%.

At L5+ Dudley has continued to improve performance and at 38% is now 2ppt above the national of 36%.

At L6 Dudley was 3.0% in 2014 and 2.1% in 2013 compared with the national at 2.0%.

Boys at L4+ improved performance by 3ppts and are now 1ppt below the national at 81%. Boys at L5+ improved performance by 2ppts and are now 2ppts above the national at 26%.

Girls at L4+ improved by 2ppts, remains above boys and now 1ppt below the national at 90%. Girls at L5+ improved by 2ppts and are now 2ppts above national at 41%.

The gap in performance remains wide but at L4+ it has reduced from 14ppts to 8ppts. It remains at 15ppts at L5+ with girls performing better than boys – although boys have been making consistent improvement.

23. Mathematics

Attainment in Mathematics has continued to improve at L4+ and at L5+.

At L4+ Dudley has improved performance by 2ppts to 87% and is again level with the national.

At L5+ Dudley has improved performance by 1ppt to 39% but is 2ppts below the national at 41%.

At L6 Dudley was 7.0% in 2014 and 5.0% in 2013 compared with national at 9.0%.

Whilst the attainment gender gap had started to close, data analysis suggests that this gap is beginning to widen again. In 2010 boys outperformed girls at level 5 by 3%. In 2015, that gap is now 9.2%.

Boys at L4+ improved performance by 3ppts, equalling the national at 85%. Boys at L5+ improved performance by 2ppts which is 3ppts below the national figure at 44%.

Girls at L4+ maintained performance, equalling the national at 86%. Performance at L5+ decreased by 2ppts and is now 3ppts below the national at 39%.

24. Progress

Progress in Reading at 90% is 1ppt higher than in 2014 but is 1ppt below national picture of 91%. Progress in Writing at 95% shows continued improvement of 1ppt and is 1ppts above the national picture of 93%. 2 Levels progress in Mathematics in 2015 is 90% 2ppt above 2014 and remains 1ppt below the national mathematics progress of 89%.

25. Analysis of the attainment and progress of children who receive pupil premium funding suggests that the effectiveness of this funding is too varied across schools. Whilst the children who receive pupil premium funding at some schools out perform their non pupil premium peers at both Level 4+ and Level 5+, and in some cases by almost 30% at Level 5, this is not the case across Dudley as a whole.

26. There is too much variance in the outcomes of children who receive pupil premium funding and this needs addressing. In general, the gap is closing in terms of the equivalence of pupil premium and non pupil premium children at Level 4 + but widening in terms of Level 5 equivalence.

27. The gap has reduced significantly over the last three years but remains wide at the higher levels. Although the majority of pupil premium children make 2 levels progress (Reading 86.9%, Writing 92.4%, Mathematics 86.6%), as they have not attained L3 at the end of KS1 they face significant challenge to get to L5 at the end of KS2.

28. Progress for pupil premium pupils is lower than non pupil premium pupils, but has improved for both groups at a much higher rate in reading (+3.1) writing (+3.2) maths (+3.1).

This is a priority for improving outcomes across Dudley.

29. Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling

The Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS) measure is still a relatively new test so there are only 3 years of data to compare. Dudley overall (L4+ 79%, L5+ 53%), and both boys (L4+ 76%, L5+ 49%) and girls (L4+ 83%, L5+ 57%), have improved on 2014. However, Dudley is performing slightly below the national level (L4+ 80%, L5+ 55%).

30. The 4 Department for Education (DfE) Floor Targets

The DfE use two sets of floor standards – one for Attainment and the other for Progress. Attainment:

Level 4+ in all of Reading, Writing and Mathematics results combined 2015 - 65%

- 4 schools in Dudley fall below combined Reading, Writing and Mathematics (65%)

Progress:

Progress as measured by two levels of progress and using the 2014 median for Reading, Writing and Mathematics

Reading National Median 93% (2014)

Writing National Median 96% (2014)

Mathematics National Median 92% (2014)

- 39 (was 43) schools below 2014 Reading national progress median of 93% (Dudley average 90%)
- 25 (was 36) schools below 2014 Writing national progress median of 96% (Dudley average 95%)
- 38 (was 42) schools below 2014 Mathematics national progress median of 92% (Dudley average 90%)
- 14 (was 16) schools are below in all 3 progress standards using 2014 medians

31. This means that Dudley is now equal 5th in Reading, equal 3rd in Writing and equal 7th in Mathematics out of 11 statistical neighbours. Dudley is joint 5th in Reading, writing and Mathematics combined.

32. Out of a group of four geographical neighbours, Dudley is 4th in Mathematics and third in Reading, Writing and combined Reading, writing and Mathematics.

33. All four floor standards

- Two schools fell below all 4 standards in 2015 (both are in Special Measures)

34. Coasting Schools

DEFINITION: For 2014 and 2015 a school will fall below the coasting school threshold if fewer than 85% of its pupils achieve level 4 or above in reading, writing and mathematics and below the median percentage of pupils make expected progress.

PLEASE NOTE: Progress medians for 2015 are not yet available so 2014 progress medians have been used for this indicative analysis. Additionally, DfE is expected to release progress medians higher than those used in the floor standard for the measurement of coasting schools and therefore more schools could fall below the coasting school threshold. Schools must fall below the coasting school threshold in each of the years 2014, 2015 and 2016 to officially become a coasting school and therefore this analysis only shows potentially coasting schools.

- Four schools could be defined as coasting.
- Two schools could be described as coasting for two years – 2014 and 2015.

35. Primary Exclusions Data

The number of permanent exclusions at Primary remains at one for July 2014 and at one for September 2015.

Fixed term exclusions have increased from 16 to 27 in the same period. This is a rise in the number of pupils from 15 to 21.

There have been no permanent or fixed term exclusions reported in Primary Academies for the period July 2014 and September 2015.

36. Primary Schools Current OfSTED Categorisation

- No school has been recently placed in an Ofsted category. Three remain in Special Measures (Grade 4). This (3.8%) is higher than the national average (1.9%).
- Eight schools were judged to be Satisfactory, or Requires Improvement (Grade 3), at the time of their last inspection (dated 2013 to 2015). This (10.3%) is significantly lower than the national average (17.5%).
- 62 schools and 5 Primary Academies were judged to be 'Good' or 'Outstanding' (Grades 2 or 1) at the time of their last inspection (dated 2011 to 2015).

37. Although overall the proportion of Good or better schools in Dudley (85.9%) is higher than the national average (80.6%) this masks an important imbalance across Dudley. The proportion of Good schools in Dudley (78.2%) is higher than the national average (71.2%). The proportion of Outstanding schools in Dudley (7.7%) is lower than the national average (9.4%).

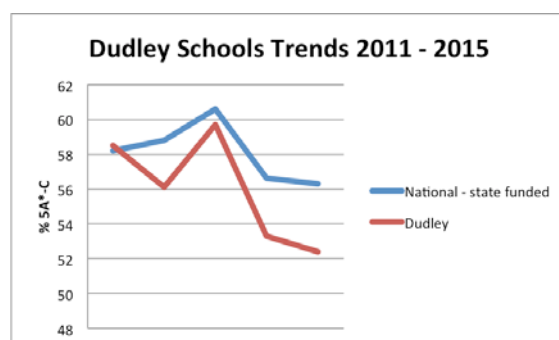
38. Key Stage 4

GCSE (KS4) Headline figures for 2015 were as follows:

5 A*-C (including English and maths)	52.4%
5 A*-C	61.2%
5A*-G	92%
All Ebacc (English Baccalaureate)	17.3%
Expected Progress – English	67.4%
Expected Progress – maths	61.7%

39. Key Stage 4 – Key Themes 5A*- C (EM)

- After closing the 5A*-C gap in 2013, the gap between Dudley schools and their national and statistical neighbours has now widened for two successive years



- Dudley results have declined at a faster rate than both national and statistical neighbours (defined as local authorities having a similar profile to that of Dudley)
- In five of the six main measures – 5 A*-C, 5 A*-C(EM), Ebacc, and progress in Eng and Maths from KS2 to KS4 - Dudley is towards the bottom of the league in comparison with the 11 statistical neighbours
- Only in the 5 A-G measure is the average for Dudley schools better than both the national average and that of its statistical neighbours
- Progress in mathematics from the end of the Primary phase to the end of Secondary phase is particularly poor.

40. There is a very mixed picture across the authority with significant variation in the year on year performance of individual schools.

41. In summer 2015, nine schools maintained or improved on that achieved in 2014, while twelve schools declined. Six schools declined by 9ppts or more (these schools were identified for an immediate challenging standards conversation with school improvement adviser). Three schools are identified as having results below the current 'floor' standard of 40% 5 A*- C. The results of two other schools have been in decline for the past three years, with year on year reductions in the headline 5 A*- C (EM) outcome.

42. Provisional Progress 8 Measure

In 2016, the floor standard for secondary schools changes to one based on progress rather than attainment. The average school will be judged to a progress measure of '0' and all other schools will be judged in comparison with this average. Schools are in the process of changing their curriculum to fall in line with this change. However the 'progress value added measure' for schools has been based on the concept of the best 8 including English and Maths for some time. As a consequence the changes should not be too great for the majority of schools.

43. Accepting the national 'average' of 0 for schools and on the basis of 2015 results:

- Dudley 'average' - 0.16
- 15 schools results fall below the average
- 5 are either exactly 'average' or above average
- Dudley range $-0.94 < \text{average} < 0.28$
- 1 school fails to meet the new floor standard of -0.5 for progress to be introduced in 2016

44. 'Coasting Schools'

In 2016, an additional measure will be introduced, that of identification of 'coasting schools'. For 2014 and 2015, the draft regulations propose that a school will fall within the coasting criteria if fewer than 60% of a school's pupils achieve 5 A*-C including

English and maths and the school has a below median score for the percentage of pupils making expected progress in English and mathematics.

45. Once 2016 results are available, DFE will announce the level above the floor standard which will be the coasting level in that year. A school will be defined as coasting, and become eligible for intervention, if it falls below the standard in 2016, and has already failed to meet the coasting standards specified above in 2014 and 2015
46. The initial analysis of results for 2015 indicates 4 schools at High Risk of being identified as 'coasting', 3 schools have a Medium Risk of being identified as coasting and 1 has a Low Risk.

47. Key Stage 5

Only four of Dudley's secondary schools have 6th Form provision. This analysis relates only to the performance of students in those four schools.

48. The percentage of students achieving at least 3 A levels at grades A*-E has increased in two schools and reduced significantly in two others.
49. The overall percentage for students in these schools combined will produce an average approximately in line with the national average (we await national comparators at present).
50. The percentage of students achieving at least 1 A level at grades A*-E is in line with the national average and is comparable for all 4 schools.
51. The average point score per student (the measure of the average grade per student at A level) in the schools is markedly below the national average in at least 3 of the 4 schools (we await confirmation of this measure from the 4th school).

52. Key Stage 4 Exclusion Data

Exclusion data for the three years 2012 – 2015 reveals a very rapid rise in the numbers of permanent exclusions from Dudley secondary schools.

Total number of permanent exclusions by year group			
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Year 7	3	4	8
Year 8	10	12	12
Year 9	21	28	29
Year 10	11	24	28
Year 11	6	7	12
	51	75	89

53. The raw numbers of exclusions, at 74 for the year 2013-14, is higher than all other local authorities excepting Birmingham and Staffordshire. Both are much larger authorities.
54. As a proportion of the school population, the rate of permanent exclusion is more than twice as high as most of our closest geographical neighbours.
55. The rate of permanent exclusions for the year 2014-15 is even higher and represents a 75% increase over the three year period
56. These figure hide an enormous variation between schools. One school has only permanently excluded 1 student, and another only two, during the last three years
57. Six schools have permanently excluded 15 or more during that same period, with three schools excluding 21 or more.
58. The majority of exclusions in the secondary phase are for Persistent Disruptive Behaviour – 46%
59. Secondary Schools Current OfSTED Categorisation
No school has been recently placed in an Ofsted category. Only one school remains in Special Measures (Grade 4) and is due for re-inspection.
60. Seven schools were judged to be Satisfactory, or Requires Improvement (Grade 3), at the time of their last inspection (dated 2013 to 2015).
61. Twelve schools were judged to be 'Good' or 'Outstanding' (Grades 2 or 1) at the time of their last inspection (dated 2011 to 2015).
62. Leadership and management in 13 schools was judged to be 'good' or 'outstanding'.
63. **The Proportion of Pupils in Good or better schools** (Primary and Secondary) across Dudley.
The Proportion of pupils in Good and Outstanding Schools (Primary and Secondary) across Dudley (77.6%) is lower than the national average (81.4%).
64. Performance is better at Primary than Secondary.
65. In Dudley, 87.0% of pupils attend primary schools that are good or outstanding compared to 84.1% across England.
66. The high proportion of good school places in Primary masks the lower proportion in outstanding schools.

67. At Secondary, performance is weaker than national generally as it is specifically in relation to the proportion of places in good schools and in outstanding schools compared to the national figures.

- Dudley % of pupils in good Secondary schools = 43.1%
- England % of pupils in good Secondary schools = 52.4%
- Dudley % of students in Secondary schools outstanding = 19.5%
- England % of students in Secondary schools outstanding = 25.3%

68. This means that although overall the proportion of pupils in good schools in Dudley (63.9%) is higher than the proportion of pupils in good schools in England (60.2%), the proportion of pupils in Dudley in outstanding schools (13.6%) is well below the national figure (21.2%).

69. Conclusion

Strategies for improvement in relation to Ofsted judgements have proven to be successful at Primary. Moving schools from RI to good has been a clear focus of the LA school improvement strategy at Primary. The focus is now increasingly on moving good schools to outstanding at Primary with initiatives such as the Even Better If (EBI) Strategy and a HMI led Peer Support programme which will be developed further, rolled out to more Primary schools and encompass Secondary schools where possible. Support for all schools in moving from good and to outstanding will be a key priority of the revised Dudley School Improvement Strategy. The Strategy will focus primarily on the Local Authority's statutory responsibilities, with a particular focus on support and challenge for schools in or at risk of being in an Ofsted category of concern. The analysis of performance data remains central to the work of the LA in identifying those schools of most concern and the impact of support, challenge and intervention.

Data analysis is also important in identifying trends both of improvement and of concern across schools. As a result of some of this analysis there will be an increased whole system focus on leadership (including governance), on closing attainment and progress gaps and on mathematics as part of the work of the newly formed School Improvement Alliance.

Finance

74. There are no direct financial consequences as a result of this report which relates to standards of attainment and progress across Dudley Primary and Secondary Schools in 2015.

Law

75. "Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 empowers the Council to do anything calculated to facilitate discharge of any of its functions".

Equality Impact

76. The Council's Equal Opportunities Policy is taken into account when considering the allocation of resources.

Recommendations

77. That the content of the report be noted.



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People Services Scrutiny Committee – 10th March, 2016

Report of the Interim Chief Officer Children's Services

Update on the Development of the Dudley Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the People Services Scrutiny Committee members with an update on the development of the Dudley Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

Background

2. In May 2015, professionals from across the safeguarding community in Dudley met and agreed to work together towards the development of a local MASH.
3. The aim of the MASH is to bring key professionals together to enable early, consistent and better quality information sharing, analysis and decision-making, to safeguard vulnerable children and young people. Information from different agencies will be collated within the MASH and used to decide what action to take, as a result, the agencies will be able to act quickly in a consistent and co-ordinated way, ensuring that vulnerable children and young people are kept safe and provided with the right level of support in a timely way.
4. The MASH Operations Group and Strategic Board have been meeting since 30th August 2015 and are leading on operationally and strategically co-ordinating the development and implementation of the MASH.

Update on Progress

5. In order to develop an effective and sustainable MASH, a number of key elements need to be in place. These include secure accommodation; robust information sharing protocols; a bespoke MASH ICT information management system; an effective communication and engagement strategy; a workforce development/training plan; and a set of revised policies and processes to inform how the MASH will operate. Local Authority officers from across Directorates have been actively involved in leading the work streams and the following information provides an update:
6. **Communications:** a communications plan has been produced in conjunction with communication leads from partner agencies. Whilst there is not a huge amount of information to share at this point in time, the focus has been on raising awareness that the MASH is a key development in Dudley's approach to safeguarding children. The MASH Board agreed to focus on publicising the development of the Single Point of Access which went live on 7th December. A set of Frequently Asked Questions has been developed and a page on the Council's Intranet has been set up.

7. **Accommodation:** the Single Point of Access and the MASH will be located within the same room in Corbyn Road. Therefore, work to date has focused on ensuring that the accommodation has been ready for the development of the Single Point of Access which went live on 7th December 2015. Discussions are now underway with corporate colleagues to ensure that plans are in place to ensure the space is ready for the MASH by April 2016. This will include moving a number of teams around the building and therefore logistically will require a great deal of planning. The CCG Safeguarding Team are also moving into Corbyn Road.
8. **Information Governance:** The IG work stream has good representation from all agencies. A joint ICT/IG workshop has taken place which considered the proposed MASH ICT System. The proposed system is an extension to the existing Children's Social Care System and therefore benefits from being an integrated package. Partner agencies were confident that the system would satisfy their ICT and IG requirements. A MASH Privacy Impact Assessment, Information Sharing Agreement and System Level Security Policy are being developed.
9. **ICT:** As outlined above, the Northgate MASH solution will be pursued to support the Dudley MASH. This is the most cost effective solution and integrates directly with the Children's Social Care System. Discussions have taken place with the London Borough of Havering who is using the Northgate system and whilst they are currently working with Northgate to update the way it operates, they are generally happy with the way it supports the work of their MASH. The majority of the work will take place in-house and it is anticipated that the system will be ready for go live in April.
10. **Agencies in the MASH:** The development of the Single Point of Access is the first stage of developing a successful MASH. The MASH will act as one of the exit routes from the Single Point of Access, where referrals have met or they are likely to meet the Social Care Threshold. Social Care and Early Help Staff in the Single Point of Access will also work as part of the MASH. In addition to this, there will be 2 Police Officers; 2 Housing Officers; a Probation Officer; and 2 representatives from Health. Representation from Education/schools is still to be determined. There is a risk that the timescales for recruitment and vetting of staff may mean that not all agencies will be in the MASH for April 2016.

Timescales

11. The target go live date for the MASH is April 2016. Following go live, Officers will work together to extend the MASH to vulnerable adults.

Finance

12. The funding of the MASH will need to be within existing Children's Services financial resources. The structure of the MASH may require existing budget to be re-aligned into a MASH service cost centre and this will be undertaken once the final operational details of the MASH are determined over the next few months.

Risks

13. There are a number of risks associated with the development and implementation of the MASH, these are regularly reviewed by the MASH Strategic Board. The main risks include:
- Agencies, in particular Health and Education, not agreeing to resource posts within the MASH.
 - Accommodation not being ready on time, due to the number of moves that are required to free up the space.
 - MASH ICT system not being built and ready in time for go live.
 - The timescales for the vetting process can take up to 12 weeks therefore this will impact on the go live date.

The MASH Operational Group meets fortnightly to ensure that action is in place to mitigate risks.

Law

14. Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 created a requirement for children's services to make suitable arrangements for co-operation between the relevant partners in order to improve the wellbeing of children in the authority's area. Statutory guidance for section 10 of the Act states good information sharing is key to successful collaborative working and arrangements under this section should ensure information is shared for strategic planning purposes and to support effective service delivery. To support this, a MASH Privacy Impact Assessment, Privacy Notice and Information Sharing Protocol have been produced.

Equality Impact

15. The MASH will ensure that there is a thorough and consistent approach to referral and assessment of safeguarding referrals, therefore it is not anticipated that the MASH will affect people differently or that the needs of certain groups will not be met.

Recommendations

16. Scrutiny are recommended to:
- Support the development and implementation of the MASH; and
 - Note progress to date and receive regular updates on implementation in order to ensure the safeguarding of children and young people in Dudley.



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List of Background Papers

People Services Scrutiny Committee - 10th March 2016

Report of the Interim Chief Officer Children's Services

Child Sexual Exploitation - Dudley

Purpose of Report

1. To update scrutiny committee of CSE developments in Dudley.

Background

National Context

2. The CSE agenda remains a huge priority for national government and one which all local authorities must act upon. It is set against a backdrop of reviews undertaken in Oxford, Birmingham and Rotherham where it was estimated 1400 children were sexually exploited between 1997 and 2013. This led to the publication of a Government report in March 2015.
3. A series of recommendations have been made to ensure that this very vulnerable group of children are safeguarded and protected and that agencies work collaboratively sharing information and intelligence to protect vulnerable children. From these recommendations all Local Authorities must produce a prevention strategy and bring offenders to justice through successful prosecutions. Assessments of young people must be timely, robust and identify need at the earliest possible point. Service provision needs to be coordinated and targeted to support children at the earliest opportunity when concerns are identified.
4. The Government report has made a series of recommendations with, in particular, a new whistle blowing national portal for reports related to child abuse which is intended to help bring CSE to light and spot patterns of failure across the country.

Regional Context

5. West Midlands Regional CSE strategic group chaired by Solihull's Chief Executive Nick Page has developed a regional CSE framework. This is currently under review after its first year of implementation. The final document was launched in July 15.
6. The framework has 5 components and is based on the Office of the Children's Commissioner's "If only Someone Listened" Inquiry report:
 - Accountability for all safeguarding and strategic co-ordination

- Multi- agency strategic planning
- Partnership and information sharing for identification and assessment
- Coordination of multi-agency strategic groups
- Intervention and service delivery

Local Context

7. Dudley council plan has an objective under stronger and safer communities which states that it will develop and roll out a programme and awareness of CSE and work towards zero tolerance within the Borough.
8. Dudley Children Services Divisional Chief Officer Service Plan has a section on protecting the vulnerable of which CSE is a main objective. This is in order to ensure that there is consistent delivery of services within the council and to monitor performance against the Council Plan.
9. One of the Dudley Safeguarding Childrens Board priorities is to keep children safe. This encompasses keeping safe both inside and outside of the home and online with a specific objective around CSE. The Vulnerable Childrens Strategic Sub Group of DSCB, has overall responsibility for the CSE strategy which was approved March 2015. The strategy defines the actions to be undertaken by all partner agencies which include Dudley Council, to ensure children are safe from CSE and that there is awareness of these concerns within the community and throughout the partnership.
10. In order to deliver against the strategy and to ensure effective coordination of CSE, Dudley Council along with partner agencies has developed a CSE team. This team went live on the 14th September 2015.

CSE Team

11. The CSE team comprises of a number of professionals from Health, Education, Police, Integrated Youth Support, Children's Social Care and Voluntary Sector organisations. The focus is on receiving and screening all CSE referrals, delivering specialist therapeutic services, mapping out information and intelligence with partner agencies, signposting to early intervention services, case manage low to medium risk cases, offer training and raising awareness sessions, collate data, track individuals at risk of CSE and quality assure through audit activity in line with the Children's Directorate Quality Assurance Framework.
12. The CSE team has a dedicated CSE coordinator post. This post is funded for a year and administered through DSCB. The post is resourced from Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 funds and Children Services. Whilst this is funded for 12 months initially, DSCB will be reviewing this for a longer term position in order to provide continuity and focus on CSE concerns/developments. The coordinator was appointed on 10th August 2015.

13. The team currently operates from Parsons Street, Integrated Youth Support. As the Directorate develops its single front door and MASH (multi agency safeguarding HUB) arrangements, the CSE team will be co-located with MASH in order to share information, intelligence and receive appropriate referrals. A timely response for those requiring action under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 will be progressed into Children Social Care without delay having this consistent practice embedded across the section with oversight from the CSE coordinator.

Missing Children

14. Currently missing children are managed through the Runaways project who undertake return to home interviews for the Council. It is acknowledged that further work is required to ensure those children that go missing are assessed against CSE risk indicators. It is therefore proposed that Missing children and CSE team are functioning under one umbrella with oversight given at the young person's sexual exploitation (YPSE) panel. A worker who has a specialist missing background is part of the CSE Team.
15. Dudley has led on a West Midlands Police (WMP) pilot project from October 2014 where absent children have been recorded as missing in the police database. This project commenced following an independent review of missing children in Dudley. It was then identified that we need to ensure a comprehensive wrap around service to all children whether they are categorised as missing or absent. The learning from this will be collated by WMP and presented to the Regional CSE strategic group and DSCB to understand the impact of this pilot project and whether children have been afforded an improved response by the local authority in management of these risks.

CSE Framework and Procedures

16. Dudley has updated the strategy based on the revised CSE framework and related procedures. This was being signed off at DSCB in September 2015. The strategy will be presented to the Children and Young People Alliance, Health and Wellbeing Board and Police and Crime Commission. Dudley have incorporated the framework through the CSE team and streamlined the referral and response pathway.

DSCB Vulnerable Strategic Sub Group

17. The Vulnerable Children's Strategic Group and Young People's Sexual Exploitation panel are tasked to focus on the regional framework delivery plan which in broad context concentrates on Prevent, Protect and Prosecute.
18. YPSE panel currently offers partner agencies advice and support services to children where concerns identified through the National Working Group screening tool are assessed as high

risk of which they track/monitor the progress made with individual child. The data and intelligence of high risk victims is collated.

19. This information is shared at Vulnerable Children's Strategic Group and assists in intervention through WMP. It is recognised that the panel will need to be reviewed in light of the newly established CSE team.

Data and CSE Profile.

20. The data shared at the Regional strategic group for Quarter 3 period 1st September 2015 to 31st December 2015 was as follows:

- 64 children known to be at risk of CSE, this includes medium to high risk.
- Of which 12 children are classed as 'serious' risk
- Of which 13 children were LAC and placed out of Borough.
- Of which 7 children were LAC in borough

21. For children known to be missing/absent from home/care in the same quarter 3 period:

- 87 individuals reported as missing which equated to 174 episodes.
- Of which 62 individuals went missing from their home address with a total of 86 episodes
- And 32 individuals went missing from care with a total of 86 episodes
- The numbers above do not equate to the 87 individuals as there are multiple runaways that are recorded as going missing from both home and care. There are also runaways recorded where we don't hold the data as to where they've runaway from.

22. The Council plan and Directorate Chief Officer Plan has distinct objectives and targets on measuring the above activity and data. This will be linked to the Bedfordshire toolkit for data collection which is the regionally approved method. In the planning of the CSE team, IT are building a system to collate this data so there is one point of data collation. Currently, the CSE Team hold information on the secure Council filestore system. A spreadsheet is being collated by Youth Offending Service (YOS) administrators for the purposes of reporting data and analysis.

23. The dataset requires improvement to capture and coordinate all children at risk of CSE. A task and finish group is prioritising this activity to ensure we understand the scale of low, medium and high risk CSE cases.

Prosecutions

24. In the same Quarter 3 period Sept – Dec 15 there has been a successful prosecution. An offender was sentenced to eight years imprisonment. Another offender has been returned to custody following a breach in his licence conditions against a CSE victim.

25. There is a need to ensure that enforcements and prosecutions are robustly followed in order for Dudley to be a safe place for children to reside in. This work will be undertaken through DSCB whereby agencies will be challenged when there is insufficient evidence to support this priority under the CSE framework of prevent, pursue and prosecute.
26. Dudley Local Policing Unit are holding monthly CSE meetings to discuss, victim, offender and location profiles. This is building on the WMP profile intelligence document.

Raising Awareness

- Training

27. Dudley Safeguarding Children's Board has had a commitment and delivered multi agency training to partner agencies over the past 3 years.
28. Between September and December 2015 the CSE Team in partnership with DSCB Training support has delivered briefing sessions to 421 Children's workforce staff. Figures and breakdown are shown in Appendix 1.
29. The plan for 2015/16 is to deliver additional CSE training (both multi agency and single agency) in order to deliver key messages and embed the procedures into practice. This will include bespoke sessions for cabinet members and school Governors.

- Early Prevention

30. Schools and in particular local authority primary schools are planning the use of Miss Dorothy.com programme. This is a nationally recognised programme in the delivery of keeping safe and risks related to CSE amongst Year 5 children. Secondary schools have direct intervention from Dudley Saltmine theatre productions and Loud mouth productions. In addition there has been direct awareness raising sessions by neighbourhood police officer to 250 teenage students in 2014/15.
31. These raising awareness sessions have been supported with referral pathways and the use of National Working Group screening tool and assessment which was launched in Dudley October 2013.
32. The plan for 2015/16 is to continue with a consistent coordinated approach across all primary, secondary schools and colleges. As part of the framework for delivery on this area, the voluntary sector has put forward a programme of intervention to consolidate and add capacity to deliver against what already is in place through DSCB. This forms part of the overall action plan within the CSE strategy.

- Transition

33. Transition into adulthood is critical and a protocol is being devised in conjunction with adult services under the Care Act 2015. This protocol will ensure that young people who are at risk of CSE will continue to receive services and levels of intervention based on assessed needs. In line with this, it is proposed that children that are reaching the age of 18 will be discussed at YPSE if they are a victim of CSE. This will enable a robust pathway to be followed through into Adulthood.

- Community Awareness

34. Dudley Council has a prevent strategy in place led through Community cohesion and Safe and Sound. Home Office funding for specific prevent intervention is currently being mapped out with a view to targeted intervention being linked to intelligence identified within the recent media publication of WMP regional profile. The intelligence will be utilised in the commissioning process and delivery plan for prevent agenda across issues of CSE/radicalisation/management of allegations. This intervention will be targeted input and will enable an independent commissioned organisation to broker conversations within community groups on the whole prevent agenda so that community groups are aware and can share intelligence as well as help to protect our most vulnerable children in the Borough.

35. Community awareness continues to be a key issue to progress on. In 2015/16 a Community conference will take place to engage our elected members to work with officers in raising awareness in communities. This will also focus on engaging the community to identify and refer concerns and to support children and families in their communities to have a zero tolerance to CSE in their community. Voluntary organisations will be key in delivering this message and DSCB have commenced discussions with them to plan intervention and engage them in the upcoming conference.

- Licensing Team and Taxi firms

36. Dudley's CSE Team are working with Licensing Team and taxi firms across the Borough to review their roles and responsibilities under licensing conditions. Dudley council will be working to devise a pledge which will detail commitment to zero tolerance towards CSE in Dudley and to embed a joined up approach in tackling this issue. This will include mandatory training for all taxi drivers, regional CSE framework, standard award for driver, bespoke training to cover licensed operators drivers and escorts and linking this to condition of licence. The pledge will include managing issues for out of town taxi firms that come into Dudley and using intelligence gathering from the trade to inform local intelligence. There will be improved transparency around decision making and complaints which will in turn offer a more cohesive and joined up approach in tackling this issue within this area. Dudley are leading on this work for the Region. The initial briefing session took place in Summer 15. In December 15, at a meeting with Trade representatives, the Taxi Operatives agreed that they

would engage with the conditions of licence and developing a pledge for Dudley. Further briefing sessions are scheduled for January 16 with a programme of training sessions identified for 2015/16.

- Voluntary Sector

37. Dudley Council have over the years developed a positive relationship with the voluntary sector. It is recognised and valued that the work undertaken by voluntary organisations is invaluable and that we need to harness and nurture this relationship. DSCB have commissioned Streets team through Board funding for the past 3 years to deliver direct work children at high risk of CSE. Phase trust and Switch have been critical partners at YPSE and have also offered group and individual sessions. The future planning for the CSE team is through a partnership approach in delivering the services from the team, screening referrals, offering direct intervention and a programme of prevent workshops within schools. The other significant area of intervention will be engaging communities to assist the Council in progressing its objective of Zero tolerance. The Phase Trust is an associated member of the CSE Team who are an essential part of this whole agenda. Phase is not colocated with the team but are critical to the team and its functionality. Switch are also associate members of the CSE Team and attend all team meetings.

- Communications and Website development

38. The regional communications and engagement strategy, of which Dudley Council communications team are leading on is being implemented across the West Midlands. The aim of the visual integrated marketing campaign is to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation; what it is, the risk indicators and what to do if you are concerned about a child or young person. A wide variety of mediums including print, broadcast, digital and social media, outdoor advertising and engagement events are used to raise awareness and initiate narrative amongst audiences.

39. A Local website with a dedicated CSE page is being developed to link in with DSCB website page. This will be populated with information on the CSE team, local contacts, CSE framework, training and conference events and services available to access when concerns arise. This platform will share National, regional and local information, reviews and outcomes of any related research projects.

Conclusion

40. It is recognised that as a Council, we have a long journey ahead to eradicate CSE from our streets and to ensure that children are not exploited. However, there is a clear commitment to this agenda amongst Council officers and Directorates. This is evidenced through specific priorities within the Council plan, inclusion in the Children and Young Peoples Partnership

Board early intervention priority and DSCB priority to keep children safe inside, outside of the home and online and the introduction of a colocated CSE Team.

41. As the regional framework evolves, Dudley will be committed to respond to this along with national driver to ensure inclusion in its overarching delivery plan. The council is committed to embed a learning culture and through ongoing analysis, reviews, user feedback and audits, it will ensure this remains a priority so that we are responding in a timely manner to children's needs.
42. Community engagement and children's voices will be the key to long term management of CSE and overall success in developing safer communities. Our commitment to engaging the community in direct discussions through forums and events will enable the Council to prioritise within our plans how we keep our children safe collectively.

Finance

43. There is funding for this post up till 31st March 2016 of £34K, £17k from the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) funding and £17k from one-off savings from Childrens Services (Family Solutions). This post was appointed on 10th August 2015. Further funding will need to be identified in order for the post to be retained after 31 March 2016.

Law

44. Section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970, requires local authorities in the exercise of their social services functions to act under the general guidance of the Secretary of State.

Equality Impact

45. There will be a range of Equality Impact Assessments carried out for this particular agenda.

Recommendations

46. At this stage for scrutiny to endorse the development of the CSE Strategy.



.....
Tony Oakman
Strategic Director People Services

Contact Officers:

Merlin Joseph, Interim Chief Officer Children's Services

Helen Ellis, Head of Family Solutions

Jassi Broadmeadow, Head of Children & Young People, Safeguarding & Review

List of Background Papers

DSCB CSE Strategy

Appendix

Briefings Attended 2015

Briefings Attended 2015

	Adults	Children's Social Care	Early Years	Education	Health	Voluntary	Other	Police	DUE	TOTAL
CSE Raising Awareness 12/5/15	3	7	0	5	5	5	1	0	2	28
CSE Raising Awareness 1/7/15	1	10	0	11	11	10	0	1	0	44
CSE Raising Awareness 15/9/15	7	5	0	4	7	1	2	0	1	27
CSE Raising Awareness 3/11/15	19	6	0	10	7	1	4	0	0	47
CSE Team briefing 17/11/15	5	12	1	7	17	2	0	0	0	44
CSE Team briefing 30/11/15	4	7	1	22	12	0	1	0	0	47
CSE Team briefing 11/12/15	4	27	3	20	9	7	3	0	1	74
CSE Team briefing 14/12/15	4	24	10	20	1	3	2	5	0	69
CSE Team briefing 17/12/15	1	13	0	16	6	1	1	3	0	41
	48	111	15	115	75	30	14	9	4	421

DSCB CSE STRATEGY

2015-2018

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FOREWORD

Safeguarding Children is everyone's business. This is particularly the case when combating child sexual exploitation. Individuals, agencies and partnerships can all play their part in many ways. It is vitally important therefore that people know what to look for and what to do. All our efforts need to be coordinated in order to maximise our effectiveness. That is what this latest version of the Dudley Safeguarding Children Board CSE Strategy sets out to achieve.

Much can be learned from other parts of the country where CSE has been identified and successfully tackled. Similarly, a cohesive approach across the West Midlands region is necessary to break down the geographical boundaries that perpetrators operate across.

But it is here in Dudley where we must focus our efforts. The development of a dedicated Child Sexual Exploitation Team is a major step forward in our efforts to prevent, protect and pursue. The team is resourced from a number of agencies and evidences true partnership commitment to work together to adopt a zero tolerance to CSE. It will benefit from a developing intelligence picture and procedures that will provide clear guidance for referral.

Greater ownership and robust coordination will also reap rewards so the Safeguarding Children Board welcomes support from the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Children and Young People's Alliance, Safe and Sound – Dudley's community safety partnership and the Adult Safeguarding Board. It is a signal of our intent to address sexual exploitation that our strategy has been revised so soon after the original version. It is brief in form yet comprehensive in scope. However it will only be of value if it is widely and effectively used.

Roger Clayton

Independent Chair Dudley Safeguarding Children Board

This document sets out the strategy for safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and young people from Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) across Dudley. It describes how through our partnerships we identify, assess, challenge and provide an effective service to reduce the harm and threats posed by CSE.

Definition of Child Sexual Exploitation

Child Sexual Exploitation is child abuse and children and young people who become involved face huge risks to their physical, emotional and psychological health and wellbeing.

Dudley has adopted the following definition of sexual exploitation taken from Statutory Guidance on Safeguarding Children and Young People from Child Sexual Exploitation 2009:-

“sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive ‘something’ (e.g. Food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities. Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child’s immediate recognition. For example being persuaded to post sexual images on the internet / mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person’s limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability.”

CSE can take a number of forms and Barnardo’s has identified three areas:

- **Inappropriate relationships involving a lone perpetrator who has inappropriate power or control over a young person, whether physical (including domestic abuse), emotional or economic. There is likely to be a significant age gap between the perpetrator and victim. The young person may believe that they are in a loving, equal relationship.**
- **The ‘boyfriend’ model of exploitation and peer exploitation – the perpetrator befriends and grooms a young person into a ‘relationship’ and subsequently coerces them to have sex with friends or associates. This includes gang exploitation and peer – on – peer exploitation.**
- **Elements of organized /networked sexual exploitation or trafficking – Young people are passed through networks of offenders, possibly between towns and cities, where they may be coerced into sexual activity with multiple men. Victims may also be used as agents to recruit other children and young people. Where there are groups of**

offenders in a network, these should be considered as Organised Crime Groups (OCGs).

CSE is complex and widespread and can manifest itself in different ways. In all cases those exploiting the child or young person have power over them, perhaps by virtue of their age or physical strength. Exploitative relationships are characterised in the main by the child's limited availability of choice, compounding their vulnerability. This inequality can take many forms but the most obvious include fear, deception, coercion and violence.

Children and young people from Black and Minority Ethnic Communities can have specific vulnerabilities associated with their culture which constitute a barrier to disclosing or reporting the abuse e.g. blackmail connected to shame and dishonour can be used as a method of control. In addition, if a child or young person from a BME community discloses they have been sexually exploited, they may face additional dangers from their family and the multi-agency response will need to recognise and respond to these risks, e.g. blaming female victims rather than the perpetrator(s) or risk forced marriage.

It is not just an issue for girls and young women, but also a reality for boys and young men. However, it can be more difficult to detect when boys and young men are at risk of sexual exploitation or are being sexually exploited, as they are generally harder to work with and less willing to disclose this type of information. They may also find it harder to disclose that they are being abused by other men because of issues about sexual identity. It is important that professionals who are assessing young men do not become distracted when exploring their sexual identity and fail to notice that they may be being, or are at risk of being sexually exploited.

Sexual exploitation can take many forms from seemingly 'consensual' relationships where sex is exchanged for attention, affection, accommodation or gifts, to serious organised crime including group and gang related exploitation as well as child trafficking.

Whatever their experience of child sexual exploitation, it is important to be aware that children and young people are not making a free and informed choice to participate in the sexual activity. They often make constrained choices against a backdrop of vulnerability and because of their age, unmet needs or vulnerability they are unable to give informed consent. Young people under the age of 16 cannot legally consent to sexual activity. Sexual intercourse with children under the age of 13 is statutory rape. A child under 18 cannot consent to their own abuse through exploitation.

Technology can play a significant part in sexual abuse, for example, through its use to record abuse and share it with other like-minded individuals or as a medium to access and groom children and young people including through social media sites. Victims may also be recorded being abused, for example on mobile phones and those images shared or used as another means of threatening, humiliating or coercing the child.

The perpetrators of sexual exploitation are often well organised and use sophisticated tactics. They are known to target areas where children and young people gather without much adult supervision, e.g. parks, shopping centre's and/or sites on the internet. It is critical that local partnerships have a shared understanding

of the local CSE problem and a co-ordinated approach to prevention, protection, disruption and enforcement.

Possible Indicators

There are a number of key indicators that may suggest a child is being sexually exploited and these are identified within the NWG Screening tool Dudley have adopted as part of its procedure/pathway.

The list is not exhaustive but includes:

- Going missing for periods of time or regularly coming home late
- Regularly missing school or education or not taking part in education
- Appearing with unexplained gifts or new possessions
- Associating with other young people involved in exploitation
- Having older boyfriends or girlfriends
- Contracting sexually transmitted infections
- Mood swings or changes in emotional wellbeing
- Drug and alcohol misuse
- Displaying overtly sexualized behavior
- Involvement in gang activity

When children and young people display any of the above characteristics, consideration must be given to an assessment being undertaken to establish if they are at risk of or are being abused through CSE. All organisations involved with children should be able to recognise these risk indicators, such as schools, youth services, voluntary sector organisations, health, and social care. Local research indicates that unauthorised absences from school as well as missing from home or care episodes are currently the most significant indicators of CSE.

Governance and Accountability:

The 7 Regional LSCB's have responsibility for overseeing the co-ordination and ensuring the effectiveness of the individual and collective systems that respond to CSE.

Whilst DSCB has overall responsibility for ensuring the effectiveness, it is critical that DSCB works in conjunction with the safe and sound, the local Community Safety Partnership (including the **Police & Crime Boards**) **Local Safeguarding Adults Boards, Children and Young People Alliance** and **Health and Wellbeing Boards**.

Relevant statutory agencies have individual and collective responsibility to ensure that children, young people and adults at risk are properly safeguarded. As such all key strategic plans, whether formulated by individual organisations or partnerships, should consider this strategy to safeguard children from CSE.

National Context

This strategy is underpinned by a number of national guidance documents, key research and tools including:

- Statutory Guidance on Safeguarding Children and Young People from CSE 2009

- University of Bedfordshire 2011 research into LSCB response to CSE.
- Department of education 'tackling child sexual exploitation – action plan 2012
- CEOP's Thematic Assessment 'Out of Sight, Out of Mind'
- Review recommendations from Rotherham, Oxford and Birmingham Local Authorities.

A series of recommendations have been made following the Government response to CSE March 2015 which stated that to ensure this very vulnerable group of children are safeguarded and protected, agencies work collaboratively together sharing information and intelligence to protect vulnerable children, to work on a prevention strategy and for offenders to be brought to justice through successful prosecutions. Assessments of young people need to be robust and identify need at the earliest point. Service provision needs to be coordinated and targeted to support children at the earliest point when concerns are identified.

One of the recommendations from the Government Report includes the introduction and implementation of a new whistle blowing national portal for reports related to child abuse. The portal is intended to help bring CSE issues to light and spot patterns of failure across the country.

Regional Context

Over the last 18 months the 7 West Midlands local authorities: Dudley, Wolverhampton, Walsall, Sandwell, Birmingham, Coventry and Solihull have worked together with the Police, Health and other public and voluntary sector partners to identify and respond to CSE. This work is underpinned by the West Midlands area CSE Framework 2015.

The West Midlands Regional CSE Strategic Group is chaired by Solihull Local Authority Chief Executive Nick Page. This Strategic Group monitor the Regions response to CSE and ensures that the Regional Framework is embedded across the 7 Local Authorities.

The framework has 5 components and is based on the Office of the Children's Commissioner's If only Someone Listened Inquiry report.

- Accountability for all safeguarding and strategic co-ordination
- Multi- agency strategic planning
- Partnership and information sharing for identification and assessment
- Coordination of multi-agency strategic groups
- Intervention and service delivery

The West Midlands CSE Framework 2015 can be found on www.seeme-hearme.co.uk and must be read in conjunction with this strategy.

Dudley Context

Dudley Council Plan has an objective under stronger and safer communities which states that it will develop and roll out a programme and awareness of CSE and work towards zero tolerance within the Borough.

Dudley Safeguarding Childrens Board strategic priority for 2015-2018 is to keep children safe inside, outside the home and online with a specific CSE objective for 2015/16.

In order to deliver against the strategy and to ensure consistent approach and effective coordination of Services to address CSE, Dudley Council with partner agencies has developed a multi agency CSE team.

CSE Team

The CSE team comprises of the following:

- IYS Youth worker
- Runaways project
- Teenage pregnancy team
- Police CSE coordinator
- CSE Coordinator
- Early intervention social worker
- School health advisor
- Voluntary Organisations; Streets Team, Phase Trust, Barnardo's.

The remit of the Child Sexual Exploitation Team is to:

- Receive and screen all CSE referrals
- Raise awareness of CSE risk indicators and referral processes within all agencies
- Raise awareness amongst the community to implement a community council approach to zero tolerance to CSE.
- To provide CSE training and briefings to all partner agencies.
- Provide a rapid response to the investigation of CSE
- To undertake MASE meetings for low and medium risk cases
- To attend MASE meetings for open allocated cases in Children Services
- Reduce and prevent CSE by deterring, disrupting and prosecuting offenders
- Support young people to be able to identify themselves as victims of CSE
- To support parents and carers in understanding the implications of CSE and reducing the risks.
- To deliver specialist therapeutic services
- To signpost to early intervention services
- To coordinate the intelligence and data as required in line with the Regional Framework
- To undertake multi agency audits to support a cycle of learning and development for the remit of CSE.

The CSE team will have a dedicated CSE coordinator post. This post will be funded for a year and administered through DSCB. The post is resourced from Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 funds and Children Services. Whilst this is funded for 12 months initially, DSCB will be reviewing this for a longer term position in order to provide continuity and focus on CSE concerns/developments.

The team will operate initially through Parsons Street, Integrated Youth Support. As the Directorate develops its single front door and MASH (multi agency safeguarding HUB) arrangements, the CSE team will be co-located with MASH in order to share

information, intelligence and receive appropriate referrals. A timely response for those requiring action under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 will be progressed into Children Social Care without delay and have consistency embedded with oversight from the CSE coordinator.

The CSE team can be contacted on 01384 817777

Email address: (internal) CSE.team@dudley.gov.uk

(external) secure address: CSE.team@dudley.gcsx.gov.uk

DSCB sub group

The Vulnerable Children's Strategic Group and YPSE panel are tasked to focus on the regional framework delivery plan which in broad context concentrates on Prevent, Protect and Pursue.

YPSE panel currently offers partner agencies advice and services to children where concerns identified through the National Working Group screening tool are assessed as low, medium and high.

In September 2015, YPSE will become a strategic panel where information and intelligence is shared on victim, offender profile and hotspots. In conjunction with all partner agencies a plan will be devised to disrupt activity where agencies become aware of this, and for information about prosecutions to be shared. YPSE will have oversight of data and intelligence gathered to ensure it is in a better position to know the scale of the issue in Dudley and to ensure a robust plan is in place to tackle any intelligence on offender / location information.

DSCB Vulnerable Children's Strategic Group will hold overall responsibility for the CSE strategy and action plan. All partner agencies will be held to account against the action plan and related outcomes. Vulnerable Children's Strategic Group will provide a yearly report to DSCB updating against outcomes achieved and areas of further intervention and action. The CSE 'plan on a page' follows three distinct areas of prevent, protect and pursue and should be read in conjunction with this strategy.

Prevent: this requires a coordinated systematic approach across DSC partners and is critical to the identification and protection of children and young people as well as raising awareness amongst agencies and communities. The aim is to prevent children and young people from becoming victims of CSE and to prevent certain locations being used to recruit, groom and abuse children and young people. In order to deliver against this the CSE action plan will deliver against the following:

- Raising awareness of CSE amongst children and young people, parents, communities, council and elected members, partner agencies.
- Use specific resources to facilitate discussions and develop awareness.
- Target the most vulnerable children i.e. mental health issues, children who misuse drugs/alcohol, learning difficulties, children with disabilities and special needs.
- Target interventions with those individuals whose work places them in a position where they will notice and could then report worrying behaviours i.e. taxi operators, hoteliers, fast food operators, parks and leisure services.

Protect: Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people in this context in line with safeguarding children generally depends on an effective joint working between different agencies and professionals that work with children and young people including education, health services, youth services and Children services together with criminal justice agencies and voluntary sector services supporting children and families.

Where an individual is concerned about a child /young person being at risk of CSE they should follow DSCB child protection procedures and refer to the CSE pathway for the protocol on identification, contact, referral, assessment and planning to meet identified needs/protection requirements.

Pursue: Any meeting in respect of an individual at risk of harm from CSE will have a disruption plan in place for identified offenders. The plan will identify who is responsible for undertaking the work, shared with agencies involved and a review of the plan actioned within regular timescales.

In addition to this the following will take place:

- CSE coordinator and partner agencies will identify links and trends along with any cross border issues.
- Integrated Offender Management group and YPSE panel will share intelligence and information in relation to local hotspots and locations requiring a partnership approach to safeguard children. Locations may include night time economy venues, hotels, food outlets, taxi ranks, outside schools, addresses frequented by missing children or other venues where perpetrators may prey on victims.
- Neighborhood Policing Teams will be appraised of intelligence in order for them to participate in disruption activity and share any other related intelligence.

Information sharing

In March 2015, updated guidance was produced on Information Sharing for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers - [Information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners - Publications - GOV.UK](#)

West Midlands Police have developed an information sharing tool (**Appendix A**) to be used by front line practitioners to share information with regard to Child Sexual Exploitation. **Appendix B** sets out the West Midlands Metropolitan Area Information Sharing Protocol. Due to the nature of information often being anecdotal or unsubstantiated, such sharing must be done with sensitivity to data protection, confidentiality and human rights. However, it is often small seemingly innocuous pieces of information that come together to identify those who present risk.

The information will be assessed by West Midlands Police and filtered through police intelligence as appropriate.

Missing Children

Missing children and young people may be at increased risk of CSE and should be reported as missing to the Police at the earliest opportunity. Once a missing child is located they will be debriefed by Runaways Project and within 72 hours of return have a return interview. All missing children will be screened for CSE and the local procedure and pathway must be followed to ensure that the child young person receives the appropriate single agency or multi agency response. DSCB will have oversight of all missing children, whether from home, care or education in order to track these vulnerable children against CSE intelligence and information. This detail will be discussed at YPSE meetings and related action to protect children will be formulated with partner agencies.

Trafficking

Children who are abused through CSE may also be trafficked. There are three different types of trafficking of children for the purposes of sexual exploitation:

- Trafficking from abroad into the UK
- Internal trafficking where children are moved from one place to another in the UK for the purposes of sexual exploitations. This may be from one street to another, from one town/city to another or across local authority borders
- Trafficked out of the UK to other countries and brought back again.

Trafficking children, including for the purpose of sexual exploitation is a criminal offence and concerns that a child may be trafficked should always be reported to the police.

Anyone who works with children and young people who has concerns that the child has been trafficked must refer the child to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for a decision on the status of the potential victim of trafficking. The procedure for referring is located in DSCB Child Protection procedures.

<http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/about-us/what-we-do/specialist-capabilities/uk-human-trafficking-centre/national-referral-mechanism>

Transition

Transition into adulthood is critical and a protocol is being devised in conjunction with adult services under the Care Act 2014. This protocol will ensure that young people who are at risk of CSE will continue to receive services and levels of intervention based on assessed needs. In line with this, it is proposed that children that are reaching the age of 18 will be discussed at YPSE if they are a victim of CSE. This will enable a robust pathway to be followed through into Adulthood.

CSE procedures

CSE procedures can be found on DSCB TriX Child Protection Procedures

<http://www.proceduresonline.com/dudley/scb/>

The CSE referral pathway is attached. All CSE referrals will be received by the CSE team who will screen the referral tool and inform the referrer on the planned outcome. Some Category 3 referrals will go directly into Children Services given the

high level of concern and the need to act immediately to protect the child. A child Protection Strategy meeting will be convened in such instances and the CSE team will be informed in order for timely information sharing and attendance to strategy meeting. This will ensure a coordinated response between the CSE team and Children Services.

CSE Pathway: Appendix C

Data and CSE Profile

DSCB will be collating data and CSE profile information in conjunction with Dudley Local Policing Unit. This data is collated in line with the Bedfordshire toolkit and will feed into the regional dataset. It will be held by the CSE team and shared at YPSE panel and at Vulnerable Children's Strategic Group to ensure oversight and delivery against the action plan. Vulnerable Children's Strategic Group will further use data and intelligence to inform Service need and to target intervention in particular hotspot areas.

The outcomes of the plan will be tracked on a quarterly basis to ensure we are learning and developing responsive services. This will also be shared on a regional basis each quarter to inform the West Midlands wider intelligence of CSE threat.

Each partner will have in place its own agency action plan to support overall delivery of this strategy in their service. DSCB will review progress on the delivery of the strategy on a quarterly basis and will be informed through the DSCB data scorecard for CSE/Missing children.

CSE action plan: Appendix D

Training and Raising Awareness

DSCB will provide multi agency CSE training and raising awareness sessions to partner agencies, governing bodies, council members, elected members and communities. A robust programme is being devised which will detail this further and will be included in the CSE action plan.

Raising awareness amongst the hotel and tourism industry is a priority for Dudley Council. Hotels have received bespoke training sessions and the CSE team will continue this work through building links, sharing information where relevant and providing materials to hotels to ensure their staff are briefed and know what signs to look out for.

Licensing team and Taxi firms

Dudley council will ensure a Dudley pledge is devised. This pledge will ensure that the licensing team work with the CSE team and the council to support the priority towards zero tolerance against CSE in Dudley. The pledge will include mandatory training for all taxi drivers as part of their license conditions. The licensing procedures will be updated to reflect this commitment by the Council. It is our belief that taxi firms and drivers are our eyes and ears and that we can work in partnership to eradicate CSE from our streets.

Outcomes – how will we know ?

The overall aim is Zero Tolerance to CSE. We will know we achieved this when:

- Children report they are safe from CSE.
- When communities tell us that CSE is not a concern for them in Dudley
- When partner agencies report a reduction of concerns related to CSE
- When services such as hotels, restaurants, fast food outlets, taxi firms tell us that they are no longer concerned about CSE

DSCB will monitor this outcome on a yearly basis and use information available from consultations, audits and performance data to advise on progress.

With grateful thanks and acknowledgement to Rotherham LSCB and West Midlands Regional Strategic Forum.

Created by Jassi Broadmeadow / Helen Ellis – July 2015

Approved – September 2015

Due for review – April 2016

Appendix A
Child Sexual Exploitation
INFORMATION REPORT

Date/time of report.....

Name					
Post/Job Title					
Agency					
Contact details					
Witnessed incident		Professional		Member of the public	

If the information was supplied by someone other than yourself, on a scale of 1 – 5 how reliable do you think they are?

(5 = always reliable and 1 = unreliable).....

How accurate is the information on a scale of 1 – 5?

(1 = known to be true without doubt to 5 suspected to be false).....

If you are not able to say re above two questions please state “don’t know” rather than guess

If the information is from a 3rd party would they be willing to engage with the police? Yes
 No

Does this information involve a licensed service (e.g. newsagents, takeaways, pubs, off licences, taxi’s etc)?

If yes please provide trading name and address of premises:

.....

.....

.....

.....

Please provide clear & accurate information: Include as much detail as possible re names / descriptions / nicknames / vehicle details / addresses etc: (if providing details of specific incidents please put a date and time these were witnessed)



If you have access to secure email please forward this report to West Midlands Police Intelligence department on fib@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk - OR - contact the Missing From Home officer in your area - OR - hand deliver to Safeguarding and Review Service, Corbyn Road, Dudley, DY1 2JZ

Appendix B –

West Midlands Child Sexual Exploitation Multi-agency Information Sharing Protocol (February 2012)

The purpose of the Protocol

- What is an Information Sharing Protocol?
- Who does the Information Sharing Protocol affect?
- The benefits of this Information Sharing Protocol
- Principles of Information Sharing
- Obtaining and Sharing Information

The protocol will detail:

- Confidential Information
- Obtaining Consent
- Sharing Information Appropriately and Securely
- Retaining and Storing Information
- Regular Review

Contained within are:

- Information Sharing Flowchart
- Signatories to the Protocol
- Information Sharing Checklist
- Legislation
- Information sharing template

Key Messages

- The welfare of a child or young person must be the first consideration in all decision making about information sharing
- Professionals can only work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people if they share relevant information
- Only share as much information as is needed but share enough to achieve the purpose for which information is being shared
- Recognise that where a child, young person or family needs the support of a number of different agencies, information sharing will be an ongoing process
- It is best practice to obtain consent to share information, although there are exceptions to this in child protection cases, for example, situations where a child would be considered to be at risk of significant harm or a Police investigation into a serious offence would be prejudiced.

Purpose of the Protocol

The purpose of this information sharing protocol is to provide a framework for the appropriate sharing of information between partners. The protocol informs all partners about the circumstances when information is shared in cases of CSE and how the sharing of information will be managed.

What is an Information Sharing Protocol?

The protocol governs the sharing of information and in doing so it:

- Clarifies the legal background in respect of information sharing
- Sets out the current codes of practice, best practice and guidance
- Outlines the principles of the process of information sharing
- Provides practical guidance on how to share information

Who does the Information Sharing Protocol affect?

The protocol affects all staff engaged with work that requires information to be shared with or is given to them by other organisations.

The benefits of this Information Sharing Protocol

- Helps remove barriers to effective information sharing
- Provides guidance to assist in complying with legislation
- Helps to ensure that consent to share personal information is obtained whenever it is required
- Helps to ensure that information is shared when there is a requirement to do so
- Helps to ensure that all agencies comply with relevant legislation
- Raises awareness amongst all agencies of the key issues relating to information sharing and give confidence in the process of sharing information with others

Principles of Information-Sharing

Effective information sharing underpins integrated working and is a vital element of both early intervention and safeguarding. Each partner can hold different pieces of information which need to be placed together to enable a thorough assessment to be made.

To share information about a person you need a clear and legitimate purpose to do so, as this will determine whether the information sharing is lawful. For partners working in statutory services, the sharing of information must be included within the powers of the service. This will also apply if partners from the voluntary sector are providing a service on behalf of a statutory body and information sharing should be explicitly addressed in the contract or service level agreement.

Obtaining and sharing information

The sharing of information must have due consideration with the law relating to confidentiality, data protection and human rights. Having a legitimate purpose for sharing information is an important part of meeting those legal requirements. It is important only to share as much information as is needed and records should be accurate, relevant and up to date.

Confidential information

Confidential information is:

- Private or sensitive personal information
- Information which is not already lawfully in the public domain or readily available from another public source
- Information that has been shared in circumstances where the person giving the information could reasonably expect that it would not be shared with others

This is a complex area and you should seek advice from your organisation's Information Manger, if you are unsure about confidentiality

Signatories to the protocol may lawfully share confidential information without obtaining consent if this can be justified in the public interest. Judgement is required on whether there is sufficient public interest using the facts of each case individually. Public interest can arise when protecting children from significant harm, promoting the welfare of children or preventing crime and disorder.

Proportionality and necessity are factors to be taken into consideration when deciding whether or not to share confidential information. In making the decision, practitioners must weigh up what might happen as a result of the information being shared against what might happen if it is not and apply their professional judgement.

The nature of the information to be shared is also significant where the information is sensitive and has implications for the practitioner's relationship with the individual, recognising the importance of sharing information in a timely manner if it is in the child best interest to do so.

Where there is a clear risk of significant harm to a child, or to prevent and detect a crime the public interest test will almost certainly be satisfied

Obtaining consent

Consent must be informed, in other words the person giving consent needs to understand:

- Why the information needs to be shared
- Who will see it
- How much will be shared
- What are the purposes and implications of sharing.

It is good practice for signatories to set out their policy on sharing information when clients first join a service and when securing information, the process should be transparent and respect the individual. Consent must not be obtained by coercion and must be sought again if there are to be significant changes in the use to be made of the information.

A child or young person, who is able to understand and make their own decisions, may give or refuse consent to share information. This would generally include children aged over 12, although younger children may have sufficient understanding. The child's view should be sought as far as possible. If a child is competent to give consent or refusal but a parent disagrees each individual case should be considered and again professional judgement should be applied.

When assessing a child's ability to understand, practitioners should explain in a way suited to their age, language and likely understanding. Where a child cannot consent, a person with parental responsibility should be asked to do so, on their behalf, although there are circumstances where this might be inadvisable. Where parenting is shared only one person with parental responsibility for a child needs to give consent.

It may not be appropriate to let a person know that information about them is being shared nor to seek their consent to share the information. For example, this would arise when sharing information is likely to hamper the prevention or investigation of a serious crime or put a child at risk of significant harm.

In these circumstances, practitioners need not seek consent from the person or their family nor inform them that the information will be shared. Practitioners should record the decision and rationale for doing so.

Similarly, consent need not be sought when practitioners are required to share information through a statutory duty or court order. However, in most circumstances they should inform the person concerned that they are sharing the information, why they are doing so and with whom.

Sharing Information Appropriately and Securely

Information should be shared in accordance with the principles of the Data Protection Act 1998 and follow the policy and procedures of the signatory service.

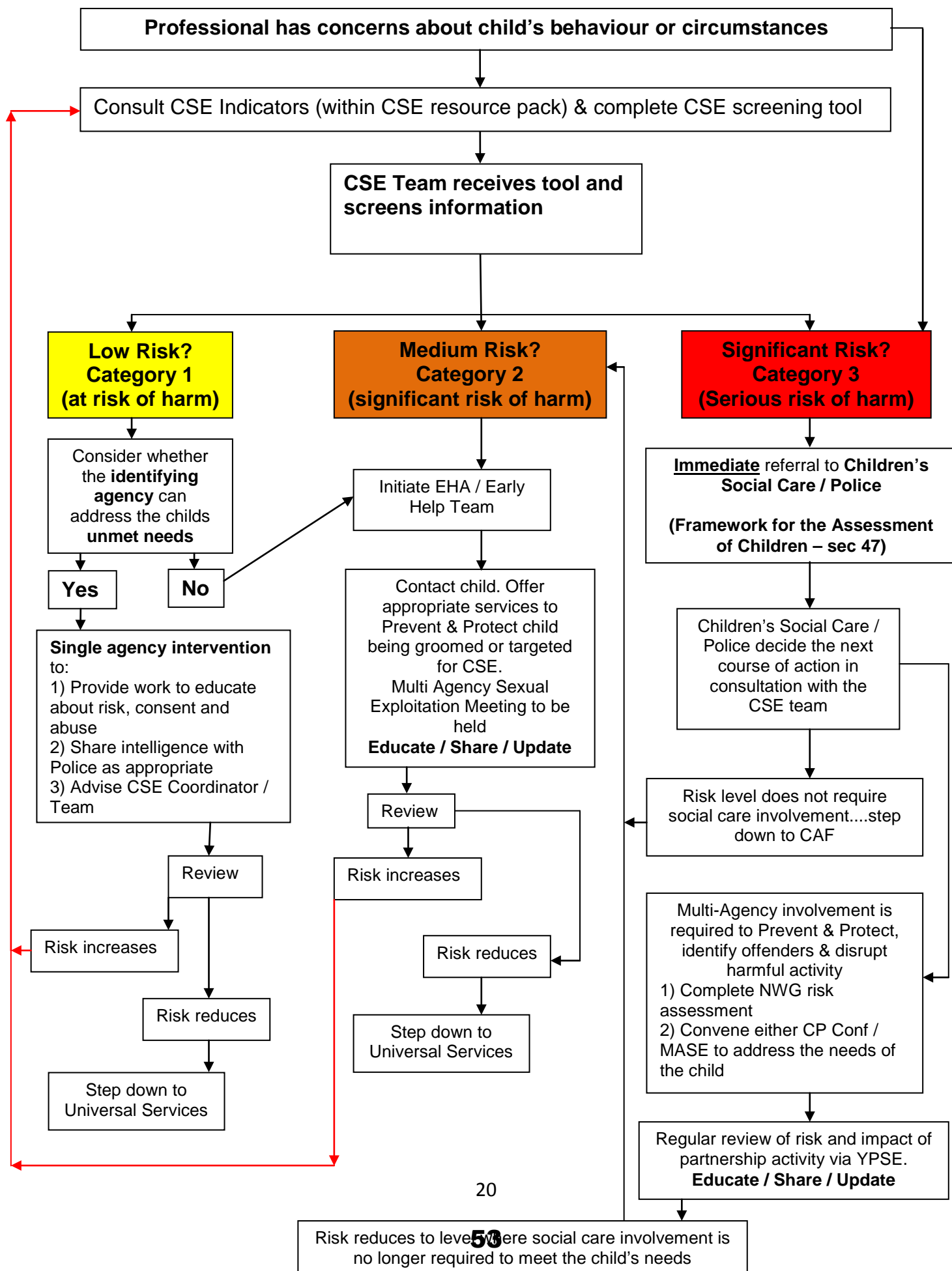
Practitioners should:

- Only share the information which is necessary for the purpose
- Understand the limits of any consent given, particularly if it is from a third party
- Distinguish between fact and opinion, information and intelligence
- Only share it with the person or people who need to know and check that the information is accurate and up to date
- Record decisions on sharing information and the reasons for doing so or not
- If deciding to share the information, record what was shared and with whom
- Know and discuss the risks posed against the young people in respect of whom information is to be shared
- Share information/intelligence relating to the risk posed towards the young person sufficiently to reduce their risk of harm.
- Complete intelligence forms (See below) to share with police and partners for submission via the panel/meetings or in between meetings
- Contact police with urgent information/intelligence that increases the risks posed towards a young person being sexually exploited.
- All information and intelligence will be considered to devise a risk management plan to reduce the risk of significant harm; and disrupt offenders and bring them to justice
- Information to be sent using secure e-mail between organisations.

Retaining and storing Information

Information must not be retained for longer than necessary for the purpose for which it was obtained. Signatory services should ensure that they have physical and electronic security in place for the stored data and that there is awareness, training and management of the systems where the information is stored.

APPENDIX C DUDLEY's Multi-Agency Referral Pathway



APPENDIX D

Dudley Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan 2015/16

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CSE – Child Sexual Exploitation – Dudley

Action Plan 2015-16

1.0 Safeguarding Board					
Action	Lead	Target Date	Current Position	Performance Measures and Milestones	Outcomes / Impact
1.1 A clear CSE Strategy is in place.	DSCB/Head of Safeguarding and Review/Head of Family Solutions	March 2016	A strategy is in place to be reviewed August 2015. To be signed off at the Safeguarding Board in September and CYPP.	By the 1 st October 2015 all Managers and practitioners will be aware of the strategy. Strategy to be shared with Safe and Sound (Dudley's Community Safety Partnership) strategic board and sub groups end of September 2015	The strategy has been approved by the board. Due to changes to the Regional Framework the strategy will be reviewed August 2015
1.2 Share strategy, framework and action plan with Children and young people's partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board	Head of Safeguarding and Review and Head of Family Solutions	July 2015	CYPP in September Safeguarding Board in September H&wellbeing Board.	By the end of September 2015 the boards will know and agree the forward plan for CSE.	
1.3 Continue to lead the regional communications and engagement strategy raising	Communications Team	March 2016	On-going awareness raising work in line with the agreed communications plan	Regional conference delivered in July to launch the revised CSE framework that all organisations	Monitoring of the website stats,

awareness of child sexual exploitation.				across the region will work to – attended by CSE leads from across the region. New look website launched featuring bespoke areas for parents and carers, young people, professionals , businesses and schools. Content is tailored specifically for the target audiences. Website features an interactive film to engage young people in thinking and talking about CSE. Bespoke materials for taxi firms produced and distributed. Further regional awareness campaign work planned for the autumn	
1.4 Develop the Vulnerable Children's Strategic Group to be accountable to progress the action plan with	Vulnerable Children and Young People's Group	March 2016	The group meet on a bi-monthly basis.	Launch the action plan to the group in August 2015.	

partners.					
1.5 Develop the YPSE panel to become a strategic intelligence led group.	Police / Partner agencies	To be reviewed March 2016	Police intelligence is currently being built through the current YPSE arrangements.	CMOG to be established during September 2015.	YPSE Panel meeting on a fortnightly basis until the CSE Team is up and running on the 1 st September. Decision to continue with YPSE for next 3 months during transition of CSE Team.
1.6 Develop the local CSE website page to link with DSCB.	DCSB Business Manager / CSE Co-ordinator	To be updated on a regular basis.	CSE website will be complete in July.	Detailed and up to date CSE page on the Safeguarding website to be complete by the end of July 2015.	
1.7 Develop a consistent process of auditing all CSE cases with partners.	DCSB Partners / Head of Safeguarding and Review	Process and timetable to be complete by the end of July 2015 and then audits ongoing throughout 2015	5 cases have already been audited by DSCB partners	All CSE cases to be audited and mapped.	
1.8 Panel to be developed to discuss and action all missing Care, home and education) and CSE nominals.	Head of Safeguarding and Review and partner agencies	End of July 2015 to be reviewed September 2015.		Panel to be in place by the end of September 2015 with clear Terms of Reference.	
2.0 Prevention					
2.1 Work in partnership to map across the voluntary	Voluntary Sector / Local Authority	September 2015	Two meetings have taken part another is planned in July.	Phase Trust, Street Teams and Barnardo's	By the 1 st September we are clear of Voluntary Sector

sector activity to support universal awareness raising in all educational establishments.			Develop a prevention strategy.	to receive referrals through the CSE Team where appropriate for low/medium cases.	engagement .
2.2 Continue to work in partnership with both Primary and Secondary Schools to assess support and delivery to young people 'at risk'.	Schools / Agencies / Local Authority/CSE Team	March 16	There is a need to make sure that all schools have a universal understanding or approach to CSE.	Identify Lead School to work with CSE Team to raise awareness amongst their peer groups of CSE, how to identify, report and respond.	Identify Lead School Oct 15 Plan and deliver a Conference to target schools to raise awareness and engage all schools in addressing CSE in their settings.
2.3 Assess the effectiveness of Miss Dorothy.com with both Primary and Secondary Schools.	Schools / Local Authority/Voluntary Sector/CSE Co-ordinator	October 2015	Awareness raising to schools both Primary and Secondary is not currently co-ordinated.	Full briefing plan to be in place by the end of September 2015 for both Primary and Secondary.	
2.4 Deliver a multi-agency and single agency training programme for all partners to deliver key messages and embed procedures.	CSE Team	March 2016	CSE Co-ordinator currently pulling all information together so team co-ordinates all activity.	Training plan to be in place by the end of September 2015.	
2.5 Deliver CSE training to all Cabinet Members and School Governors	Police / Local Authority	September 2015	Meeting arranged with Head of Governing Service in June to plan sessions.	All Cabinet Members and School Governors will have a clear understanding of CSE in Dudley.	

				Session to take place on the 24 th September 2015.	
2.6 Hold a community awareness conference alongside elected members.	Voluntary Sector / Local Authority / Partner agencies	October 2015	First planning meeting has taken place some challenges so further discussions need to take place.	Date yet to be confirmed.	Task and Finish Group in place which includes Voluntary / Organisations representation.
2.7 Deliver training for all taxi drivers to also include licensed operators drivers and escorts	DSCB training team	Ensure every driver & passenger assistants who transport vulnerable children for DMBC hold a current safeguarding certificate in line with their licencing conditions.	Ongoing training programme during key school holidays; February, May, August, October. Future developments to deliver CSE Awareness sessions for taxi drivers and passenger assistants.	Numbers are dictated by licensing demands and renewal.	All participants will have an awareness and understanding of what to do if concerned that a child has been abused or is at risk of abuse of neglect including current safeguarding issues including CSE and Internal Trafficking. Robust records of attendee's are maintained by DMBC Transport Section including identity checks.
2.8 Continue to ensure there are clear strategies in place with Hotels.	CSE Team/Police	December 2015	Current process is under review.	Strategy to be reviewed during September 2015	

2.9 Work alongside Public Health in order to raise the profile of CSE to all Sexual Health Providers. This includes mandatory training and clear understanding of referral pathways within all commissioning arrangements.	Sexual Health Implementation Group / Public Health	March 2015	Current Sexual Health specification is under review and will go out to tender in October.		Task and Finish group in place working on a new specification.
2.10 Continue to develop the transitions protocol with adults ensuring CSE has clear pathways.	Children's Services / Adult Services	June 2015	Protocol is currently in draft form and being consulted on.	Protocol to be signed off beginning of September 2015	
3.0 Protection					
3.1 Recruit and appoint a CSE Co-ordinator.	DSCB	July 2015	CSE Co-ordinator has been appointed and will start the 10 th August 2015.	Work with Board to secure permanent funding.	CSE Co-ordinator has now been appointed.
3.2 Work with partners to secure funding for a permanent CSE Co-ordinator role.	DSCB	July 2015	Funding in place until March 2016	LSCB to make decision regarding funding by the beginning October 2015	
3.3 Develop a CSE Team to receive CSE referrals and manage low to medium	Head of Family Solutions and Head of Safeguarding and Review	September 2015	CSE Team in place.	The CSE Team are currently reporting against a quarterly both	

risk cases.				regionally and locally.	
3.4 Support the development of the MASH ensuring timely response for those requiring action under section 47 of the Children Act 1989.	Chief Officer and partner agencies	April 1 st 2016	MASH Board and Operations Group in place to drive this forward.	Single Point of Access to be in place by the 30 th November 2015. MASH to be in place by the 1 st April 2016.	
3.5 In the absence of MASH interim arrangements to be made clear to all partners to ensure all section 47 enquiries are managed appropriately.	Chief Officer Children's / Head of Family Solutions and Head of Safeguarding and Review	September 2015	CSE Team and YPSE are currently managing referrals and screening each referral on a daily basis.		
3.6 Children Missing to be mapped against CSE risk indicators.	DCI / DI / Head of Family Solutions and Head of Safeguarding and Review/CSE Team	August 2015	System is slowly being developed to combine data performance against both CSE and missing.		
3.7 Children Missing and Children Missing Education groups to be combined.	Head of Family Solutions/Head of Safeguarding and Review/Manager of CSE Team	March 2016			
3.8 Develop a comprehensive one point data collection set which includes, missing, children missing education	Vulnerable Children's Strategic Group	November 2015	First meeting has taken place with I.T and Data Performance to commence process mapping.	A robust data performance system that brings missing and CSE together using the Bedfordshire model by November	

and CSE using the Bedfordshire model.				2015.	
3.9 Continue to build relationships with the Licensing Team and taxi firms across the borough.	Head of Safeguarding/CSE Co-ordinator	September 2015			
3.10 Dudley Council to devise a pledge which details commitment to zero tolerance.	Head of Safeguarding and Review/CSE Co-ordinator	September 2015			
3.11 Establish a robust process to capture the voice of the child and informs service delivery.	CSE Team	Ongoing			
4.0 Pursue					
4.1 Work in partnership to ensure that enforcements and prosecutions are robustly followed.	DCI and DI / Vulnerable Strategic Group	September 2015	YPSE chaired by DI Booth on a fortnightly basis until September 2015. Vulnerable Strategic Group chaired by DCI Holmes. Missing and CSE panel to be developed July 2015.	Detail of numbers of identified offenders, numbers prosecuted / disrupted including other tactics such as harbouring notices.	
4.2 Dudley LPU to meet to	Police	March 2016			LPU to follow TTCG structure

discuss Offender location profiles.					details to be fed into YPSE and MASE meetings.
4.3 Deliver a mapping workshop between LPU and YPSE members to share intelligence.	LPU/YPSE/Local Authority	July 2015 complete first workshop and this to be an ongoing activity		<p>The number of criminal prosecutions</p> <p>Updates to be provided to the Police National Computer</p> <p>Effective use of conditional bail</p> <p>Hotspot details</p> <p>Sexual harm prevention orders, closure notices on premises used for CSE</p> <p>Civil Orders</p>	

People Services Scrutiny Committee- 10th March 2016

Report of the Interim Chief Officer Children's Services

Dudley Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2014-2015

Purpose of Report

1. To present to Peoples Scrutiny Committee the Annual Report of the Dudley Safeguarding Board 2014-2015(DSCB)

Background

2. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children requires effective co-ordination in every local area. For this reason, the Children Act 2004 requires each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).
3. The Local Safeguarding Children Board is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations in each local area will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in that locality and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do.
4. The core objectives of the Local Safeguarding Children Board are set out in S 14(1) of the Children Act 2004 as follows:
 - To co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority
 - To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for that purpose
 - Protecting children from maltreatment
 - Preventing impairment of children's health or development
 - Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
 - Understanding that role so as to enable those children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully
5. The scope of Local Safeguarding Children Board's role includes safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in three broad areas of activity:

- Activity that affects all children and aims to identify and prevent maltreatment or impairment of health or development and ensure children are growing up in circumstances consistent with safe and effective care
 - Proactive work that aims to target particular vulnerable groups
 - Responsive work to protect children who are suffering or at risk of suffering harm
6. The functions of the Local Safeguarding Children Board are laid out in statutory guidance – *‘Working Together to Safeguard Children’* (March 2015).

Finance

7. Dudley Safeguarding Children Board has annual budget of £233,000 for 2014/15 financial year, receiving core funding from the local authority (58%), Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group (25%) and West Midlands Police (5.49%). The remainder of income is received from contributions from other partner agencies and through training
8. Local authority funds the Head of Safeguarding & Review post and a number of administrative posts within the Safeguarding & Review Unit which contribute directly to supporting the business of the Board.

Law

9. The key legislation underpinning the work of the Local Safeguarding Children Board is the Children Act 2004, supported by statutory *Working Together to Safeguard Children* guidance

Equality Impact

10. The work of the Dudley Safeguarding Children Board supports parents, families, communities and partner agencies in providing safe homes and environments, security and stability for all children and young people in the Borough. The Dudley Safeguarding Children Board responds to the needs of vulnerable groups to minimise the incidence of child abuse and neglect to ensure that all children can maximise the opportunity to achieve positive outcomes.

Recommendations

11. People Scrutiny committee receive and comment on the report.



.....
 Tony Oakman
 Strategic Director People Services

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List of Background Papers

Appendix 1 – Dudley Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report

Appendix 2 - Dudley Safeguarding Children Board Business Plan

<http://safeguarding.dudley.gov.uk/child/safeguarding-children-board/>



Dudley Safeguarding Children's Board

Annual Report

2014-2015



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This report has been prepared by the Independent Chair in conjunction with the Business Manager, and was approved by the Dudley Safeguarding Children Board (DSCB) in November 2015. Sources include annual reports, performance data, information presented to the Board throughout the year, and feedback from Sub-Groups and other sources relevant to the Board's business. The report will be formally sent to the Chief Executive and Leader of the County Council, Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, and Police and Crime Commissioner as statutorily required, in addition to partner agencies and key stakeholders. It will be placed on the Board's website so it is accessible to all <http://safeguarding.dudley.gov.uk/child/>. For any further information please contact Martine McFadden Business Manager & Communications on 01384 814996

1. Independent Chair's Foreword

Welcome to the Dudley Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report for 2014/15.

There are three words that encapsulate the work of the board over the last 12 months – CHALLENGE, CHANGE and CONTRIBUTION.

The challenges faced by professionals in their efforts to safeguard children grow ever more complex and voluminous. This can be illustrated by the seemingly ever growing threat of child sexual exploitation. Media reports of the abuse of children and young people by both organised groups of men and individuals holding power or celebrity status have demanded a swift response at national, regional and local level. Here in Dudley, much has been done to raise awareness of such exploitative and harmful practice. We have worked with our colleagues across the region and positive developments include a greater understanding of the risk and a clearer and more comprehensive strategy and operational plan to respond.

Particularly worthy of note is the production of a film called Anybody's Child which helps children to recognise the signs of sexual exploitation and therefore stay safe. The film was made by Chatback, a group of young people in foster care in Dudley and I recommend it to you. Another positive development is the creation of a dedicated CSE team which will go live in the coming months and will spearhead our efforts to both support victims and bring perpetrators to justice.

Despite the critical importance of addressing CSE, it must be recognised that it is not the only challenge we face and our response to other forms of abuse and neglect must not and will not be diluted as a consequence. In another sense of the word, challenge means to hold to account, to seek evidence that agencies are delivering effective safeguarding services. This process is a fundamental duty of a safeguarding board and one which the Dudley Safeguarding Board is increasingly successful at undertaking. One example was the report into allegations of unlawful restraint at Russell's Hall Hospital which was published in September 2014. Although the allegations were ultimately proved to be unfounded, the robust nature of the investigation, the transparent response of the Hospital Trust and the learning uncovered more than vindicated the measures taken.

There has been considerable change throughout the year both in respect of the board and its constituent agencies. Most of the partners have undergone radical restructure as they seek to improve effectiveness in order to meet increased demand with reduced resources consequent to economic austerity. Police and Probation services underwent major change throughout the year and the restructure of Children's Services along with other areas of the Local Authority continues. Such change will always carry a risk and must be monitored and confronted if necessary. Dudley Safeguarding Children Board has also undergone significant change. A root and branch review has rationalised our membership, reshaped our structure and shared

responsibility more equitably amongst the stakeholders. This in turn has resulted in greater ownership and contribution by all. Effective contribution is a key element of a successful partnership. Properly coordinated it will result in both increased trust and improved outcomes. The participation of children and young people must be considered as the most important contribution of all and the community and voluntary sector are now charged with ensuring that the board hears and responds to the voice of those people we seek to keep safe.

The coming 12 months will again be demanding. We need to continue to support front line safeguarding practice but also improve the way we assure ourselves that service delivery is meeting required standards and to demand improvement if necessary. Our audit regime will be key to meeting this responsibility. Another way to improve multi agency working will be the development of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub or MASH. This will allow for earlier identification of harm, greater information sharing opportunities and a more cohesive and informed response.

We have many aspirations for the year ahead. The simple fact of the matter however is that they will only be achieved if the board is effectively resourced both in terms of individual effort and financial funding. I call on all agencies to consider this as a priority in order to keep the children of Dudley as safe as we possibly can



Roger Clayton

Independent Chair

Dudley Safeguarding Children Board

April 2015



2. Executive Summary

The overall assessment of this report is that DSCB complied with its statutory and legal requirements throughout the year, and continued to implement changes arising from Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013. Partners have continued to work together to improve its ability to assess the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements.

The strategic priorities set for 2013 to 2015 have been actioned and much of what the Board said it would do has been achieved. Where it was not, this was mainly because work was still in progress; outcomes were not evident from work undertaken or awareness still needed to be raised about new procedures. There continues to be multi-agency areas for improvement around consistent practice, thresholds, information sharing and communications

The Board assesses that full accounts of relevant partners' plans and strategies for keeping children safe are monitored so that planning processes and stronger links are being developed. There have been demonstrable achievements over the past year.

The new structure of the Board has yielded a more integrated approach to the Board's business and opportunities have been provided for Board development. Progress has been made on clarifying partners' roles and responsibilities and contribution to Board business, however there is still work to be done.

Good practice is evident, but this still remains inconsistent. Local data shows that the introduction of Early Help is starting to make a difference but the number of looked after children remains high. Signs of safety approach which was introduced in 2013 through DSCB has been implemented into children's centres across the Borough. This approach has made a difference in the lives of families through early intervention and the use of language which clearly defines what strengths they have, what are the areas of change required and who will support them to achieve this.

2014/15 was marked by change and challenge; however the Board worked well to fulfil its responsibilities, to challenge when and where required and to collectively work towards being able to demonstrate the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements. The Board recognised that it could not adequately evidence a clear and shared view about the vulnerable children and young people population and measuring the impact of its actions these improvements will be taken forward into 2015/16.

This report is divided into 13 Chapters which describes the business of the DSCB, its challenges and achievements for 2014/15. The first four chapters of the report describe the context for the DSCB. The Chairs forward explains the experience of the last year as Challenge Change and Contribution for the Board and how members have embraced this. Demographic and geographical information of Dudley highlights some of the challenges within the area, importantly the levels of deprivation. Followed by an explanation of the statutory functions and objectives of DSCB, assessing whether DSCB partners are fulfilling their statutory obligations as set out in the Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015.

The effectiveness of the role of the independent chair is also examined alongside an explanation of the Board restructure and its current effectiveness including Board member attendance.

The second half of the report focuses upon the performance of the Boards functions to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of training, including multi-agency training to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

The report also addresses the DSCB function to quality assure practice, through audit, and identifying lessons to be learned. Also included is detailed data of safeguarding training which evaluates the impact of training on practitioner's practice, to evidence progress in developing an effective safeguarding workforce.

Over the past 12 months Dudley has been involved in two Serious Case Reviews (SCR's) both of which have involved children who previously resided in the Dudley area (but did not at the time of their deaths). Neither has been published due to ongoing criminal investigations but will be reported on in the next report. Child Death Overview Panel has identified learning from child deaths and a pathway to embed learning.

DSCB has committed to undertaking a range of audits during 2015 to 2016 to continue to assess and quality assure safeguarding arrangements within Dudley to put children at the centre of care and to listen to what they say, to make every contact count by focussing on getting it right the first time.

3. Purpose of the Annual Report

This annual report is produced to provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of Dudley Safeguarding Children Board. It identifies areas of weakness, the causes of those weaknesses and the action being taken to address them as well as other proposals for action. The report should include lessons from reviews undertaken within the reporting period. It is part of the way that DSCB accounts for its work, celebrates good practice and raises challenge issues for partners to address.

Working Together (2013/2015) states that the "chair of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area (this is a statutory requirement under section 14A of the Children Act 2004). The annual report should be published in relation to the preceding financial year and should fit with local agencies' planning, commissioning and budget cycles. The report should be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local police and crime commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board. The LSCB also has a statutory duty to present the report to Children's Trust Board (Apprenticeships, Skill, Children and Learning Act 2009).

The purpose of this report is:

- to provide an outline of the main activities of the DSCB and the achievements during 2014/ 15;
- to comment on the effectiveness of safeguarding activity and of the DSCB in supporting this;
- to provide the public and partner agencies with an overview of DSCB safeguarding

- activity;
- to identify gaps and challenges in service development in the year ahead.

In writing this report, contributions were sought from Board members and the chairs of all sub-groups as well as from other partnerships. It also drew on the monitoring reports that are reported to the DSCB on a statutory basis e.g. allegations against professionals working with children; private fostering. However, it does not seek to repeat these in full, rather to use them to inform this assessment of the effectiveness of the DSCB.

The business of the DSCB in the period under review in this report (April 2014 to March 2015) was directed by the second year of a two year DSCB strategic Business Plan 2012 to 2014 (see appendix 3 for the plan). Therefore this report seeks not to duplicate but to build upon the information shared in last year's Annual report which can be found at www.dudleysafeguarding.org.uk



4. The local context

4.1 Geography of Dudley

Dudley is a metropolitan borough formed in 1974. It is located on the edge of the West Midlands's conurbation, approximately 9 miles west of the city of Birmingham and 6 miles South of Wolverhampton. Rural Staffordshire and Worcestershire border Dudley to the West and South.

Being at the heart of the Black Country, which also includes the neighbouring boroughs of Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton, Dudley has a rich cultural and economic heritage. The Borough is a predominantly urban area, but rather than having one primary centre there are five townships interspersed with urban villages. This has given rise to a very local feel that is a feature of the Borough's communities.

The main town centres are: Dudley Central and North towards the north of the borough, Stourbridge in the southwest, Halesowen in the southeast and Brierley Hill near the centre. The nationally renowned Merry Hill Shopping Centre and the Waterfront business and leisure complex now form part of Brierley Hill town centre.

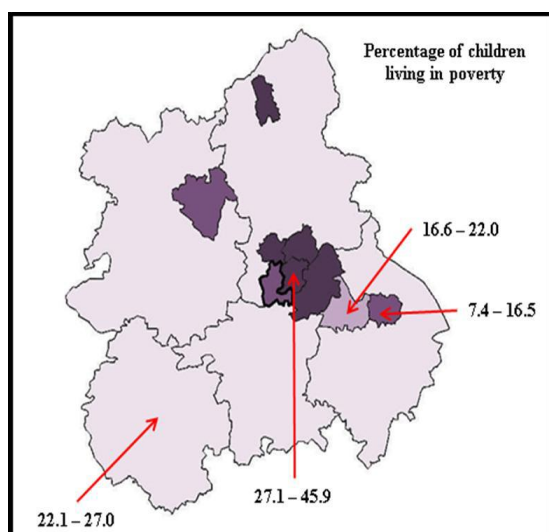
4.2 Demographics of Dudley

The latest estimates from 2013 show that Dudley Borough has a population of around

314,400 of which 75,085 are children and young people aged between 0-19. The population has been growing and people are from mixed ethnic groups, 1.5% Black ethnic groups and a further 1.5% from White groups other than British. There are 52 nationalities represented in schools in the borough with 10.5% of children in schools where English is not their first language.

In November 2014 5,880 people in Dudley Borough were claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), which is equivalent to 3.0% of the working age (16-64) population. Although the claimant rate in Dudley has been on a downward trend since February 2013, it is still above the regional (2.5%) and England (1.9%) figures. Dudley is ranked as the 104th most deprived of the 326 local authority districts in England (where 1 is most deprived), a lower ranking than five of the other six districts in the West Midlands conurbation. While this suggests Dudley is relatively affluent, it masks the disparity in levels of deprivation across the borough. The latest deprivation indices from 2010 showed that 23.9% of the population live in areas in the 20% most deprived in England. These are principally found in a zone covering Dudley, Pensnett, Netherton and Brierley Hill, but also include parts of Coseley, Lye, Halesowen and Stourbridge.

Population growth has risen at a modest but sustained rate in recent years, with 9,300 more people in the borough now compared to the 2001 estimate. Dudley is the third largest local authority



District in the West Midlands Region based on population. 19% of people are aged under 16 and 19.5% are 65 and over.

According to the 2011 Census Data; 88.5% of the Borough population are White British. Dudley has become more ethnically diverse since 2001 when the figure was 92.5%. Asian groups constitute 6.1% of the ethnic minority population, with the largest individual groups in the borough being Pakistani (3.3%) and Indian (1.8%).

Dudley residents have access to a range of Services provided by Health, Education, Police and Children Services.

There are currently 210 General Practitioners registered in Dudley working within 48 General Practitioner surgeries', medical and health centres.

There are 20 Local Authority Children Centres for families to receive support and guidance on parenting children.

In terms of Education establishments there are 79 Primary Schools, 20 Secondary schools of which 10 are academies, 7 Special provision schools and 4 Further Education colleges.

5. Statutory and legislative context for Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs)

5.1 Role of the Board

The Local Safeguarding Children Board is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how partner organisations in the local area will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do. Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 required each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board

5.2 Statutory Objectives

The objectives of LSCBs, as set out in Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 are:

1. to co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of and promoting the welfare of children in the area, and
2. to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.

5.3 Statutory Functions

The functions of Dudley Safeguarding Children Board as set out in primary legislation and regulations are:

- a. Developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority, including policies and procedures in relation to:
 - Action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare, including thresholds for intervention;
 - Training of persons who work with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children;
 - Recruitment and supervision of persons who work with children;
 - Investigation of allegations concerning persons who work with children;
 - Safety and welfare of children who are privately fostered;
 - Cooperation with neighbouring Children's Services authorities and their Board partners;
- b. communicating to persons and bodies in the area of the authority the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising their awareness of how this can best be done and encouraging them to do so;
- c. monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advising them on ways to improve; monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advising them on ways to improve
- d. participating in the planning of services for children in the area of the authority; and
- e. undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learned.

Regulation 5 (2) which relates to the LSCB Serious Case Reviews function and regulation 6 which relates to the LSCB Child Death functions are covered in Working Together 2015.

Regulation 5 (3) provides that an LSCB may also engage in any other activity that facilitates, or is conducive to, the achievement of its objectives.

5.4 Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2015

Additionally statutory guidance is offered to LSCBs in Working Together. The period under review was subject to Working Together 2013 – at the end of the financial year, Working Together 2015 was issued. It is expected that Working Together will be complied with by all LSCBs unless exceptional circumstances arise.



Working together to safeguard children

A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children

March 2015

6. The Independent Chair

6.1 Role of the Independent Chair

It is the role of the Independent Chair to hold all agencies to account. The current Chair Roger Clayton was appointed in April 2013. Under Working Together (2013/2015), the Independent Chair is directly accountable to the Local Authority's Chief Executive for the effective working of the Board, and works closely with the Director of Children's Services, regularly liaising with the Lead Member. The Independent Chair is a member of the Association of Independent LSCB Chairs (AILC) and attends that organisation's Annual Conference. Mr Clayton is also involved in some of the activities with peers that the Association offers. There are regular meetings with regional colleagues, and there have been efforts to rationalise and streamline work across these Boards.

In 2014-2015, LSCBs were offered Innovations Project funds by the DfE to work more effectively together – this has resulted in a series of regional collaborative projects around multi-agency training; procedures and performance frameworks for LSCBs. The DSCB chair has taken an active role in the securing of these funds and the leadership and the design of the projects, which are continuing during 2015/16.

6.2 Board Restructure

During 2014/15, the Chair's excellent leadership skills were evident during the restructure undertaken by the DSCB. The board membership was rationalised to ensure that those attending fitted the requirements set out in Working Together (2013) hence many longstanding board members were not required for the board but needed in the subgroups. The Chair managed this process sensitively to ensure that representation at both board and subgroup level had been appropriate. This process of rationalisation is not yet complete and continues in to 2015 in order to ensure effectiveness

6.3 Induction

The DSCB chair introduced an induction procedure for new DSCB members to ensure that the role & responsibilities of a board member were communicated in a formal meeting and updated induction pack. New Board members fed back that the meeting and induction pack clarified their role and understanding of the board functions enhancing their performance at Board meetings. It is hoped that this will promote more active participation in the activity of the Board – certainly the responsibility for chairing sub-groups has become evenly spread throughout partner agencies.

7. Governance arrangements and Board Effectiveness

7.1 Work with other partnerships

The Board has a scrutiny role and therefore must retain its independence in order to fulfil its functions. In terms of accountability the Board should stand alone from other structures and partnerships and should not be subordinate to nor subsumed within them. It must have a clearly articulated relationship with other agencies. In practice, DSCB has worked closely with other partnerships over the past year and remains committed to integrating activities and strategic thinking to ensure the best outcomes for children and young people. However, the recent history of the Board in terms of its' structure and strategy has meant that 2014-5 saw the necessary start of a long journey of the DSCB toward a more independent model of monitoring and co-ordinating safeguarding children work in Dudley.

Whilst the relationship between the DSCB and the Dudley Adult's Safeguarding Partnership has been robust, it could be conceded that the connectivity between DSCB and the Children and Young People's Partnership (CYPP) has been compromised by a lack of articulation of the strategic role of each. This was further compounded by the independent chair's absence from the CYPP partnership. Early in 2015 this gap in strategic communication was recognised and rectified. The CYPP has now been re-launched as the Dudley Children and Young Person's Alliance and work will continue to shape how the DSCB and Alliance work together and ensure mutual communication and dissemination of information.

The independent chair of the Board has been a corresponding member of the Health and Well-being Board in 2014-5 and further work will take place to work collaboratively. The work of the DSCB and of the Safe and Sound Partnership (supporting the co-ordination of domestic abuse work and E-safety) is well-aligned – the Community Safety Lead sits on the Board and supports the work in this area and the training offer around these issues is integrated in to the DSCB training programme.

7.2 The Effectiveness of Board arrangements during 2014/15

A priority during the year under review was to improve Board effectiveness. In order to maximise the time and resources so that the statutory functions of the Board can be fulfilled. A task and finish group worked throughout 2014 to develop a structure that was fit for purpose, to ensure that responsibility for active contribution across the partnership was shared more equally. This was necessary in order to make the DSCB more multi-agency focussed and less driven by the Local Authority.

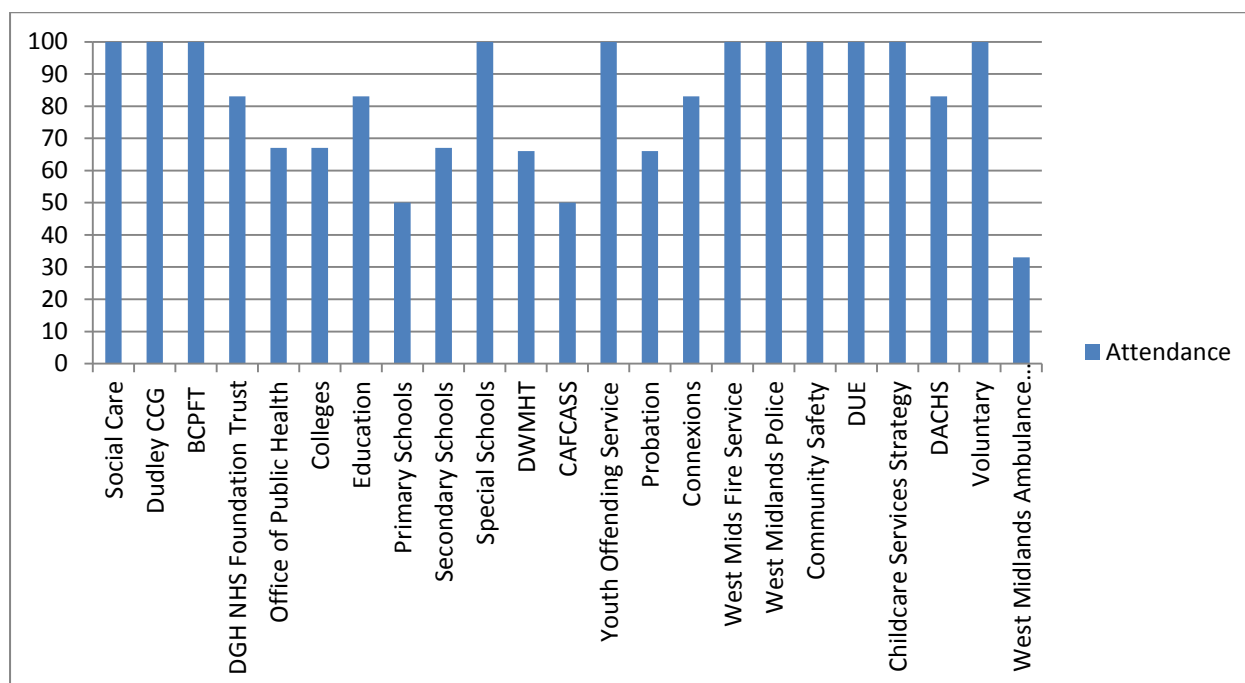
This resulted in some of the longstanding task & finish groups being subsumed into the newly created subgroups in order to streamline communication and Board business. A key change was to create a Quality Assurance & Communication sub group to support the work of the subgroups and act as a conduit between the subgroups and the DSCB. The Quality Assurance & Communications sub group began to meet bi-monthly and comprised of representatives with operational management roles from a wider group of agencies than the Board. Its role ensured effective implementation of the Annual Business Plan which had been informed by 3 year Strategic Plan. Sub groups and task and finish groups complete the day to day work of the Board and each one works to specific Terms of Reference, with clear lines of reporting and accountability to the Board.

The Board met every two months, and established its priorities and key strategic objectives identified in the already existing rolling three year Strategic Plan 2012 to 2015. In January 2015 it held a Development Day that agreed the three Strategic Priorities for 2015 to 2018. This process was positively influenced by the views of young people. A clear outcome was the re-framing of perceived risk by the children and young people who clearly outlined that they were most scared and felt at risk in public places such as in parks or on public transport. This led to the issues being integrated and specifically articulated in to the new Business Plan and work taking place in the Community Safety partnership.

It was also recognised at this point that the many and varied aspirations of the DSCB and partnership agencies would not be met within the current funding formula. A funding report was presented to the Board on 13th March 2015 which outlined the stark choices of further investment or curtailing aspiration. The Board identified that they would prefer to dedicate resources to fulfil their aspirations rather than compromising them in a reduced agenda.

In summary, DSCB embarked upon a journey of change during 2014/15 which is still underway due to the significant changes in key agencies, especially in the Local Authority. During 2015/16 the DSCB must ensure that all agencies manage change effectively whilst ensuring children are kept safe, and in order to do so, must ensure that it runs effectively as a Board so that it can continue to monitor the efforts of partner agencies in doing so.

7.3 Board membership and attendance 2014-2015



The Board is comprised of senior strategic managers across a range of agencies. Membership was compliant with Working Together 2013.

Throughout 2014/15 Board attendance was variable (see graph above) and the year saw the departure of several long-standing representatives. Partner agencies whose attendance was variable were challenged by the Chair – this made a difference to attendance immediately and agencies responded to this positively by maintaining a commitment to attendance.



Another development which tackled agency attendance was to challenge a lack of understanding of purpose rather than lack of commitment. The Chair sought to rectify this with the introduction of an induction pack and memorandum of understanding for new members.

Some of the members demonstrated active participation at the Board, bringing papers for Board scrutiny. Particularly noticeable are Community Safety; Probation; Voluntary Sector and the Clinical Commissioning Group.

In the next Annual report there will be more in-depth analysis of attendance and participation not only at the Board but in sub-groups.

8. Co-ordination of Safeguarding: Key Challenges and Achievements

A major challenge exercise which began in January 2014 was successfully concluded in September 2014. Allegations were made in the national press of widespread unlawful restraint at Dudley's Russell's Hall Hospital. The suggestion that both children and vulnerable adults had been subjected to such practices necessitated a joint response from both safeguarding boards. A pan board reassurance group was formed and the Hospital Trust was required to provide evidence to refute the allegations and to reassure that safeguarding arrangements were fit for purpose. The process was further complicated in that it had to be coordinated with CCG and CQC enquiries and a criminal investigation by West Midlands Police.

Whilst often both difficult and sensitive, the 9 month process finally concluded that there was no evidence of unlawful restraint. The agency under the spotlight responded in an open and transparent manner and the covering report can be found on the DSCB / DSAB websites. Whilst having the potential to be divisive, holding a constituent agency to account in such a comprehensive and robust manner actually strengthened both boards.

8.1 Highlights from the Lay persons report

All LSCBs are required to have lay representation on the Board – the DSCB has a very active lay member who participates on many sub-groups. In contributing to this report she outlined the following achievements and challenges during 2014-5:

- The decision made to create a CSE Co-ordinator post and specialist team in order to promote an improved response to CSE in Dudley. The DSCB has supported the raising of awareness around CSE amongst the public and hoteliers – during 2014/15 this was demonstrated as highly effective through the actions of a member of staff at a hotel: a young girl was accompanied by an older male to the hotel and whilst he attempted to book a room his behaviour aroused suspicion. The receptionist refused this request, as following Safeguarding Training she recognised instinctively that something wasn't right. When they left the receptionist immediately contacted the police, and provided good intelligence to them. This man was subsequently arrested at another hotel trying to book yet another room. The receptionist was later presented with a letter of thanks on behalf of the Safeguarding Board by the Independent Chair. This invaluable training to local hoteliers in Dudley was recently commended at a Conference chaired by Stephen Rimmer on Engaging with Communities.
- The chairing arrangements of the sub-groups are far more representative of partner agencies than hitherto, with clear evidence of effective challenge on issues of pathways, protocols and funding. An example of this related to the funding of the recently advertised CSE Co-ordinator post, joint funded by both the Police and Local Authority. The Police funding was available much earlier than the Local Authority who was rather slow moving and this was eventually challenged.
- A review by the Board revealed inequitable funding across the Partnership, and noted that there had been no increase in contributions during the past 5 years. There has been no outcome to the review as yet and this issue continues during 2015/16.

- In November 2014, there was a young people's highly successful takeover day when the Safeguarding Board was joined by a small group of young people, and was co-chaired. The young person who performed this task was very skilled, even though she had never undertaken it before. Some of those young people remained for the Business Planning meeting later in the day, and were joined by other young pupils from several secondary schools in the Borough. They gained insight into the work of the Board, and equally provided very useful feedback, together with other data collected by the Youth Officer for the Police. Collectively, this influenced the Board's priorities. Some of this information certainly pertaining to safety, in towns and parks actually fed into a regional See-Me-Hear-Me campaign on buses
- In October 2014, the premiere of Anybody's Child was successfully held at Castle Gate Cinema, produced by Chatback and featuring a group of young people in Dudley aged 11-18 years, some of whom are Looked After Children or birth children of foster families who want to help young people in the care system to "have a voice". This film focuses on sexual exploitation, exposing the vulnerability of young people and clearly emphasises the impact of effective grooming. The film delivers short, sharp messages for parents, carers, and peers. It has subsequently been distributed to Secondary schools in the Borough for use in PHSE.
- Whilst Education is well represented on the Board itself, this is not reflected within the sub-groups as only E-safety has representation. Continuous efforts have been made to improve this situation. (NB this is improving during 2015-6).

8.2 Review of the DSCB Business plan 2014/15

The following outlines the outcomes from the Business Plan 2014/15 from actions against each priority.

PRIORITY ONE: Improve the protection of children from abuse and neglect, through more effective inter-agency working and consistent approaches to minimising risk and strengthening resilience within families.

- Highlighted gaps in data and practice issues enabling Board members to have a better understanding of the issues.
- Identified areas for improvement including how agencies address emotional well-being issues for children and young people with mental health issues.

PRIORITY TWO Improve the effectiveness of early help and intervention for children and young people who are vulnerable.

- Developed pathway for embedding Signs of Safety.
- Oversight of single agency assessment.

PRIORITY THREE Strengthen the effectiveness of support and challenge provided by partners of the Board to improve safeguarding outcomes for children, young people and their families.

- Introduced Risk Register
- Identified the need for Board Restructure
- Implemented Board Induction for new members
- Introduced DSCB constitution
- The development of the Quality Assurance & Communications sub group
- Introduced Annual Board Member Review
- Developed self assessment tool
- DSCB Priorities and work plan set for 2015/2016
- Worked in partnership with young people in Dudley to set Board priorities for 2015/2016

Priority 4 Improve inter-agency responses to young people who are at risk of, or who have suffered, sexual abuse or exploitation.

- Identified priority areas for development in protecting young people from Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Embedded a multi-agency response to CSE
- Implemented the CSE pathway and panel process;
- delivered and evaluated CSE training to safeguarding leads across the partnership and Hotels]
- undertook CSE self assessment against findings of Jay report and SEE Me, Hear Me Framework
- Finalised CSE Strategy & Action Plan for 2013 to 2015

PRIORITY 5 Improve the safeguarding and protection of children and young people who are living in households where there is domestic abuse, parental mental health and parental substance misuse

- Embedding a 'Think Family' approach across the children's and adults workforce
- Improved interagency screening and risk management of domestic abuse



8.3 Development of Policies and Procedures

The Policy and Procedures sub group of DSCB Group oversaw the development of local practice guidance in response to legislation and government guidance, as well as specific circumstances. It also co-ordinates the maintenance and updating of the Interagency safeguarding procedures which are managed by TriX and added to the Dudley safeguarding website. The sub group worked tirelessly to ensure that the procedures were uploaded correctly and accessible to all practitioners. This was further embedded by a communication strategy to make practitioners aware of how to access and navigate the procedures.

During 2014/15 the following key guidance documents were formally approved:

- Use of Images Guidance
- Children from Abroad
- Children Missing from Education
- Children Moving Across Local Authority Boundaries
- Children of Parents with Learning Difficulties
- Children of Parents with Mental Health Problems
- Children of Parents who Misuse Substances
- Faltering Growth

Whilst the review of the DSCB procedures is welcome, there is work outstanding to understand their implementation in practice – i.e. have they made a difference? In the forthcoming year the DSCB will ensure that these policies are embedded in practice through audit and Quality Assurance work.



8.4 Communications

During the past year the Board has undertaken a range of communication activities to raise the profile of the Board, promote engagement and strengthen existing means of communication with members of the public, parents and carers, children and young people and practitioners from all agencies. A communication strategy was developed and ratified by the Board – this will provide the direction for the communication activities undertaken in 2015/2016 – particularly of interest has been the reach to parts of the community that are not always considered in safeguarding i.e. the commercial sector.

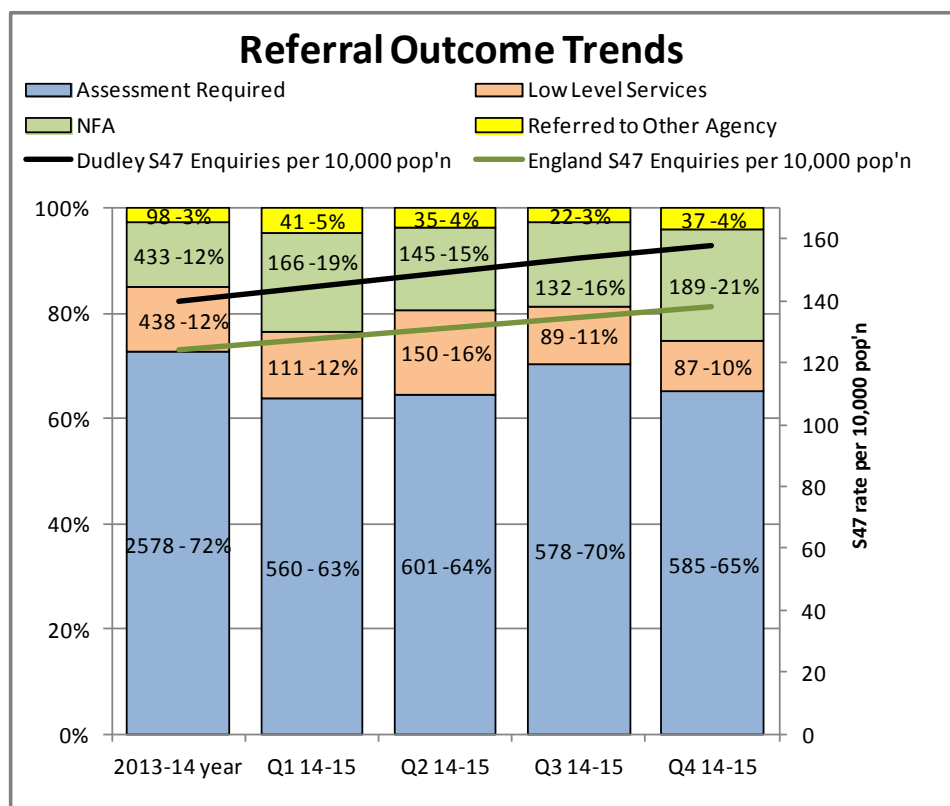
The Board published a newsletter providing a round-up of news and developments in the Safeguarding arena both locally and nationally. This also provides a mechanism to draw attention to and promote national awareness days, such as child sexual exploitation and internet safety. DSCB continued to work with groups of children and young people, to ensure that their feedback and opinions are used and taken into account when developing policy, procedures and services. A group of local young people helped to contributed to DSCB's priority work streams. They attended the Board's annual development day and facilitated a discussion regarding the key priority areas for 2015/2016.



9. Monitoring and Evaluation of Safeguarding Work

This section of the report covers the activity which took place to understand the effectiveness of the safeguarding response in Dudley.

9.1 Key data about the child protection system



The above graph offers information around referral outcome. At the end of 2013/14 off the 12151 contacts received, 3,567 were referrals into Children Services.

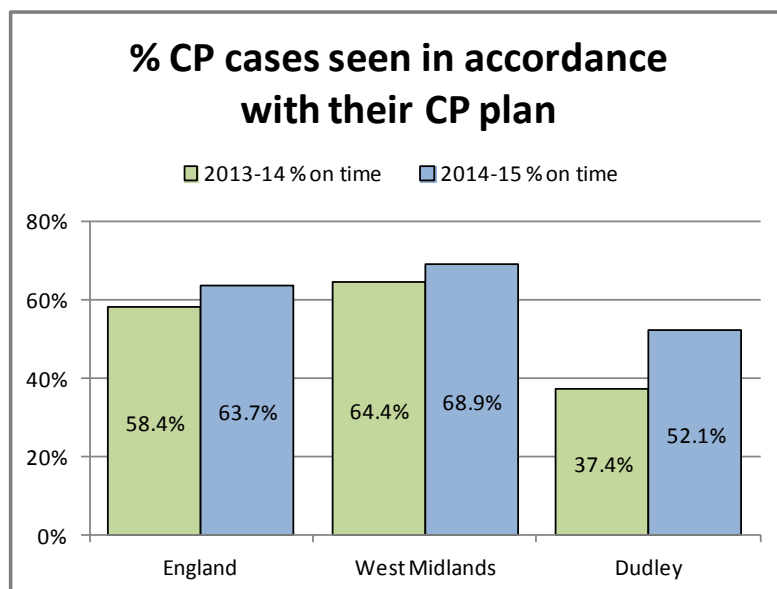
The above graph indicates that in 2013/14, 72% of the referrals required an assessment from Children Services, 12% required a low level service through early intervention and 12% received no input and returned back to universal services. 4% was referred to other agencies to offer input.

At the end of 2014/15, the graph shows a reduction in assessments and referrals to low level services. However there is an increase to referrals for early intervention provision. This indicates that there was some developments in early intervention which meant families who needed support were receiving this earlier on.

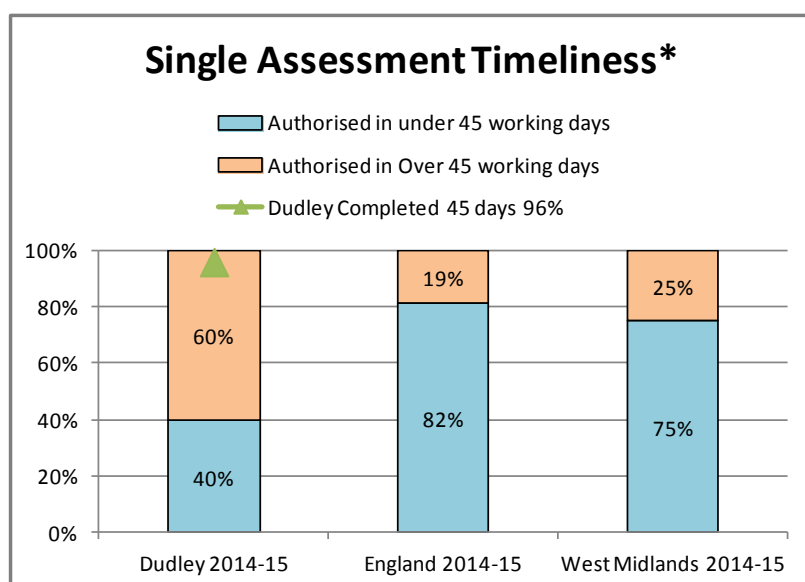
Data shown in the graph above also shows that Dudley's performance of authorised/completed assessments was poor when compared to England and West Midlands at only 40%. This means that the number of expected assessments when benchmarking against Local Authorities is low.

Dudley Children Services are consistently undertaking a higher level of section 47 child protection investigations compared to the national average. This is being reviewed in 2015 to better understand through audit activity why this is occurring at this particular level. However in 2014/15 there were 377 children subject of Child Protection Plans. They are the most vulnerable group of Children in Dudley.

During this period 97.1% of their Child Protection plans were reviewed in timescale in line with Statutory requirements.

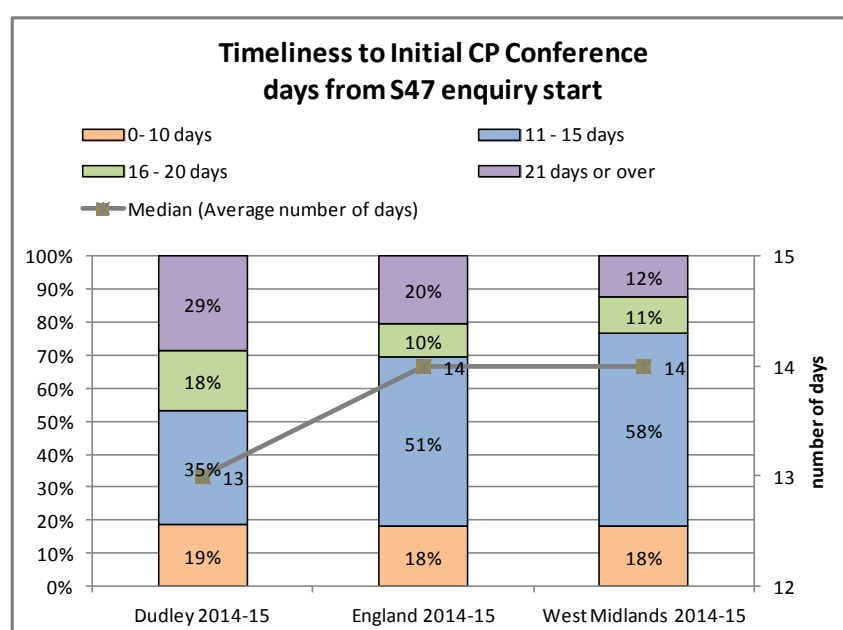


This graph details children who were subject of Child Protection plans and the % of visits in line with agreed statutory responsibility. Timeliness of visits to children in accordance with their child protection planning was a challenge in Dudley. This is partially due to data errors and timeliness of recording of visits. However where children had not been seen, this was immediately rectified in early 2015 with an independent audit of cases open to children services. The visiting frequency has been defined at a minimum of fortnightly by the allocated social worker and early indication is that the percentage of visits to children on a child protection plan has improved significantly in 2015.



This graph offers information of children and young people assessments (CYPA) completed by Children Services within timescale. CYPA's were introduced in its new format in April 2014. This was in line with Munro recommendations for assessments to be more holistic and offer rich up to date information about a child and their specific needs. Whilst timeliness of these assessments was relaxed in comparison to 10 working days Initial Assessment, it has meant that assessments have taken longer to complete but the demand and requests of assessments has not changed. The graph offers further benchmarking detail across England and West Midlands.

Dudley Children Services are aware of the gaps and have worked to address this issue in the development of single point of access in 2015 and early intervention services under the umbrella of Family Solutions. This will be reported on in 2016 Annual report.



Child Protection Case Conferences must be held within 15 working days from the date that the last strategy meeting makes a decision to undertake a child protection investigation. This is a statutory requirement and defined in Working Together 2013. Dudley Children Services have found this a challenging target over the three year period with 53% held in timescale in 2014/15. This is partially related to data errors and timeliness of recording on the system, but it is also to note that specific challenges around joint investigations have meant that some visits and lateral checks have taken longer before a decision has been made to proceed to conference.

Safeguarding data from other partner agencies	2014-2015
Number of police notifications made to children's social care involving children living within the household where a domestic abuse incident had taken place.	135% increase from 2012
The number of concerns or allegations in respect of people who work with children	103

The number of positions of trust complex strategy meetings concerning individual members of the workforce.	60
The number of Initial Child protection conferences	211
The number of children made subject of a child protection plan	377
The number of receiving in conferences	26
The number of review child protection conferences	464
The number of children reported as missing or absent to the Police	212
The number of people referred to YPSE panel and assessed at risk of sexual exploitation.	46
The number of child abuse recorded crimes by the police	281
The number of young people (under the age of 18 years) charged with drug related offences, in respect of Class B drugs	39
The number of young people (under the age of 18 years) charged with drug related offences, in respect of Class A drugs	1
The number of children (under 18 years of age) victims of recorded crime, of which 26 were victims of knife crime and 6 victims of gun crime.	989

9.2 DSCB Dataset:

The newly restructured DSCB acknowledged that its dataset was limited so could not provide a holistic picture of safeguarding activity and progress in Dudley. An effective dataset should give insight into all the safeguarding arrangements in the borough as well as information about the experiences of children and young people. A recommendation was made that the Quality Assurance and Communications subgroup develop a more robust and effective dataset throughout 2015/16.

9.3 Performance reporting

The DSCB has sight of several monitoring reports which should present key information to the Board to assure regarding the effectiveness of the safeguarding response. The data from 2014/15 is not as robust as the Board requires to do this – what is included below is the available data and analysis – with a useful analysis of the gaps and the way forward.

9.4 Managing Allegations against professionals in Dudley 2014/15

This information was provided retrospectively by a new interim postholder in the role of Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) appointed during 2015/16. She has identified a lack of reliability in previously gathered data but has presented this as a useful summary. In reading this, we must bear in mind that the service has not had a full time LADO in post and the responsibility had rested with the Independent Reviewing officers.

Number of Allegations against Professionals

	2013/14	2014/15
Number of allegations referred	No data recorded	60
The percentage of allegations that were referred within 24 hours of the date the concern was raised (relates to actual professionals)	No data recorded	This information has not been collated
Allegations where correct procedures were followed by referrer	Data not available	This information has not been collated

Of the 60 cases which were recorded as referrals, referred through the Managing Allegation against Staff and Volunteers process, 40 (66.66%) were dealt with within one month of the referral and 15 cases (25%) were concluded within the three month target. There were some cases which were subject to criminal investigations, which contributed to a delay in outcomes; 4 cases (6%) were concluded after 6 months and one case (20%) was concluded in a nine month timescale.

Allegations by Profession

Allegations referred By profession	2014/15 (Number)	2014/15 (%)
Child Health (health visitors, school nurses)	8	13.34%
Foster Carers/Placements	6	10%
Teachers/Head teachers*	24	40%
Education (Other)	0	-
Social Workers**	0	-

Voluntary Sector	3	5%
Other Dudley Services	0	-
Health (any other health worker)	0	-
Police	0	-
Care Workers	0	-
Early Years	0	-
Residential Care	5	8.34%
Other DO/Authority	0	-
Other	14	23.34%

As can be noted, education staff account for the majority of the recorded allegations referred under the Management of Allegations Process. However it should be noted that this is not a comprehensive picture of the total referrals for the year.

Outcomes of Allegations

This data has not been collated during 2014-5

In order to consider how we keep in step with our local partners, a canvas of the numbers of referrals received by our statistical partners are as follows;

Authority	2014/2015 Total Referrals	2014/15 Of those, consultations only	2014/15 Positions of trust
Walsall	329	263	66 (21%)
Birmingham	1076	865	211 (20%)
Sandwell	431	341	90 (21%)
Shropshire	229	Improving data recording	Improving data recording
Worcestershire	887	726	161(18%)
Staffordshire	600+	300+	Info not provided

The local data analysis suggests that between 18% and 20% of the total numbers of referrals received went on to be considered by way of Positions of Trust meetings. If we use this as a tool to predict the likely numbers of referrals it would suggest that the number of referrals to the LADO in Dudley is likely to have been over the 300 mark for the period 2014 to 2015.

This of course is not an exact science, but does provide us with a picture and supports the need to improve data collection.

Whilst we know that our referrals for the period 2014/15 were recorded as 60, we now know from the new method of data collection which was implemented for the third quarter of this current year Oct-Dec 15; that the referrals received through the Management of Allegations process are currently at 65. This therefore indicates that we are not far off our regional partners.

There are now clear plans to effectively monitor the management of allegations against professionals.

9.5 Private Fostering in Dudley

The Board has been assured by the following information regarding private fostering in Dudley – although the same national issue of under-reporting of private fostering arrangements in Dudley is reflected.

The Private Fostering Social Worker (0.5FTE) has been in post four years. The role is focussed on providing a consistent response to notifications of Private Fostering, assessing and supporting Private Fostering arrangements, and undertaking awareness raising activity with statutory and non-statutory partners.

Vitally important to the social work role is the support of an administrator who has to ensure that the data we collect and report upon is accurate. We have been fortunate in being able to recruit to this role during the last 6 months, which has made a considerable difference to the management of private fostering data and the coordination of the awareness raising activity.

Main achievements:

- 100% statutory compliance (response within 7 days) responding to 16 private fostering notifications (21 last year) from a range of statutory and non statutory agencies.
- 100% statutory compliance in 3 of the 4 key performance indicators (KPI) and an improvement to 83.3% in respect of the fourth KPI which relates to scheduled visits beginning before the 1.4.14
- Maintained effective cover arrangements from within the Fostering Team, and the provision of monthly updates to the team about current Private Fostering Arrangements at the fostering team meeting;
- Achieved 91% (10 out of 11) completion of suitability assessments within 42 days. One assessment was delayed while we awaited medical information which was paramount to the assessment, as the privately fostered child had complex health needs. (16 notifications were received of which only 14 were private fostering arrangements. Of the 14 arrangements, 1 ended after 7 days and the remaining 2 assessments were not due to be completed until after 31.3.15 and will therefore be reported upon in the next annual return);
- Achieved 100% statutory compliance in conjunction with Elmfield Independent Steiner School, in terms of notifications, assessment and support;
- Achieved 100% statutory compliance in conjunction with The Glasshouse College (work skills training provision for young people up to 18 years of age with disabilities) whose young people live with host families in the borough;

- Completed risk assessments in all arrangements pending criminal records checks being returned from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). Of note, has been the inconsistency in the timeliness of checks being returned by the DBS with significant delays in some instances (e.g. one check took 6 months to come back despite regular contact with the DBS from Children's Services). The problems reported in last year's Annual Report regarding process issues where individuals have not had the required documentation have now been resolved with HR providing clarity about the process to follow in respect of 'route 2' checks¹;
- Of the e11 arrangements that began during the year 31 criminal records checks were required and 27 were processed. The remaining 4 are being processed via the new route 2 checking process;
- Utilised the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) toolkit to identify any privately fostered young people at risk of CSE;
- Effectively safeguarded (18) children. Four existing arrangement from 2013-2014 and 14 new notified children living in private fostering arrangements during this year, through the continuous monitoring and oversight of the Private Fostering Social Worker;
- 2 additional young people who were found not to be in Private Fostering Arrangements were also provided with support and assistance from the Fostering Team after the initial assessment;
- Sought feedback from young people and their Private Foster carers on the quality of the service they received at the cessation of intervention by the PF Social Worker. Feedback from the questionnaires (Appendix 4-4e) was analysed and indicated that all responses received rated the intervention as either excellent or good;
- Our Annual Questionnaire was sent out 24.4.15 to 7 carers and 8 children. Once again all responses were overwhelmingly positive
- Ensured a robust approach to the monitoring, reporting and collation of private fostering data throughout the year (Appendix 4 & 4a);
- Following work with the school's admission unit last year ongoing communication has led to the identification and notification of 2 Private Fostering Arrangements this year;
- Continued quarterly awareness raising activity with in excess of 232 agencies identified on the database by the administrator, including community and faith groups in the borough, all of whom have been sent information directly about Private Fostering; how to notify and whom to contact (Appendix 6).
- Reviewed and updated the PF webpage (March 2015);
- Reviewed our thematic audit based on the 2012 Ofsted report of 12 regional Ofsted Inspection Reports, in order to benchmark Dudley's practice and inform service delivery locally for the year ahead (Appendix 7);
- Remained an active participant in the regional *British Association of Adoption and Fostering* (BAAF) Private Fostering Special Interest Group and took part in the BAAF Private Fostering campaign locally; focusing on health professionals;
- Achieved clarity about the outcomes for those children who were supported in private fostering arrangements with 7 remaining privately fostered at the end of the year (Appendix 8). They and their carers continue to be supported by the service;
- As last year it has been difficult to secure comparative data about the number of notifications received by neighbouring and regional authorities despite support through

the BAAF Private Fostering Special Interest Group. It appears that in some areas there is a reduction in dedicated resources to the Private Fostering task evidenced by the lack of named people responsible for this area of work and confusion by authorities as to who reports on Private Fostering. This is of particular note given that Ofsted inspection feedback continues to emphasise each LA's response to Private Fostering.



RISKS TO THE PRIVATE FOSTERING SERVICE

The main risk to the service currently is:

1. The lack of an integrated casework management system which means that all of the information is maintained in paper files in addition to an Excel spreadsheet. All information in respect of the children and young people is written in WORD format, which then has to be scanned and indexed to the Children's Casework Management (CCM) system. In effect increasing the work required to undertake what should be a simple task, whilst also potentially building in unnecessary delays in information being accessible to district teams. Furthermore there is no Carer's Module within CCM as it stands, so all of the carer's information is maintained in paper format.

The impact of this will continue to be closely monitored and representations to ICT continue to be made. The Directorate needs to consider ways to expedite the current situation.

9.6 Section 11 audits 2014-5

The DSCB has used the S11 audit toolkit from Virtual College. The last audit was completed at the end of 2013 with scrutiny of the findings commencing in January 2014. An updated audit tool was produced by virtual college in April 2014.

In July 2014 DSCB in conjunction with Virtual College re launched the audit tool with the view to undertake an audit of partners within the DSCB with a view to reporting in 2015. DSCB members were invited to attend briefing sessions with Virtual College in November 2014 with a view to commencing a new audit in January 2015 for completion within 2 months. This target date was changed to May 2015 as partners had technical difficulties with the audit tool however there has now been a 100% completion rate. Findings will be included in the Annual Report 2015-2016 which will give a clearer picture of themes and gaps to consider in the DSCB work for 2016-17.

9.7 Other audit activity

Due to capacity and a lack of an audit post, there were no audits conducted during the period under review. This will be rectified in 2015/2016.

10. Learning and Improvement in Dudley

10.1 Serious Case Reviews sub group

The key purpose of the SCR Sub group is to consider whether to hold a Serious Case Review (SCR)

A SCR should take place if abuse or neglect is known, or suspected, to have been involved and

- a child has died
- or a child has been seriously harmed and there is cause for concern about how organisations or professionals worked together to safeguard the child

or

- the child dies in custody
- or a child died by suspected suicide

This summary provides a brief update of the key areas of learning and improvement themes from the above processes. The decision of the independent chair of the DSCB will be peer reviewed in order to quality assure the decision and to demonstrate openness and transparency within the process.

Over the past 12 months there has been a change of chair due to the retirement of the former post holder. In 2015 work has taken place to formalise the process for review of cases and new terms of reference have been set and a learning and development framework is being developed. Review activity has increased due to a number of factors. The group wish to ensure that any cases which do not reach the threshold for a full SCR are undertaken expediently and that themes and learning is disseminated to frontline staff in a timely fashion. The impact of this work and the findings from the reviews conducted under this regime will be reported in the next DSCB annual report

During the period under review (2014-5) Dudley Safeguarding Children Board has

- Involvement in a SCR undertaken by Lincolnshire LSCB
- Involvement in a SCR undertaken by Birmingham LSCB
- Involvement in a SCR undertaken by Sandwell LSCB.

Whilst we are awaiting final publication of these SCR's, action plans generated from the individual management reviews (IMR's) are being reviewed and updated by the members of the subgroup.

Themes to date include:

- Long term chronic neglect and start over syndrome
- Parental rather than child focussed care and assessment
- Invisible siblings
- Clear message to practitioners about the need for 'professional curiosity' and potential for the 'rule of optimism'

10.2 Considerations for the DSCB in the forthcoming year:

- How to best work with partner agencies to ensure that lessons learned are embedded into practice in the optimal manner
- To ensure that the learning and development framework is linked to the quality assurance framework in order to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families
- Continue to support the development of a MASH and updated threshold guidance and to ensure that thresholds are correctly applied in cases of suspected abuse and neglect.
- The training strategy which is a key output from the learning and improvement framework will be regularly updated to reflect the learning arising from all reviewing activity. The DSCB will continue to monitor this via the sub groups.
- To develop innovative ways to embed lessons learned into practice in conjunction with workforce development and quality assurance sub groups

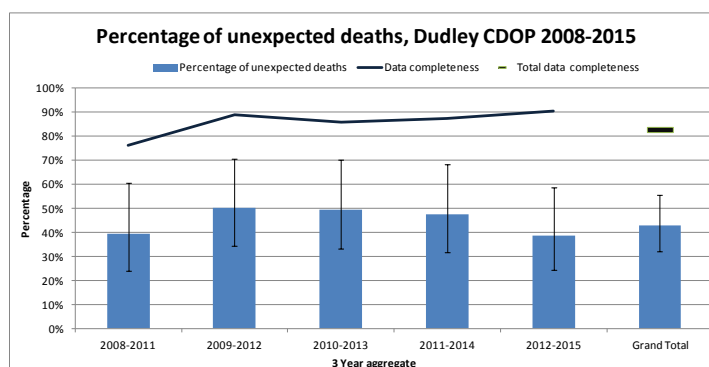
11. Child Death Overview Panel

The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) is made up of representatives from a range of partner agencies such as Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group, Black Country Partnership Foundation NHS Trust, Children's Social Care, West Midlands Police, Public Health and Community Safety.

CDOP met 5 times during 2014-2015 on average reviewing 6 child deaths per meeting. In total child deaths were reviewed during the year.

Child death is a very sensitive issue of paramount importance. The Panel is committed to learning from every such death where possible, in order to identify modifiable factors at both national and local level and to inform action that can then be taken to reduce the number of child deaths in the future or improve our safeguarding arrangements.

Six of the 19 deaths reviewed were identified as unexpected (not expecting to die within the 24 hours preceding the death). When analysing the number of unexpected deaths as a percentage of deaths reviewed by the panel using data aggregated into three year groups there has been a downwards trend since 2009-12, with the largest fall compared to the previous 3 year period in the 2012-15 data, the confidence intervals show that this trend is not significant. Data completeness also continues to improve with the most recent time period showing the highest completeness available data



During that same period CDOP completed reviews in respect of 54 child deaths (28 male, 26 female)

Review of children death this year has identified six unexpected deaths i.e. children who were not considered to be seriously ill and were not expected to die within 24 hours.

- Two of these deaths were due to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. There was an issue of exposure to passive smoking in one of the cases. The exact cause of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome is still unknown but certain risk factors can increase its risk; sleep environment (sleeping on stomach or side, sleeping on a soft surface and sleeping with parent) , other risk factors include low birth weight, brain abnormality , respiratory infections, prematurity and passive smoking.
- Two cases of infection were identified as unexpected; one case was in a premature child.

Learning from Child deaths in Dudley

- One case highlighted issues around issuing prescriptions at the weekend when the hospital pharmacy could be closed. Certain medication should be routinely kept on the hospital ward. The case also brought about a change in practice - any child admitted to hospital for more than 2 hours should have vital signs and temperature taken prior to discharge from hospital.
- We continue to reinforce the water safety campaign that was launched so successfully in 2013 following the drowning of a local child. We intend to extend this to campaign to safety around water in gardens. Learning around safe sleeping practices remains high

profile locally and regionally, led by Health practitioners both in the community and in our hospitals.

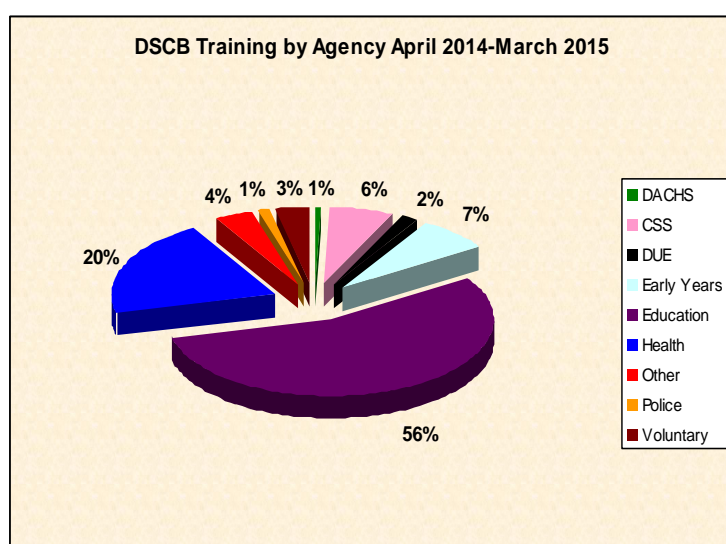
12. Developing an Effective Safeguarding Workforce

Dudley Safeguarding Children Board (DSCB) continued to deliver a programme of face to face multi-agency training which is regularly reviewed to ensure that it reflects learning from national and local Serious Case Reviews and case reviews, and encompasses current evidence based practice. Core training continues to be provided directly by DSCB. The number of courses delivered has continued to rise to meet the demands of frontline practitioners as demonstrated below.

Unfortunately there has been a real challenge to the capacity of the training unit in terms of the long-term sickness of the training manager towards the end of the year. There was also some lack of management and strategic direction of the unit in 2014/15 and the boundary between the responsibility of single agencies to provide basic safeguarding training and the DSCB to provide multi-agency training has become blurred with some agencies becoming reliant on DSCB to deliver single agency training. This clearly compromises the capacity to deliver on multi-agency training as is demonstrated in the 37% decrease in multi-agency training numbers as seen below. This is clearly a significant risk to the Board. Whilst this is being reviewed by the DSCB in 2015, this has meant that the data provided in this report reflects this in that the numbers and the evaluation detail are presented together.

12.1 DSCB Training Figures 2014-2015

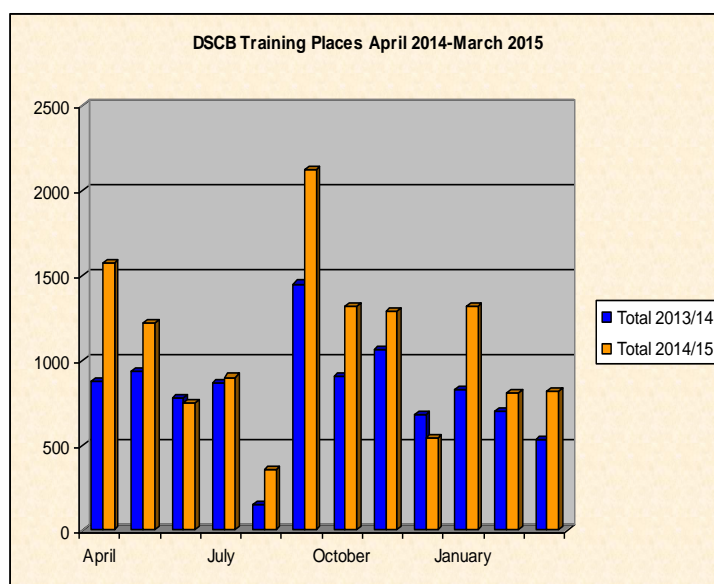
Year	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	TOTAL
14/15	1572	1225	748	902	361	2127	1319	1290	542	1314	804	819	13023



Single Agency: 9930 (+99%)
Multi Agency: 1661 (- 37%)
Virtual College: 876 (-20%)
Briefings: 556 (-49%)

Partnership Agency Attendance

Comparative Training Data 2013/14 & 2014/2015



Online Training

Month	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	TOTAL
Total 2014/15	103	112	60	25	45	63	86	70	131	83	44	54	876

Briefings:

Month	Adult SSD	CSS	Early Yrs	Education	Health	Voluntary	Other	Police	DUE	TOTAL
Total 2014/15	7	158	40	109	123	31	46	41	1	556

How do we know we are making a difference to practice through training?

DSCB training courses are routinely evaluated on the day and demonstrate reports of improved knowledge and confidence in learners. A number of courses were identified at the beginning of the year for impact evaluation three/six months after the training had been delivered. The impact evaluations enable the Training sub Group to assess the effectiveness of training and findings against national data

The methodology for analysing training impact will be further refined during 2015/16 so that it is more routine and embedded in staff development and performance management

12.2 Testimonials of practitioners working with children

"I feel I am a better practitioner because of the training. I feel more confident....I am keen to attend any further training that is relevant to my working practice and that can better me as a professional" – Primary school teacher

"I intend to develop stronger links between the school and governors in relation to safeguarding."
– School Governor

"It made me think about ways we can implement better safeguarding approaches at our youth group and issues we could challenge with our young people so they are educated."
– Church youth worker

"The discussion sessions were the most effective as they are an opportunity to clarify doubts and questions where you need further advice..." – Headteacher

"...gave us the opportunity to think and consider the complex issues surrounding safeguarding."
– CAFCASS worker

"I have previously found it difficult to write the child's voice; however, during the training it was made clearer to me how to do this." – Health Visitor

"If we are unsure, we are now not afraid to ask our safeguarding nurse...." GP surgery employee

"I have learnt that domestic abuse is not just about physical injuries, but about emotional and mental abuse which can present in various ways...." – Contact worker

"I have learnt that abused people may not recognise they are being abused." – Mental Health worker

"I was able to record an incident, knowing what to do, the important bits to write and who to go to." – Primary school staff

Testimonial from practitioners not working with children

"I have worked in the hotel business for the past 15 months and never thought that CSE would be so close to home. I attended the hotel CSE awareness training about 6 months ago which was organised by DSCB. The training was an eye-opener, very interesting and telling me about CSE in a way I understood. I found the true life experiences and examples most useful.

This is how I used the training :

I was on duty at reception in the hotel I work and my gut instinct told me there was something not right about the couple trying to book in. The training signs of CSE came back to me and alarm bells rang. I noted that there was a big age difference between the couple, they were trying to pay cash with no identification and the girl wouldn't make eye contact with me. I refused to book them in (I could have lost my job but I knew there was something wrong)

When they left I phoned the police and told them my suspicions . The police checked the CCTV and followed it up.

Outcome: my actions stopped a child being abused “

3 & 6 month longitudinal evaluations

How have you used this training?

- In supervision with staff
- Shared information in staff meeting
- Re-visited our existing safe caring policy with the young people we look after
- Used on a daily basis when supervising young people
- Identified other training needs
- Used some of the information in training delivery
- Will attend the Trust's Level 3 training to better understand the perspective as we cover the 4 boroughs
- Safeguarding is on the agenda at every weekly meeting
- I question situations more than I used to
- I have more confidence
- To speak out and tell someone if there's a problem and not ignore it
- I have raised concerns about a couple of pupils and discussed these to my CP Officer
- Advised colleagues on what to do
- Arranged further training
- I have referred a child to duty team for CP issues
- The training improved my skills in acknowledging where a child should be safeguarded
- I have used this knowledge on a number of occasions with various situations, leading to referrals

DSCB has identified challenges in the delivery DSCB of training and an arrangement to address these in 2015/2016, these are set out below:

- Capacity to deliver but more importantly to evidence outcomes and develop quality and breadth of programme.
- Quantity over quality.
- Safeguarding practices in the real world – challenge from training delegates regarding practice issues
- Value/recognition of training & trainers, most of who deliver for the Board on top of their day job.
- Investment and support.
- Partnership ownership and to effectively offer joined up training.
- Administration.

12.3 Operational Safeguarding Forums in 2014/2015

The following Forums continued their commitment in meeting on a regular basis. The aim of these Forums was to share the information from sub groups and ensure that the action plan of the Board becomes an operational tool in practice. The forums also monitored the effectiveness of the work completed and fed back the findings to Sub and task groups.

- Child Protection Coordinators (Education).
- Local Forum (Social Care and Police).
- Health Safeguarding Forum.
- 14+ Safeguarding Forum.
- Directorate of Place Safeguarding Forum.
- Directorate of Children Services Safeguarding Management Board.
- Substance Misuse Services Safeguarding Forum.



13. Looking Ahead

The final section of the DSCB Annual Report outlines some of the key challenges, risks and priorities for DSCB looking ahead to the next 12 months and beyond



13.1 Key risks and Challenges

Safeguarding Risks and Challenges

- Capacity of front-line services to respond to increasing demand and complexity of child protection work, notably at a time of recession with the impact of poverty increasing pressures within some families and cuts within public sector services on the provision of early intervention and some areas of more specialist assessment and intervention. The continued impact on frontline practice of continued national and regional organisational change and reform within health and police.

Board Risks and Challenges

- Capacity to deliver key priorities and improvements identified within business plan and work programme.
- Developing clear pathways for referrals and subsequent information sharing amongst partners.

- Lack of investment for Quality Assurance coordinator post and ensuring effective resourcing and optimum processes for dealing with child sexual exploitation. Review and set a work programme for improving LSCB communications, including the development of the website in-conjunction with Dudley Safeguarding Adults Board. Review and set a work programme to improve the engagement and participation of children and young people with the DSCB.
- Reviewing internal Board effectiveness and relations with other partnerships through self-assessment and peer review
- Review and set a work programme to improve partnership engagement and leadership across the Board structure
- Supporting the development of the MASH
- Developing a greater understanding of the quality of multi-agency frontline safeguarding practice
- Developing an equitable and realistic funding / resourcing model to sustain DSCB activity



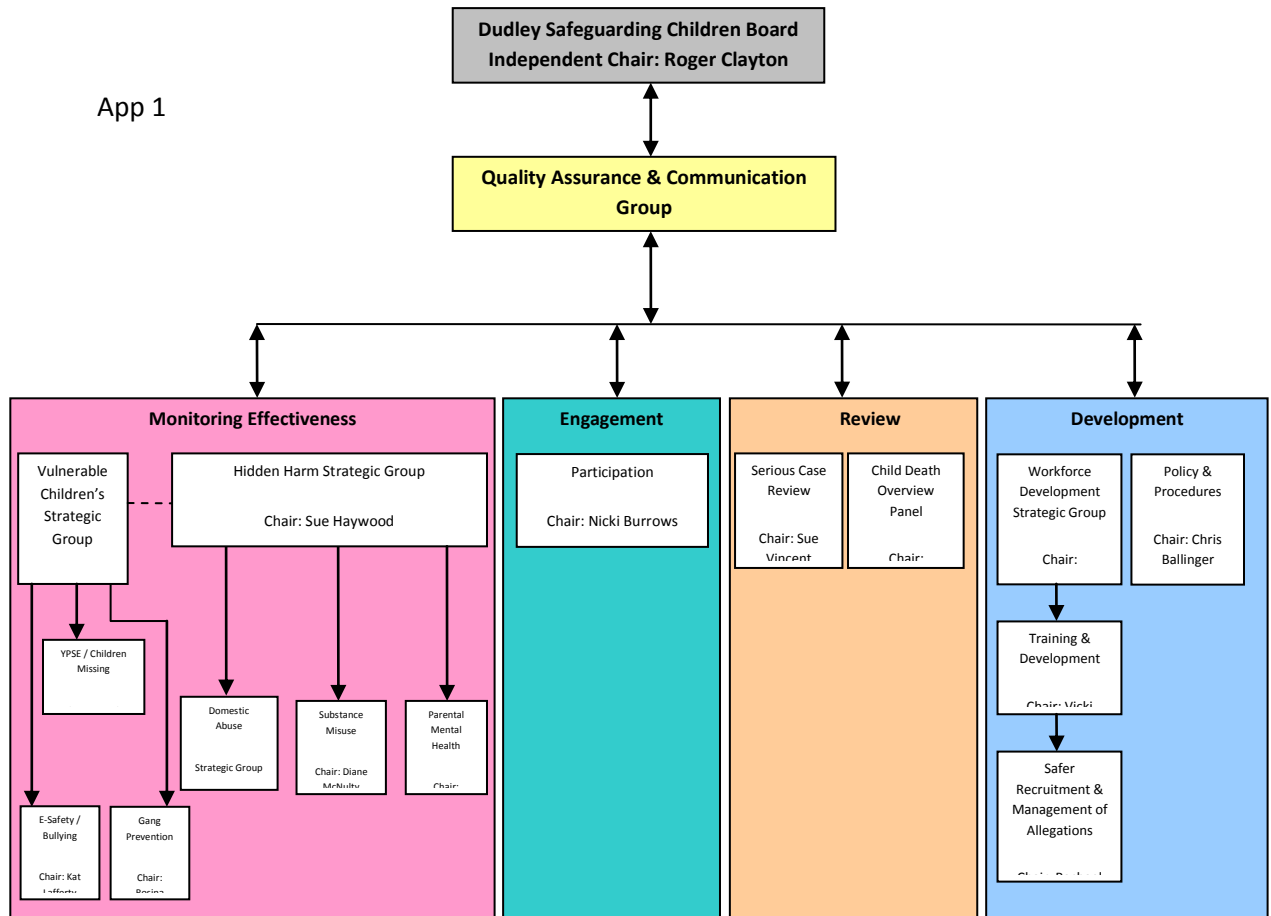
Appendix 1

Board Membership at end March 2015

Agency	Web address	Board member	Job title
Independent		Roger Clayton	Independent chair
Directorate of Children's Services, Dudley Council	www.dudley.gov.uk	Pauline Sharratt	Interim Director of Children's Services
Directorate of Children's Services, Quality & Performance Dudley Council	www.dudley.gov.uk	Ian McGuff	Assistant Director – Quality & Partnership
Children's Social Care, Directorate of Children's Services, Dudley Council	www.dudley.gov.uk	Christine Ballinger	Divisional Lead – Social Work
Safeguarding & Review Service, Quality & Partner Directorate of Children's Services, Dudley Council	www.dudley.gov.uk	Jasvinder Broadmeadow	Divisional Lead – Safeguarding & Review
Safeguarding & Review Service, Quality & Partnership Directorate of Children's Services, Dudley Council	www.dudley.gov.uk	Jackie Jennings	Safeguarding Development Manager
Safeguarding & Review Service, Quality & Partnership Directorate of Children's Services, Dudley Council	www.dudley.gov.uk	Martine McFadden	Business & Communication Manager
Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group	www.dudleyccg.nhs.uk	Susan Vincent	Designated Lead Nurse for Safeguarding
Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group	www.dudleyccg.nhs.uk	Rebecca Bartholomew	Chief Quality & Nursing Officer (Director of Nursing (Safeguarding Lead))
Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust	www.dgh.nhs.uk	Yvonne O'Connor	Deputy Director of Nursing
Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust	www.dgh.nhs.uk	Zala Ibrahim	Consultant Paediatrician (Designated Dr for Safeguarding)
Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust	www.dgh.nhs.uk	Pamela Smith	Safeguarding Lead
Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust	www.dgh.nhs.uk	Carol Weston	Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children
West Midlands Probation Service	www.swmprobation.gov.uk	Viv Townsend	Head of Dudley Probation
Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust	www.bcpft.nhs.uk	Jayne Clarke	Safeguarding Children Service Lead

Community Safety Team, Dudley Council	www.dudley.gov.uk	Anne Boden	Domestic Abuse Coordinator
Community Safety/DAAT, Dudley Council	www.dudley.gov.uk	Sue Haywood	Head of Community Safety
Directorate of Adults, Community & Housing Services, Dudley MBC	www.dudley.gov.uk	Anne Harris	Head of Safeguarding (Adults)
Public Protection Unit, West Midlands Police	www.west-midlands.police.uk	ADCI J Skyrme	Acting Detective Chief Inspector
West Midlands Fire Service	www.wmfs.net	Julie Winpenny	Partnership Officer
Special School (Special Schools Forum representative)	www.halesbury.dudley.sch.uk	Marie Hunter	Head Teacher
Castle High School (Secondary Schools Forum)	www.castle.dudley.sch.uk	Michelle King	Head Teacher
FE Colleges		Gill Coldicott	Assistant Principal – Student Support Services, Recruitment & Safeguarding
Dudley & Walsall Mental Health Trust	www.dwmh.nhs.uk	Rosie Musson	Head of Nursing, Quality & Innovation
Connexions Service, Dudley Council	www.connexionsdudley.org	Helen Ellis	Commissioning Manager
NHS England	www.england.nhs.uk	Angela Young	Nursing & Quality Manager
The Phase Trust, Children, Young People's & Families Voluntary Sector Forum	www.phasetrust.org.uk	Jayne Sargeant	Manager
Dudley Council for Voluntary Services	www.dudleycvs.org.uk	Nicki Burrows	Children Young People & Families Development Officer
Lay Advisor		Karen Palk	Lay Advisor
Youth Offending Services, Dudley Council	www.dudley.gov.uk	Mike Galikowski	Divisional Lead
Directorate of Urban Environment, Dudley Council	www.dudley.gov.uk	Rachael Doyle	Principal Sport & Physical Activity Manager
Dudley Children & Young People's Partnership	www.dudley.gov.uk	Mike Wood	Head of Children & Young People's Partnership Support
Legal Services, Dudley Council	www.dudley.gov.uk	Richard Clark	Principal Solicitor (Legal Advisor)
CAFCASS	www.cafcass.gov.uk	Nicky Campbell	Service Manager
Cabinet Member – Children's Services, Dudley Council		Cllr Tim Crumpton	Lead Member for Children's Services (Advisor)

App 1



Dudley Safeguarding Children's Board **Business Plan 2015/16**



Introduction

Welcome to the Dudley's Safeguarding Children Board (DSCB) Business Plan and Work Programme for 2015 – 2016.

DSCB is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how relevant organisations will co-operate and work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in Dudley, and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do. This Business Plan provides an outline of DSCB three aims for 2015 - 2018 and the work plan of the DSCB for 2015-2016. The work plan will be developed and refreshed on an annual basis in order to give clear direction to the subgroups of the board to improve outcomes for children and young people.

Monitoring

DSCB Annual Business Plan is monitored bi – monthly by the safeguarding executive group and progress will be reported at every Board meeting. Responsibility for delivering the plan rests with the relevant sub group chairs and members. Each statutory partner is responsible for ensuring that the Board's work is properly implemented and delivered within their own agency.

The DSCB subgroups are accountable for ensuring that work of the DSCB is progressed. Each sub group will be allocated a detailed work programme plan which identifies specific tasks and the sub group responsible, as well as any milestones achieved. The whole system builds on the activity of each sub group and each sub group must ensure it works collaboratively with the other sub groups.

Dudley Safeguarding Children's Board Vision

'Working Together to Keep Children & Young People Safe

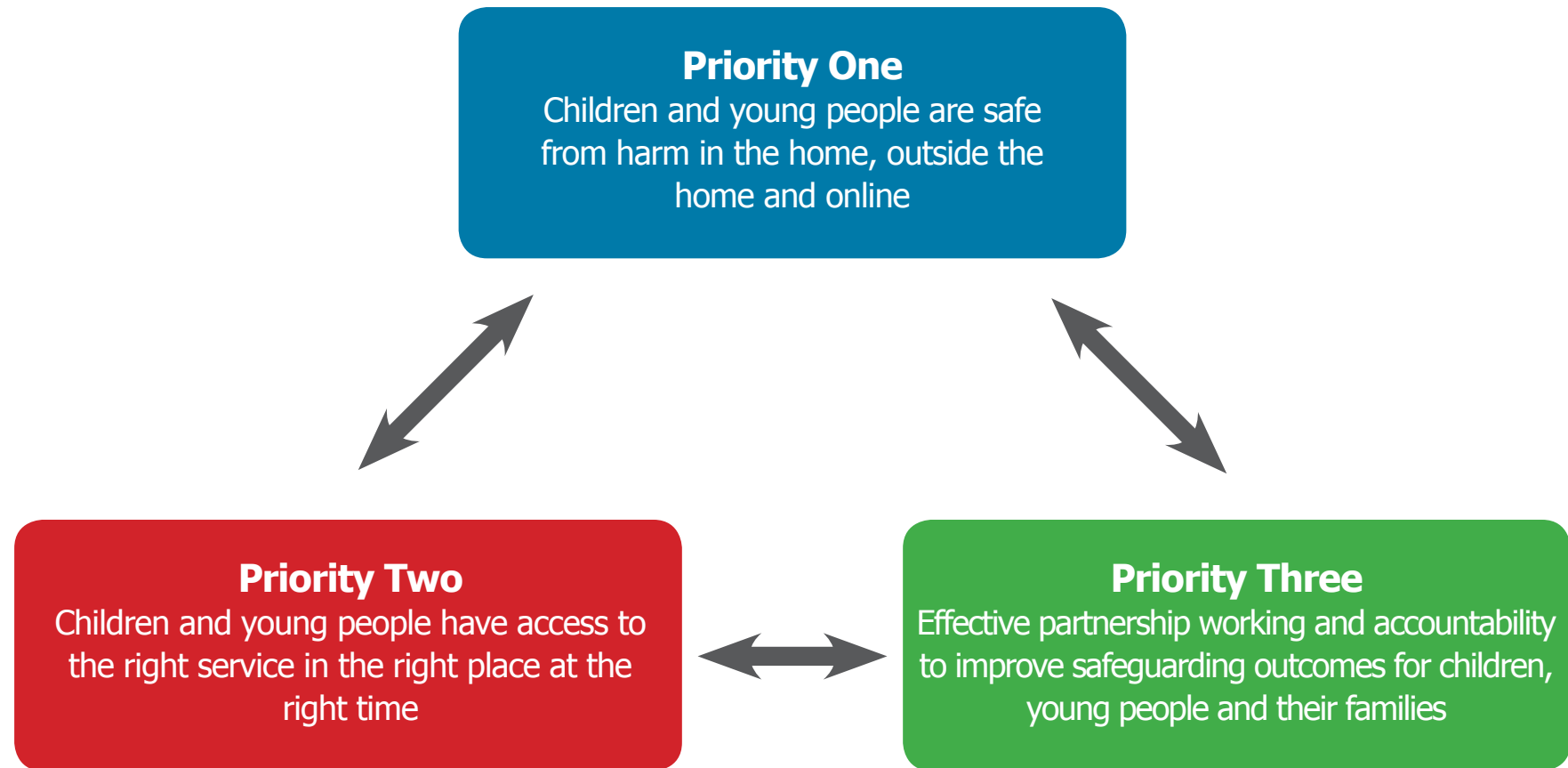
Whilst we have a responsibility to ensure all children in Dudley are safeguarded, we particularly want to get it right for our most vulnerable children and young people, who have, we know, been the least safe and whose outcomes have been the worst. This means our priorities will focus on safeguarding the most vulnerable children in the Dudley but we will not lose sight of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and young people

OFSTED requirements for Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB)

- The governance arrangements enable statutory partners (including the Health and Well-Being Board and the Children's Trust) to assess whether they are fulfilling their statutory responsibilities to help (including early help), protect and care for children and young people. There is evidence that this leads to clear improvement priorities being identified that are incorporated into a delivery plan that improves outcomes.
- There is evidence of regular and effective monitoring and evaluation of front-line practice and the quality of management oversight. This extends across the breadth of child protection, services for children who are looked after and those who are leaving or who have left care. It leads to improvements in the quality of service that children and young people receive.
- The local authority is made aware of the findings and analysis of case audits, including the impact on children, young people and families. The experiences of children and young people are used as a measure of improvement. There is evidence of audit findings improving practice.
- Practitioners working in core groups with families are able to be involved in practice audits, identifying strengths, areas for improvement and lessons to be learned. These experiences are used effectively to improve practice and front-line management.
- The LSCB is an active and influential participant in informing and planning services for children, young people and families in the area and draws on its assessments of the effectiveness of multi-agency practice to help, protect and look after children and young people.
- The LSCB ensures that sufficient, high-quality multi-agency training is available and can demonstrate its effectiveness and its impact on improving practice and the experiences of children, young people, families and carers.
- The LSCB through its annual report provides a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. It identifies areas of weakness, the causes of those weaknesses, evaluates and where necessary challenges the action being taken. The report includes lessons from management reviews, serious case reviews and child deaths within the reporting period.

DSCB Strategic Plan 2015 – 2016

What DSCB wants to achieve



Business plan

DSCB STRATEGIC PRIORITY ONE: Children and Young People are safe from harm in the home, outside the home and online

1.1 The voice of children and young people will be heard and used to improve the services we deliver

Lead/ subgroup

How do we evidence progress and impact on children and young people?

Produce practice standards to ensure the 'voice of the child' is central and heard when keeping children safe from harm
Review and strengthen processes for recording and acting on feedback from the child / young person at agency level

Participation strategy
Quality Assurance sub

Key performance indicator or monitoring report:

% of conferences where child attends or advocate attends on behalf
% LAC reviews where child attends or advocate attends on behalf
S11 audit: compliance with relevant standard

1.2 DSCB identifies the key risks to children and young people in Dudley and ensures an effective multiagency safeguarding response to these risks

2015-2016

Develop and embed DSCB strategy which encompasses guidance and training around identification, assessment, intervention for:

- Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing Children
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Child Neglect

Vulnerable Children
Vulnerable Children
Vulnerable Children

How do we evidence progress and impact on children and young people?

Through Quality Assurance Framework – single agency audit and multi-agency audit findings and resultant improvement to practice and through the voice of the child or young person and the practitioner perspective.

Quality Assurance sub

Key performance indicator or monitoring report:

DSCB Dashboard / % Return Interviews for missing children and young people conducted within 72 hours
% of Children and young people identified at risk of CSE that went missing / % of Children subject of a Child Protection Plan due to Neglect
These will be developed through individual strategies and action plans and reported in to Vulnerable Children's Strategic Group and Safeguarding Executive

DSCB STRATEGIC PRIORITY TWO: Children and Young People have access to the right service in the right place at the right time

2.1 DSCB will ensure the development and implementation of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) to ensure a consistent and timely response to children and young people in Dudley

Lead / subgroup

How do we evidence progress and impact on children and young people?

Oversee the implementation of MASH through clear governance arrangement between Dudley Safeguarding Children's Board and MASH
Monitor the effectiveness of MASH
Ensure partners and public are updated on the development and implementation of the MASH

DSCB/ MASH
DSCB/ MASH sub
Communication strat

Key performance indicators or monitoring report:

This will be monitored via the oversight of the e MASH by the DSCB – MASH strategic group will produce and present regular reports and MASH dashboard to Safeguarding Executive Group

2.2 Agencies understand when to share information and how information should be shared and the appropriate referrals made.

Lead/subgroup

How do we evidence progress and impact on children and young people?

Update and re-launch the information sharing protocol and thresholds
Undertake multi-agency briefing sessions to embed the application of the documents
Audit workshop outcomes
To embed information sharing and threshold protocols across the partnership
To ensure children and young people receive the appropriate service at the appropriate time

Safeguarding Executive and MASH
Workforce Development Strategic
Workforce Development Strategic
Safeguarding Executive
DSCB Safeguarding Executive

Key performance indicators or monitoring report:

MASH dataset/dashboard / % Contacts progressed to referrals / % Referrals to single assessment
% of NFA Contacts that were subsequently referred within 12 months / Multi-agency audit analysis regarding thresholds

2.3 There is a clear early help offer across partner agencies to ensure that children, young and their families receive support services at the earliest opportunity.

Lead/subgroup

How do we evidence progress and impact on children and young people?

Develop a clear pathway of safeguarding services available to children young people and their families in the Dudley
Communicate the early help offer to communities

Safeguarding Executive
Communication sub

Key performance indicators or monitoring report:

Early help update to Board – 6 monthly report

DSCB STRATEGIC PRIORITY THREE: Effective partnership working and accountability to improve safeguarding outcomes for children, young people and their families.

3.1 Professionals and the public are able to recognise children who are at risk of harm and take the appropriate action.

Lead/subgroup

How do we evidence progress and impact on children and young people?

Raise awareness with parents, carers and communities that safeguarding is everybody's business through social media and public events and DSCB website

Further develop Dudley safeguarding website to improve access to information for both practitioners, public and partners

Develop mechanisms for two way communications between DSCB and the front line staff

Develop and implement a practitioner reference group

Communication sub

Communication sub

Communication sub

Participation sub

Key performance indicators or monitoring report:

Quality Assurance framework reporting

Practitioners forum feedback reports

Quality Assurance sub group

Practitioners group

3.2 DSCB understands its impact and uses self assessment and the views of its stakeholders to achieve this

Lead/ subgroup

How do we evidence progress and impact on children and young people?

Develop and implement a DSCB self-assessment & improvement tool

Review and develop new performance dashboards / reports for DSCB

Quality Assurance sub

Safeguarding Executive

Key performance indicators or monitoring report:

Self-Assessment analysis

3.3 The DSCB scrutinises and challenges and supports partner agencies in fulfilling their safeguarding obligations?

Lead / sub-group

How we evidence progress and impact on children and young people?

Develop and implement a robust quality assurance framework to demonstrate the effectiveness of partnership working
Embed the use of a risk register at Board & Safeguarding Executive
Develop the board to embed a culture of scrutiny and challenge
Develop and implement an annual board member self assessment
Undertake a review of board membership and subgroups
Quality Assurance sub

Quality Assurance sub
Safeguarding Executive
Chair of DSCB
Chair of DSCB
Safeguarding Executive & DSCB

Key performance indicators or monitoring report:

% of required Section 11 audits completed by Partner Agencies
% of required Section 175 audits completed by educational establishments
Number of multi- agency audits completed
100% Agency attendance at DSCB, Safeguarding Executive and Sub-group

Quality Assurance sub
Quality Assurance sub