

Dudley Safeguarding Children Board

'Working Together to Keep Children & Young People Safe'



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on behalf of the Chair of Dudley Safeguarding Children Board*



Foreword

Welcome to Dudley Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report for 2012-13. The report aims to reflect the breadth and depth of work that is undertaken by the Board's partner agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in our borough. The breadth of work relates to how we support children, young people and their families at an early stage when difficulties arise right through to how we protect some children who are at risk of harm and in need of safeguarding. The depth is more difficult to portray within a report of this nature, but important nevertheless to acknowledge, as increasingly child protection agencies are working with very complex family needs and forms of abuse that were either not perpetrated or not recognised until recently.

I took over the Chair of Dudley Safeguarding Children Board in November 2011, in an interim capacity, whilst the Board considered options for future chairing arrangements. I have been impressed by the dedication and passion of colleagues across the statutory and voluntary sector, and the commitment they have demonstrated to working in partnership with families and with each other to safeguard and protect children and young people. There is of course always more that we can do to support children and their families, always ways that we can improve the quality and consistency of what agencies do in protecting children from harm. I believe that we are well placed, despite the risks and challenges we face in the public sector, to continue to improve the effectiveness of the help and protection provide to children, young people and their families and the effectiveness of our Local Safeguarding Children Board in co-ordinating our safeguarding responses and arrangements in Dudley.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your contributions to safeguarding children and young people and I wish our newly appointed Independent Chair, Roger Clayton, every success in this role and my continued support as the Chief Executive Officer of Dudley MBC in fulfilling this ambition.

John Polychronakis

Chief Executive Officer, Dudley MBC
*(Chair of Dudley Safeguarding Children Board,
November 2011 – June 2013)*



Foreword

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INTRODUCTION

Local background and context



Dudley is a large metropolitan urban borough comprising of five distinct townships on the southwest edge of the West Midlands and forms the western part of the Black Country industrial region. The south and west fringes of the borough are relatively affluent but a number of wards close to Dudley town centre are among the most deprived nationally and are identified in Dudley's anti-poverty strategy.

Children and young people constitute 24.5% of the total population with 74,830 children and young people aged 0-19. The birth rate has been falling and the number of children of school age has declined but there is now some growth in primary education. The proportion of children and young people from minority ethnic groups is rising and now represent almost 17% of the school population. More than 52 nationalities are represented in schools in the borough and 10.5% of children and young people do not have English as their first language. The proportion of children and young people entitled to free school meals is 18%.

As at 31st March 2013:

- ⇒ 3082 children (around 4% of all children and young people) were defined as 'in need' by children's social care,
- ⇒ 248 children subject to a child protection plan
- ⇒ 730 looked after by the local authority

During 2012-13:

- ⇒ 386 children were reported as missing from home to the Police, an average of 32 children per month;
- ⇒ 989 children (under 18 years of age) were victims of recorded crime, of which 26 were victims of knife crime and 6 victims of gun crime
- ⇒ 40 young people (under the age of 18 years) were charged with drug related offences, 39 of whom were in respect of Class B drugs and 1 young person in relation to Class A drugs
- ⇒ There were 6,653 referrals made to Children's Social Care leading to
- ⇒ Section 47 child protection investigations took place in respect of 625 children and young people
- ⇒ There were 281 child abuse recorded crimes by the police and 90 cases were detected as child abuse related offences
- ⇒ 1,516 notifications were made to children's social care involving children living within the household where a domestic abuse incident had taken place
- ⇒ 117 child protection medicals were undertaken by a Consultant Paediatrician or other suitably qualified clinician
- ⇒ Enquiries were made by partner agencies to Safeguarding & Review for checks in respect of 779 children and 336 adults
- ⇒ Advice and supported was provided in respect of 170 concerns/allegations concerning people who work with children, of which 80 were taken to a Position of Trust Strategy Meeting

What is Dudley Safeguarding Children Board (DSCB)?

The Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) 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.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is about

- 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; *and*
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

The Board is made up of senior representatives from a range of organisations (see full list of membership – Appendix 1). DSCB is not accountable for operational work, but should hold partners to account on the effectiveness of their safeguarding services for Dudley's children and young people.

The Board has a number of defined functions and responsibilities, which are outlined within statutory guidance known as '*Working Together to Safeguard Children*' and underpinned by the Children Act 2004 and LSCB Regulations 2006.

The Board discharged these functions largely through its sub-groups and task groups (see DSCB Partnership Structure – Appendix 1).

What are DSCB's key objectives?

Since its inception in April 2005, Dudley Safeguarding Children Board has been working to 3 key objectives:

OUR KEY OBJECTIVES:

promoting an understanding that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility
improving the safety and wellbeing of children and young people across all communities
developing safer services and employment practices across all organisations

In order to achieve this Dudley Safeguarding Children Board (DSCB) will work to ensure that:

- All children and young people have safe environments to help promote their welfare and well-being
- Action is targeted at *vulnerable groups* such as disabled, children in care; *and*
- *Responses* to children who have been harmed to minimise lifelong impact are co-ordinated and effective

What is the purpose of an Annual Report?

The revised 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' guidance (2013) requires the Chair of the LSCB to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding in their local area. The report should provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services, identify areas of weakness, the causes of those weaknesses and the action being taken to address them.

This report aims to set out two key elements:

- DSCB's responsibility to **co-ordinate** work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people
- DSCB's responsibility to ensure that local work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people is **effective**

This Annual Report is submitted to the Chief Executive and Leader of Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, the Local Police and Crime Commissioner and a range of statutory partnerships. It is part of the way that DSCB accounts for its work, celebrates good practice and raises challenge issues for partners to address.

The report is dispersed with a number of 'so what boxes', which aim to describe the difference that the Board is making in terms of safeguarding outcomes for children, young people and their families.

How does DSCB fit with other Partnerships?

DSCB aims to work with, and alongside, a range of statutory and non-statutory partnerships in the knowledge that co-ordinating and maximising the effectiveness of safeguarding and promoting children's wellbeing is best achieved through collaboration, and holding to, or being held to, account.

For example,

- ⇒ *The work of DSCB contributes to Dudley Children & Young People's Partnership goals of improving the wellbeing of vulnerable children;*
- ⇒ *DSCB works alongside Dudley Health & Wellbeing Board in aiming to reduce health inequalities that affect children and young people lives;*
- ⇒ *DSCB works with Dudley Safeguarding Adults Board to promote a 'Think Family' approach to children and young people who live in households where there is parental mental health*
- ⇒ *DSCB works in tandem with Dudley's Safe & Sound (Community Safety) Partnership to tackle domestic abuse and sexual violence*

What difference did we make?

Members of Dudley Safeguarding Children Board have taken a leadership role in respect of:

Developing new guidance to improve cross-border working in terms of child protection arrangements when children and their families move between local authorities in the West Midlands area

Producing a Self-Assessment Checklist for Local Authority Designated Officers to support their arrangements of the management of allegations/concerns in respect of people in the children's workforce

Producing an LSCB Self-Assessment Checklist in relation to Children & Young People Affected by Gangs

Producing a Child Sexual Exploitation Toolkit to improve awareness of people working with children, and their screening and responses to young people who may be at risk of sexual exploitation

'So What Box' (1)

Members of DSCB therefore provide a wide range of representation on other partnerships to strengthen mutual support and challenge. There is also strong collaboration with a number of regional partnerships and networks such as:

- ⇒ *West Midlands Regional Safeguarding Network and its sub-groups*
- ⇒ *West Midlands Strategic Management Board for Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)*
- ⇒ *West Midlands Network for Designated Lead Dr's and Lead Nurses for Safeguarding*

What do the DSCB sub-groups do?

DSCB has four standing sub-groups:

The work of DSCB is also supported by a number of Task Groups, which often reflect the Board's priorities and objectives. During 2012-13, these were:

The **Vulnerable Children & Young People's Task Group**, overseeing inter-agency responses to child sexual exploitation, child trafficking, children who go missing and private fostering. The Task Group also oversees the work of the **Young People at Risk of Sexual Exploitation (YPSE) Panel**

The **Quality & Performance Management Group** develops and implements work in respect of quality assurance and performance management on behalf of DSCB. It is also delegated to work on a range of strategic issues such as governance, self-assessment, Section 11 audit, peer review and challenge.

The **Policy, Procedures & Practice Sub-Group** is responsible for keeping Dudley Safeguarding Children Board procedures up-to-date in the light of national, regional and local developments. It also provides support and guidance in respect of single agency procedures.

The **Training & Development Sub-Group** develops and implements the Board's multi-agency training strategy, overseeing the delivery, commissioning and quality assuring of safeguarding training and awareness-raising across the borough

The **Serious Case Review (SCR) Sub-Group** is responsible for advising DSCB in respect of cases that should be considered for an SCR and managing the process. It also oversees other case reviews, monitors action plans, linking closely to the Child Death Overview Panel where appropriate

The **Child Death Overview Panel** is responsible for reviewing all child deaths in the borough and rapid response arrangements in respect of children who die unexpectedly

The **E-Safety Strategy Group**, taking a lead on promoting e-safety across the borough and tackling abuse associated with new technologies

The **Safer Recruitment & Employment Task Group**, promoting safer working practices, safer recruitment and the effective management of allegations against people in the children's workforce

There are a range of thematic safeguarding forums and boards which also contribute to the wider work of DSCB and play a key role in implementing safeguarding developments across and within organisations.

SECTION 1

Co-ordinating work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people

What progress did we make against what we set out to do?

DSCB agreed 3 key priorities for 2012-13. These were:

- To improve the consistency and quality of inter-agency child protection practice
- To provide support and challenge to embed common assessment and deliver early support to vulnerable children, young people and their families; *and*
- To improve inter-agency responses to children & young people at risk, or who have suffered, sexual exploitation or abuse

PRIORITY ONE:

Improve the consistency and quality of inter-agency child protection practice

What did we do?

- *Revised our Quality Assurance Framework*
- *Produced new inter-Agency Child Protection Standards*
- *Published Quality Assurance Overview Report of agency audit outcomes*
- *Secured additional funding to appoint a temporary Quality Assurance Officer*
- *Commissioned and published a Significant Incident Learning Process (SILP) in respect of Child D*
- *Revised Performance Data Set taking account of national framework and regional activity*
- *Produced an evaluation report of the use and impact of Signs of Safety within frontline practice, commissioned additional multi-agency Signs of Safety Training for practitioners and briefed range of frontline managers across key partner agencies*

This work was led by the DSCB Quality & Performance Management Group

PRIORITY TWO:

Provide support and challenge to embed common assessment and early help to vulnerable children and their families

What did we do?

- *Continued to promote use of common assessment across key agencies such as Children's Centres, Health and other partners*
- *Developed Early Help Offer, supported by Locality Teams comprising of social care, Children's Centres and Health as part of Early Help Strategy*
- *Completed a 'Turning the Curve' process to analyse children on the edge of care and develop actions to promote safe reduction of care population*
- *Developed Troubled Families support through a Family Intervention Programme targeted to include children on the edge of care and in need of protection*



PRIORITY THREE:**Improve inter-agency responses to children & young people who are at risk of, or who have been, sexually abused or exploited**

What did we do?

- *Contributed to the development and implementation of a West Midlands Regional Strategy to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation*
- *Held a 'CSE in 2012' Conference ahead of the Olympic Games to promote work with hoteliers and other organisations and produced a summary report published in June 2012*
- *Reviewed and implemented changes to our Young People at Risk of Sexual Exploitation (YPSE) Panel arrangements to improve the effectiveness of screening, risk assessment and specialist support*
- *Secured additional investment (10k) for Street Teams to undertake more targeted work with children's social care*
- *Developed a CSE Framework and Directory of Services to support the introduction of a Delivery Plan during 2013-14*
- *Secured short-term funding to support the development of a regional Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)*
- *Undertook self-assessments in respect of national reports and reviews of CSE and trafficking and contributed to the Deputy Children's Commissioner Inquiry*

This work was led by our Vulnerable Children & Young People's Task Group

What difference did we make?

Case Study – Child Sexual Exploitation and the work of Street Teams

Leanne, aged 14 years, has been on Street Teams' *Keep Safe* Programme for a year. Since working with her around concerns about who she was contacting over the internet, Leanne has made changes. She no longer contacts people that she does not know, having understood and accepted the risks inherent with this behaviour. Leanne is now seen on a monthly basis, to help her transition from our specialist input. During this time she will be assisted to build a positive relationship with a youth worker from a more generic youth work agency, who can help her in the next stages of her life, so that change can be maintained.

Caitlin, aged 15, does not enjoy being at home, so stays out late in town. She and her mates like hanging around shopping centres and through doing so they have made friends with another group of people, some of whom are much older. They now meet up on a regular basis and Caitlin often stays at one of their houses to avoid going home, and has sex with them to pay for the favour. Caitlin was moved into foster care as she became violent following her parents enforcing boundaries to keep her safe. Caitlin cannot see how she is being manipulated as she thinks she is making her own choices. Street Teams has carried out intensive work with Caitlin raising her awareness regarding friendships, relationships, going missing, sexual health, personal well-being and decision making. She has now returned home and has re-engaged with education and has no contact with her old friendship group. Street Teams are now continuing to work to support her in police proceedings to give evidence against the offending males.

'So What Box' (2)

Policy, Procedures & Practice

The main activity in respect of new procedures and guidance during 2012-13 came as a result of the Serious Case Review in respect of Child C. This led to new guidance in respect of:

- ⇒ Professional Resolution and Escalation
- ⇒ Protecting Children Living in Highly Resistant Families
- ⇒ Protecting Children who move across Local Authority Borders
- ⇒ Notification of Serious or Significant Safeguarding Incidents
- ⇒ Inter-Agency Case Recording Standards

Further guidance arising from the Serious Case Review in respect of neglect and faltering growth will be published during 2013-14 (see DSCB Work Programme for more information).

Training & Development

Safeguarding training is co-ordinated and overseen by the Training & Development Sub-Group.

How much did we do?

Based on the data reported by partner agencies to DSCB, a total of 8914 safeguarding training places delivered during 2012-13, compared to 8507 the previous year, which represents an increase of just under 5%. Of these, 1741 places were part of the multi-agency training programme (2% increase) and 731 were briefings conducted by DSCB (a 43% increase compared to 2011-12). There was a 25% decline in e-learning, largely as a result of the increased opportunities for face-to-face training available to the education sector.

FIGURE 1: Training per month 2012-13

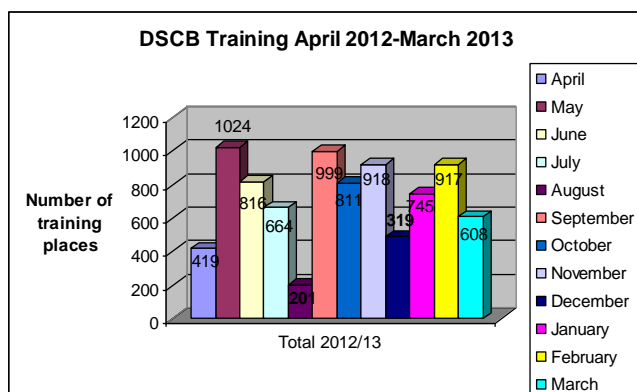
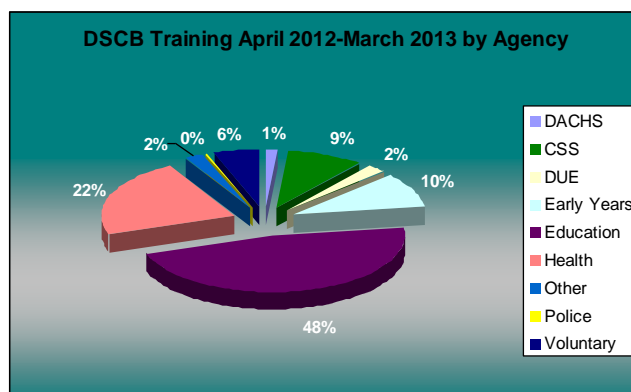


FIGURE 2: Training by Agency 2012-13



During 2012-13, the Board delivered a total 83 days of inter-agency training or briefings across 83 separate sessions, ranging from half-days to two day courses.

How well did we do it?

The overall evaluations of training at the time of course completion are largely very positive. In terms of the % of delegates who stated either 'excellent' or 'very good'.

Usefulness of training in terms of their practice - 92%
 Course met the aims & objectives – 93%
 Quality of training – 92%

Addressed equality & diversity – 85%
 Administrative process – 89%
 Venue – 70%

What difference did it make?

DSCB conducts post-course follow-up evaluations (around 3-6 months after the completion of the course) to assess what difference the training has made in respect of safeguarding practice.

A more detailed report in respect of outcomes from safeguarding training will be presented to DSCB in September 2013. Overall, there is strong evidence that safeguarding training contributes to supporting our workforce to

- ⇒ know of the predisposing factors and signs and indicators of abuse and have a clear understanding of what to do if they have concerns about a child's welfare
- ⇒ be able to exercise professional skill in terms of effective information sharing and the ability to analyse this information;
- ⇒ have an understanding of how to collaborate and communicate with other agencies and disciplines in order to safeguard the welfare of children; and
- ⇒ have a basic understanding of the legislative framework and the wider policy context within which they work, as well as familiarity with local policy and procedures.
- ⇒ have a basic understanding of the DSCB Safeguarding Children Procedures and those relating to their own organisation; and
- ⇒ be clear about their roles and responsibilities during assessment, planning, intervention and reviewing processes for children in need, including those requiring safeguarding

Every year, DSCB will conduct a series of inter-agency briefings in respect of various themes, dependent in part on its priorities and taking into account national and regional developments. During 2012-13, there were briefings in respect of:



For more information about the DSCB Training Programme (Calendar) go to:

<http://safeguardingchildren.dudley.gov.uk/what-is-the-safeguarding-children-board/safeguarding-children-board-sub-committees/training-and-development-subcommittee/>

Monitoring and evaluation

Safeguarding Inspection

The Board has contributed to monitoring the implementation of action plans arising from the Ofsted and Care Quality Commission Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children arrangements conducted in November-December 2011.

Section 11 Scrutiny Arrangements

Board partners conducted Section 11 audits during 2011-12. During the last 12 months, partner agencies were asked to present a summary of the self-assessments in respect of their duty to safeguard to the Board as part of its scrutiny programme. For more information go to page 33 of this report.

Chairing Arrangements

In November 2011, John Polychronakis, Chief Executive of Dudley MBC took over the chairing of Dudley Safeguarding Children Board as an interim arrangement. After considering a number of options for new chairing arrangements, in July 2012 the Board formally approved plans to commission an Independent Chair, with the preference that this would be a joint arrangement with Dudley Adults Safeguarding Board.

Roger Clayton was appointed as the Independent Chair for both safeguarding Boards in March 2013. The commission commenced in June 2013.

Lay Advisors

As a lay adviser to the DSCB, I have a background in Social Work, with extensive experience in child care/child protection work. The Safeguarding Board is extremely well attended by key personnel from both the public & voluntary sectors. It has been chaired by various senior managers - Assistant Directors of Children's Services, and the Chief Executive of Dudley MBC - until the recent appointment of an Independent Chair.

Members have forged close working relationships and meet on a regular basis in other forums, such as Vulnerable Children's Task Group and YPSE panel. There is evidence of collaborative and purposeful work, including joint training and what is paramount is both the desire and commitment to improving outcomes for children & young people living in the Borough. Nevertheless, this collaborative work does not deter members from challenging attitudes and opinions in a constructive and respectful manner.

There is a clear focus on delivering key messages from research and changes in legislation at Board level, and ensuring they are disseminated to staff at "grass-roots". Therefore, training courses are run on an extremely regular basis which I have been fortunate enough to attend. I have experienced the passion, particularly from staff within the Safeguarding & Review Unit on, for example, topics such as Child Sexual Exploitation, and I have witnessed the effectiveness of this. Prior to the Summer Olympics 2012, training on CSE was delivered to local hoteliers to heighten their awareness. This proved most effective when at least 1 local hotelier contacted the Police when 2 young girls were booked into a room, only to be visited by a group of older men.

The Safeguarding Board has incorporated presentations in its meetings which I believe have been most beneficial. For example, members from key agencies delivered a short synopsis of their work which clarified their roles and responsibilities. Most recently, a comprehensive case study was presented to the Board detailing the potential pitfalls and difficulties of working with an individual highly resistant family. It was a very useful learning exercise for the agencies involved, with appropriate suggestions for improved practice, endorsed by the Board.

Karen Palk, Lay Advisor to DSCB

Quality & Performance Management

The Quality & Performance Management Group takes a lead role on behalf of the Board in overseeing the development and implementation of DSCB’s Quality Assurance Framework and monitoring performance in respect of key indicators and measures.

In respect of Quality Assurance, the Board launched new Inter-Agency Child Protection Standards on 1st September 2012 – the document includes:

- ⇒ overarching outcome and quality standards
- ⇒ child protection practice standards

A copy can be downloaded from the DSCB website:

<http://safeguardingchildren.dudley.gov.uk/information-for-professionals/safeguarding-children-procedures/part-a/?assetdet549=236293>

DSCB has an annual audit programme, details of which can be found within the Board’s Business Plan and Work Programme for 2013-15.

During 2012-13, DSCB has been reviewing its Performance Data Set in the light of national, regional and local changes. Although this remains under development, it can be found within Appendix 3 of this report.

Some key headlines in terms of performance are:

DSCB Score Card	
Examples of performance has improved or is good	Examples where performance has declined or is poor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ Proportion of Child Protection Review Conferences held within statutory timescale ↑ Reduction in the number of child protection plans lasting two years or more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ Proportion of Initial Child Protection Conference that took place within statutory timescale ↓ Proportion of children subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time ↓ Proportion of cases where the lead social worker has seen child or young person in accordance with the Child Protection Plan
Examples where performance has remained largely static	
⇒ % of initial and core assessments carried out within statutory timescale by social care	

Participating in planning and commissioning

The DSCB Annual Report for 2011-12 was presented to a number of other partnerships including:

- ⇒ *Dudley Children & Young People's Partnership – July 2012*
- ⇒ *Dudley Safeguarding Adults Board – July 2012*
- ⇒ *Dudley Safe & Sound Partnership – July 2012*
- ⇒ *Dudley MBCs Children's Services Select Committee – September 2012*

Alongside this report, DSCB receives a number of other themed annual reports in respect of the following:

- ⇒ *Private Fostering arrangements – July 2013*
- ⇒ *the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) – due November 2013*
- ⇒ *Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) for the management of allegations against people who work with children – due September 2013*
- ⇒ *Independent Reviewing Service – due September 2013*

The various sub-groups of the Board also produce a number of strategies and plans, influenced by the priorities. Some examples of this are:

- ⇒ *Training & Development Strategy*
- ⇒ *E-Safety Strategy*
- ⇒ *Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy & Delivery Plan*

For more information please go to the Board's Business Plan & Work Programme for 2013-15.

Serious Case Review, Child Death Overview and Case Reviews

Serious Case Review in respect of Child C

In December 2011, the Chair of DSCB commissioned a Serious Case Review in accordance with statutory guidance following the death of Child C. The purpose of a Serious Case Review (SCR) is to:

- establish whether there are lessons to be learned from the case about the way in which local professionals and organisations work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children;
- identify clearly what those lessons are, how they will be acted on and what is expected to change as a result; *and*
- as a consequence, improve inter-agency working and better safeguard and promote the welfare of children

Child C died on 3rd December 2011, aged 18 months old. She lived with her mother, older sibling and mother's partner in a flat in Dudley, having moved there in May 2011. Child C and her family were known to a number of statutory services. Child C's life appears to have been characterised by lack of stability, faltering growth from a very early age, and poor physical health. There was a history of domestic and alcohol abuse within the family. At the time of her death, Child C was subject to a Child Protection Plan in Sandwell and a temporary Child Protection Plan in Dudley. The cause of her death remains unascertained, although the Coroner's Inquest considered that hypothermia has been a strong factor in her death.

A total of 21 agencies, mainly from Dudley and Sandwell authorities were involved with the family and submitted an Individual Management Review or Information Report as part of the SCR. A total of 60 recommendations were made by the agencies that contributed to the SCR. In addition, the Health Overview Report made the following recommendations:

Clinical Commissioning Groups:

- advise GPs about the need to be vigilant to identify and act on indicators of neglect and remind staff about the Royal College Guidance about use of centile charts to identify faltering growth.

Every provider of children's health services should:

- ensure their safeguarding training programme included robust information on indicators of neglect and that regular audit is undertaken to ensure learning is effective'
- develop and implement guidance for monitoring weight growth based on UK-WHO guidance
- ensure record keeping policies include a requirement to document the voice of the child, names and relationship of any people who are seen to have a contribution to the lives of children

Dudley and Sandwell LSCBs

- require robust evidence that the above recommendations have been implemented in health providers in their respective areas and that their respective Child Death Overview Panels (CDOPs) advise their public health departments about this case and request that they take public health action related to the detrimental effect on children's health of living in cold conditions.

The full independent Overview report in respect of was published on 23 April 2013. It identified four key learning points - *thresholds including early intervention and cross-border working; disguised compliance; inter-agency working; and faltering growth* – and made a total of 8 recommendations for Dudley and Sandwell LSCB partner agencies. A full copy of the Overview Report and Executive Summary can be downloaded from the DSCB website:

<http://safeguardingchildren.dudley.gov.uk/download-documents/>

Significant Incident Learning Processes (SILPs)

The Board published a second Significant Incident Learning Processes (SILPs), in respect of Child D in June 2012. The report identified the following key areas of learning:

- ⇒ *improvements to management of young people with mental health issues within hospital settings*
- ⇒ *improvements to record keeping and risk assessment within specialist mental health services*
- ⇒ *improvements to the timeliness of notification to children's services by Youth Offending Services when young people are remanded in secure provision*
- ⇒ *improvements to communication between School Health Advisors, GPs and Child & Adolescent Services, notably when appointments are missed*
- ⇒ *improvements to communication between schools and school health advisors*
- ⇒ *improvements to Strategy Discussions, emphasising the role and engagement of health*
- ⇒ *Revision of safeguarding procedures in respect of children who display inappropriate sexual behaviour*

The SILP made specific recommendations to the LSCB:

- ⇒ The LSCB needs to commission a forum comprising CPS, YOS, Police and Children's Social Care to determine:
 - i. the flow of communication to and from Courts/CPS/ Police/YOS/Children's Social Care on notifications of bail conditions, bail addresses, etc.
 - ii. in particular, who is responsible for notifying Children's Social Care on the placement of a risky adult and/or young person into a family setting?
- In progress*

- ⇒ The LSCB should consider writing to the Lord Chief Justice Department to advise them of the learning in this case and invite them to contribute or consider its implications for the practices of Judges, particularly in respect of decision-making processes within Chambers.

Completed

- ⇒ For future SILPs the same level of planning and scoping as in Serious Case Reviews, i.e. Terms of Reference and a consistent agency report format.

Implemented

A third SILP was commissioned in February 2013, the independent report from which is due to be presented to DSCB in September 2013.

Child Death Reviews

During 2012-13, the Child Death Review Panel completed 35 reviews of child deaths and assessed 3 of these deaths as having modifiable factors. The issues and learning identified from reviews included:

- ⇒ the development of a water safety strategy and campaign following the accidental drowning of a young person within a quarry reservoir – launched in summer of 2013;
- ⇒ improvements to care pathways in respect of the management of asthma, although legal changes to the provision of spare ‘inhalers’ have led to this issue being identified as a potential risk by the Board;
- ⇒ improvements to response to faltering growth and the management of children with disabilities who are ‘tube-fed’

During 2012-13, there was a reduction in capacity for provision of 24/7 cover by health agencies as part of rapid response arrangements for unexpected child death. This issue was escalated and has led to some improvements, but remains subject to further scrutiny by the Board.

The Annual Report from the Child Death Review Panel is due to be presented to DSCB in November 2013.





Reports from other Sub-Groups and Forums

E-Safety Task Group

The E-Safety Task Group was first established in 2006 to develop and implement an e-safety strategy for Dudley and support partner agencies in embedding e-safety within their work. During 2012-13, the E-Safety Strategy Group supported the co-ordination of Dudley's Anti-Bullying Week in November 2012 and took a lead role in respect of European Safer Internet Day 2013.

Special Feature: Safer Internet Day 2013



Online Reputation, Responsibilities and Risks

How clean is your digital footprint?

The theme for last year's European Safer Internet Day was 'online reputation and responsibilities'. In collaboration with Safe & Sound Partnership, Dudley Safeguarding Children Board facilitated a series of events between 5th and 8th February 2013, attended by over 500 professionals and young people. The events included:

⇒ **Online Reputation: Are you a Responsible Professional?**

350 professionals attended a total of 6 two-hour sessions during the week, exploring people's digital identity and footprint

⇒ **Safer Internet Day Schools Debate**

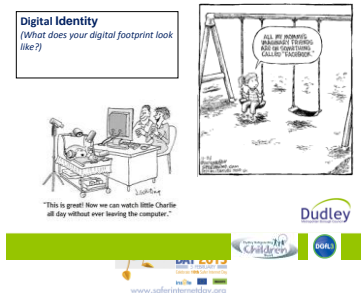
13 Dudley schools took part in the Schools Debate

⇒ **Safer Internet Day Primary Survey**

330 Dudley primary school pupils ranging from 7-11 years of age completed the Safer Internet Day for 2013.

⇒ **Cyber bullying and e-safety**

A small group of practitioners attended a session with Adrienne Katz, one of the UK's leading experts on bullying and cyber bullying.



'Wot I do online has nuffin 2 do wiv ne1 else'

Dudley's Safer Internet Day Debate 2013



What difference did we make?

The sessions looked at online **reputation, responsibilities and risks**. Delegates were asked a number of questions linked to the aims of the events as part of the evaluation:

- 86% said that were more or much more aware of how they could monitor their digital footprint
- 86% said that their knowledge and understanding of how they could protect their identity online has improved
- 83% said that their knowledge and understanding of policies and guidelines relating to social media/networking has improved

"Make sure my digital footprint is clean"

'So What Box (3)'

The full report can be downloaded from the DSCB website -
<http://safeguardingchildren.dudley.gov.uk/download-documents/>

Safer Recruitment & Employment Task Group

The work of this Task Group supports one of the key objectives of the Board in 'developing safer services and employment practices across all organisations'. It has three key strands of focus:

- ⇒ developing safer working practices within organisations
- ⇒ promoting safer recruitment and employment practices across organisations
- ⇒ strengthening the management of concerns and allegations in respect of people in the children's workforce

Safer Working Practices

The Board issues a range of inter-agency practice guidance for all people and organisations to support them and their staff and volunteers in their safer working practices. These include:

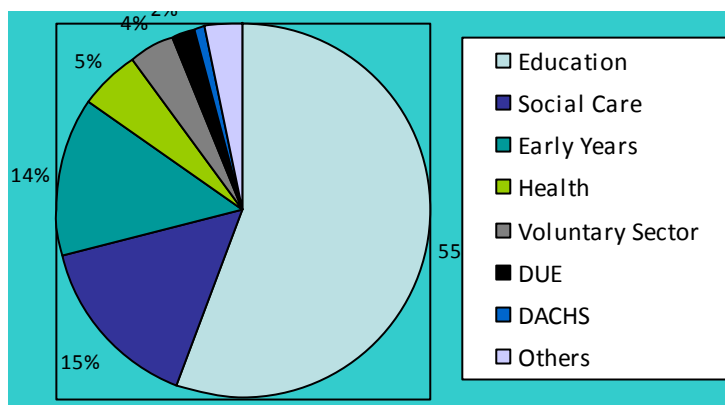
- ⇒ Safer Working Practice guidance
- ⇒ Use of Images guidance
- ⇒ Use of social networking guidance

All of these can be located within Section D of the safeguarding procedures manual

Safer Recruitment

The Board continues to support organisations through the provision of 'Safer Recruitment' training and advice with regards to policies and procedures concerning safer recruitment. For example, during 2012-13, Dudley MBC has made considerable changes to its policies with regards to Disclosure & Barring Checks (formerly Criminal Records Bureau checks).

FIGURE 3: Safer Recruitment Training 2012-13 By Agency



A total of 94 delegates attended the Board's 'Safer Recruitment' training delivered by trainers accredited by the Children's Workforce Development Council. Figure 3 provides a breakdown of the delegates by agency (percentage)

Managing Allegations

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) is responsible for the oversight and management of allegations and concerns with regards to people who work with children. During 2012-13, the LADO service provided advice, support and co-ordination to over 170 concerns or allegations in respect of people who work with children, including chairing 114 'Position of Trust' Complex Strategy Meetings concerning 80 individual members of the workforce, which represents a 30% increase in activity since last year.

Figure 4 shows the employment sector in respect of the 80 individuals who were formally subject to a 'Position of Trust' Strategy Meeting. In comparison to 2011-12, the proportion from education has continued to fall and foster carers has remained relatively the same – the largest increase relates to people from voluntary and faith groups.

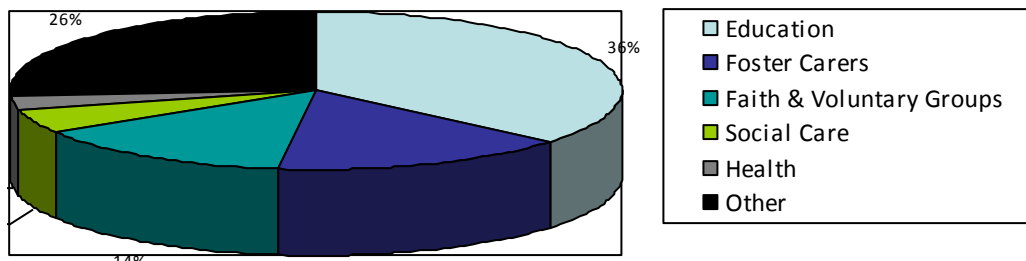


FIGURE 4: % of Positions of Trust Concerns or Allegations (only subject to a Complex Strategy Meeting) by employment sector

NB Other includes people working within leisure/sport and taxi drivers/escorts

Young People at Risk of Sexual Exploitation (YPSE) Panel

Panel Developments

Over the last twelve month period there have many been significant changes made to the way in which the YPSE panel is run:

- ⇒ new Terms of Reference have been introduced;
- ⇒ membership of the panel members has been reviewed to ensure those who are attending are the most appropriate from their service in order that the best possible outcomes for the young people discussed at panel are achieved;
- ⇒ there is now a named social worker on panel which previously had been missing;
- ⇒ there are improved links between Targeted Youth Support (TYS) Panel and YPSE Panel

The YPSE process has changed significantly in order to bring panel in line with other panels across the Black Country. Panel has consistent and much improved input from West Midlands Police with the Detective Inspector from the local Public Protection Unit taking on the role as co- chair.

There has been sign off by all partners in respect of the information sharing protocol. Report templates have recently been introduced for those members attending panel, and who are providing services to the young person/persons. Members are now requested to complete a written update on the young person for each panel meeting.

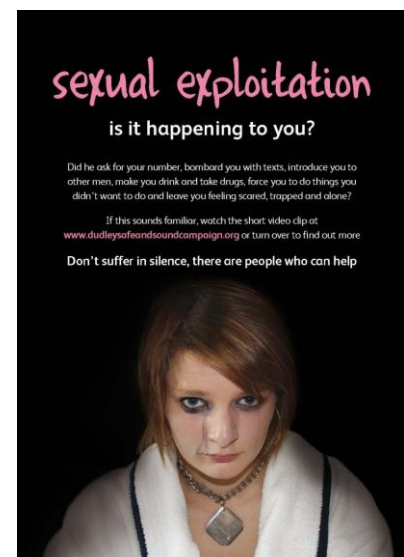
Referrals to Panel

There have been 40 referrals made to panel in the last 12 month period of which 37 were female and 3 male. All of the referrals have been offered some level of intervention dependent on their risk assessment score. Whilst panel should be concentrating on medium and high risk assessments, low risk assessment cases have been signposted to appropriate services that can meet the needs of that young person. The main agencies providing intervention are; Street Teams, for predominately high level cases and some medium risk cases, Phase Trust works in partnership with Respect Yourself and the two services work with the low and medium risk cases. This allows Street Teams to work more intensively with the higher level cases across the borough.

Missing Children and Young People

Missing Children are a standing item on the YPSE panel. The names of the missing children are shared prior to panel so that each agency can undertake the relevant checks on the young people. A representative from the Youth Offending Service attends panel and will feedback on their return interviews and highlight any actual or potential risks of CSE so that appropriate intervention can be initiated.

Pauline Owens, Designated Lead Nurse for Safeguarding, *Chair of YPSE Panel*



Health Safeguarding Forum

The Health Safeguarding forum is established within the Quality and Safety Committee structure in accordance with Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCG) constitution, standing orders and scheme of delegation.

During the last 12 months the Forum's main focus has been to monitor health's action plans in response to the last Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection, whilst maintaining an essential oversight of the wider safeguarding agenda. The forum has a responsibility to ensure that the voice of the child is considered by all health organisations in Dudley and to provide a mechanism for discussion and dissemination of best practice across the health economy in respect of safeguarding children and young people.

The forum will seek assurance from providers that they are compliant with their statutory responsibilities under Section 11 of The Children Act 2004 and their requirements under Section 7 of The Care Quality Commission (CQC) Essential Standards. In order for the forum to achieve this and to effectively provide the necessary assurances the membership has been reviewed to ensure it has safeguarding leads from the CCG, Dudley Group of Hospitals, Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership Trust, the Black Country Partnership Trust and West Midlands Ambulance Service.

Rebecca Bartholomew
Safeguarding Lead – Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group

Substance Misuse Safeguarding Forum

The Substance Misuse Safeguarding Forum was established in November 2010. Initially meeting quarterly the Forum now meets twice per year. The main areas of business for the Forum include:-

- Safeguarding practice issues for professionals working with those misusing substances, taking into account the impact that an individual's substance misuse could have on children, young people, "significant others" and vulnerable adults.
- Policy development, implementation of procedures and polices and quality assurance.

During 2012/13 the work of the Forum focussed on revising the Joint Local Protocol between Adult Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services and Local Safeguarding and Family Services. The Protocol has been approved by both the Safeguarding Children Board and the Safeguarding Adults Board. This Protocol was held up as an example of good practice during the Ofsted Thematic Inspection in August 2012. The Forum has also:-

- Received feedback in respect of the DSCB Quality Assurance Framework – Audit Activity Report
- Considered the findings from the Ofsted/CQC Report What about the Children?
- Received updates in respect of new and revised procedures in respect of Safeguarding Children and Safeguarding Adults

In 2013/14 the Forum will undertake a piece of qualitative work in respect of the impact of the implementation of the Joint Local Protocol between Adult Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services and Local Safeguarding and Family Services.

Sue Haywood
Acting Head of Community Safety and Substance Misuse
Chair of the Substance Misuse Safeguarding Forum

SECTION 2

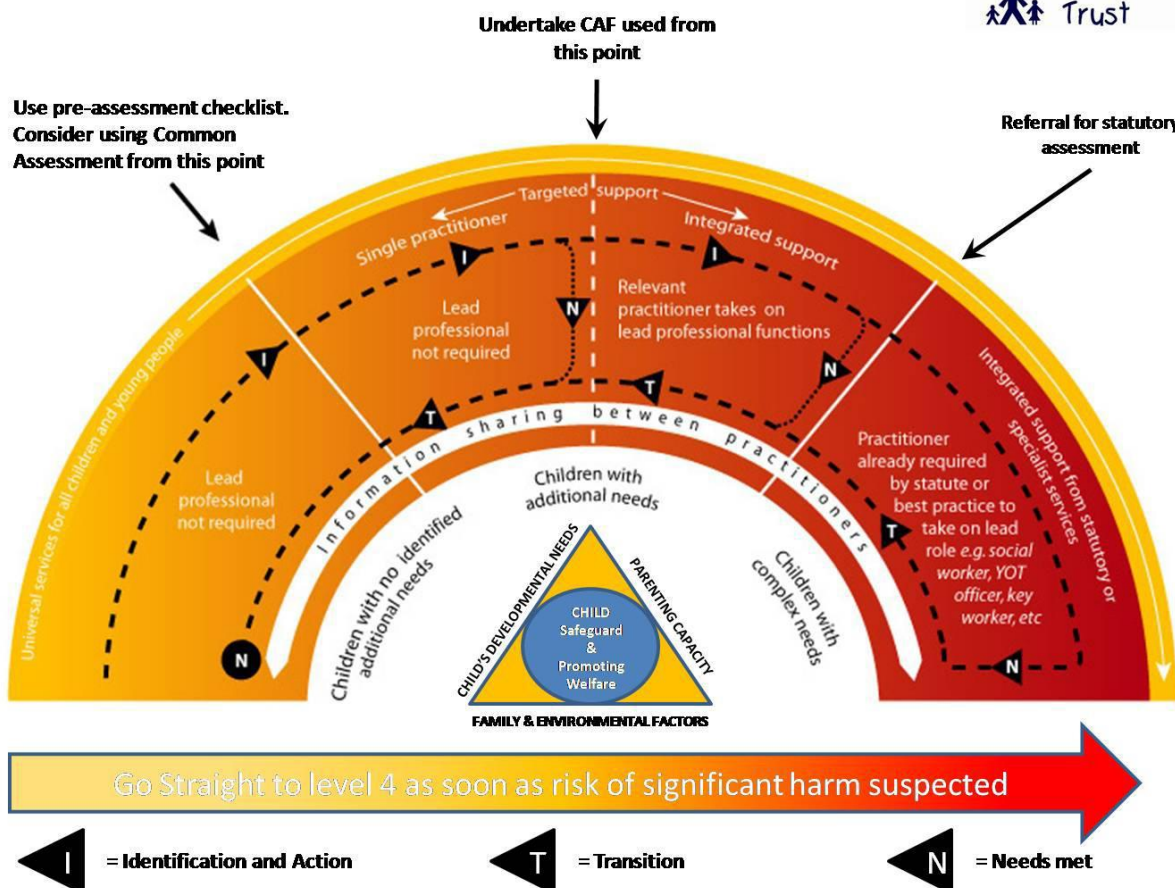
Ensuring that local work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people is effective

A Continuum of Need

It is essential that organisations working directly with children, young people and their families ensure they receive the 'Right Services, at the Right Time, in the Right Place'. The aim is that as far as possible children's needs should be met within universal provision, but that flexible support should be introduced to meet additional needs with the consent of the child and parents, at the earliest possible stage, thus helping to achieve good outcomes. Our approach is based on encouraging practitioners to:

- ⇒ Think clearly and achieve a holistic approach
- ⇒ Understand the child and young person in the context of their family and wider community
- ⇒ Develop ideas and solutions with children, young people and their families, in order that children and young people can receive timely additional support whenever this is needed.

Promoting Children's Wellbeing in Dudley



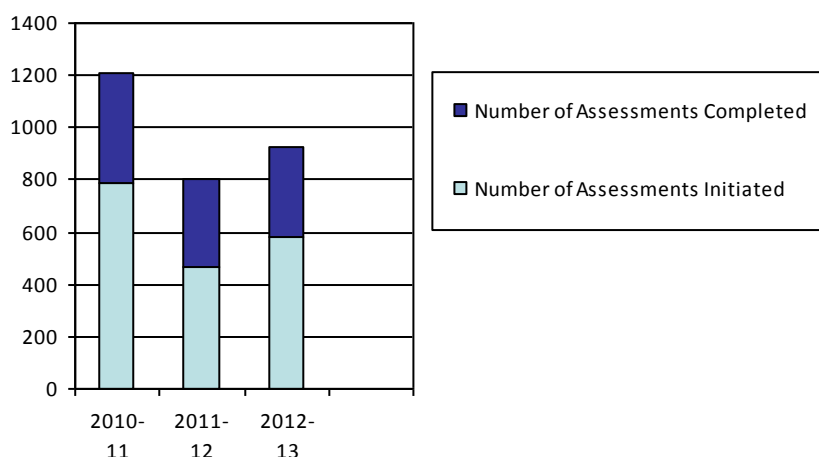
The model describes how the Common Assessment Framework can be used by all services to provide a standard holistic assessment. At Level 3, where needs are more complex, the model describes a multi-agency 'Team Around the Child/Family' approach facilitated by a Lead Professional. Level 4 describes children with acute specialist needs where statutory/specialist assessments are required and the 'Team Around the Child' will need to be led by a statutory/specialist service.

Early Help and Support to Vulnerable Children

In Dudley, if a child or young person is considered to be vulnerable and in need of early support, then it is expected that the professional who identifies this need will initiate a common assessment. This can only be undertaken with the consent of the parents/carers or young person themselves. This may lead to a number of professionals working with the child and family, commonly referred to as a ‘team around the child’ (TAC) or ‘team around the family’ (TAF). These arrangements are often formalised into a plan which outlines the help and support being provided to the child and their family.

During 2012-13, 584 common assessments were started of which 345 (59%) were completed – 119 more common assessments were started compared to 2011-12, a rise of just over 25%. The number of assessments being completed amounted to a 7% increase compared to 2010-11.

FIGURE 5: Number of Assessments Initiated and Completed 2010-13



The 3 key agencies completing common assessments are schools, children’s centres and health professionals:

⇒ *In 2012-13, 40% were completed by schools, compared to 47.5% the previous year; 24% were completed by children’s centres, a rise of 13% compared to 2011-12; and 6% were completed by health professionals, compared to 17% the previous year*

What difference did we make?

Young people, parents/carers and practitioners were asked whether the early help provided as a result of common assessment had made a difference in terms of resulting in ‘positive outcomes’:

- 93% of children and young people reported yes
- 89% of parents and carers reported yes
- 87% of practitioners reported yes

‘So What Box’ (4)

Contacts and Referrals to Children’s Social Care

The number of contacts with, and referrals made to, children’s social care is a measure of the number of children and young people who may be requiring early support and more targeted services, including those children who are in need of protection.

In 2012-13, there were 14,826 contacts, which represents a slight decrease of 1% compared to the previous year in the context of an overall increase of 61% compared to 2007-08. 25% of all contacts with social care come from the police; 13% from education; 13% from a relative/friend and 12% from health agencies.

There were 3,082 open referrals to Children’s social care as at 31st March 2013, compared to 2,797 as at 31st March 2012 and 2,593 as at 31st March 2011. There were a total of 6,653 during the whole of 2012-13, which represents a downward trend due to the way in which domestic abuse notifications are initially recorded as contacts (not necessarily referrals)

FIGURE 6: Trend in Contacts between 2007 - 2013

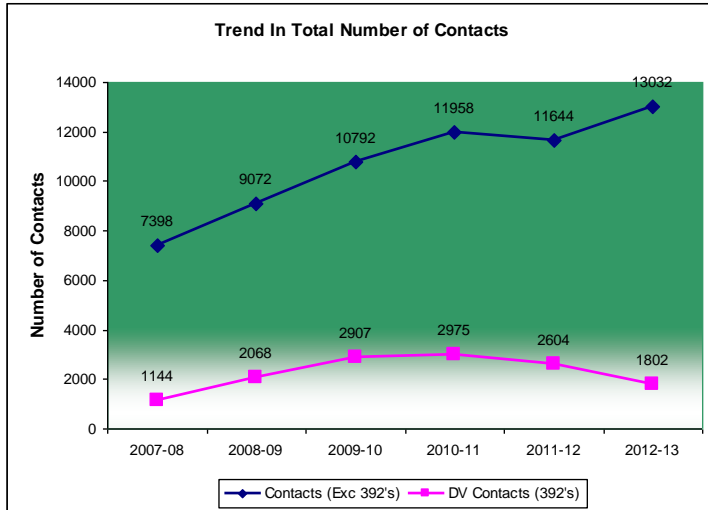
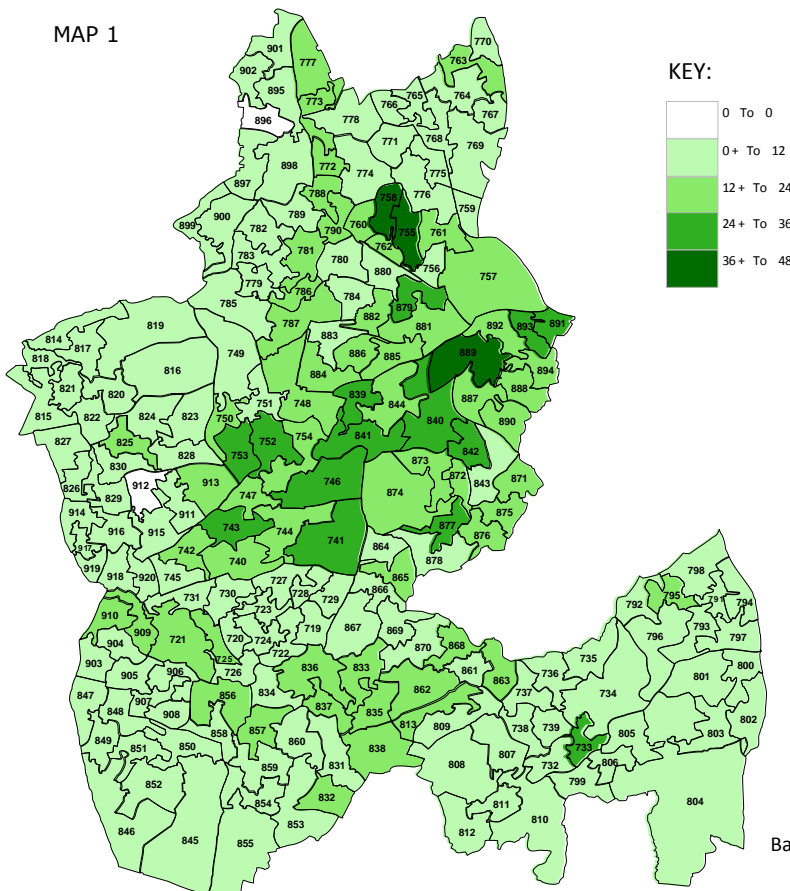


Figure 6 (left) shows the number of contacts to children's social care has been following an increasing trend over the last six years. The overall numbers of contacts (achieved by adding 392 police domestic abuse contacts and non 392 contacts together) have increased from 8402 in the 2006-07 year to 14248 in 2011-12, an increase of 70%.

In respect of Domestic Abuse notifications there were 1,802 notifications involving 1,516 children, a fall of just over 32% from the previous year (notifications). In total since 2008, there have been 12,428 notifications involving 7,656 children. It is likely that more than 33% are 'repeat victims' as more than one notification was received for 2,515 children over the five year period.

Map 1 (below) shows Children In Need supported in their families as at 31st March 2013, grouped by Super Output Areas (which are numbered) and then colour graded according to the levels of concentration in each area. For example, in one of the Halesowen Super Output Area (SOA) labelled '804', there are between 1 and 12 Children In Need as it is shaded in white. In contrast, in SOA area '889' in the centre of Dudley is shaded in the Darkest Green which indicates that between 36 and 48 children in need live in this area.

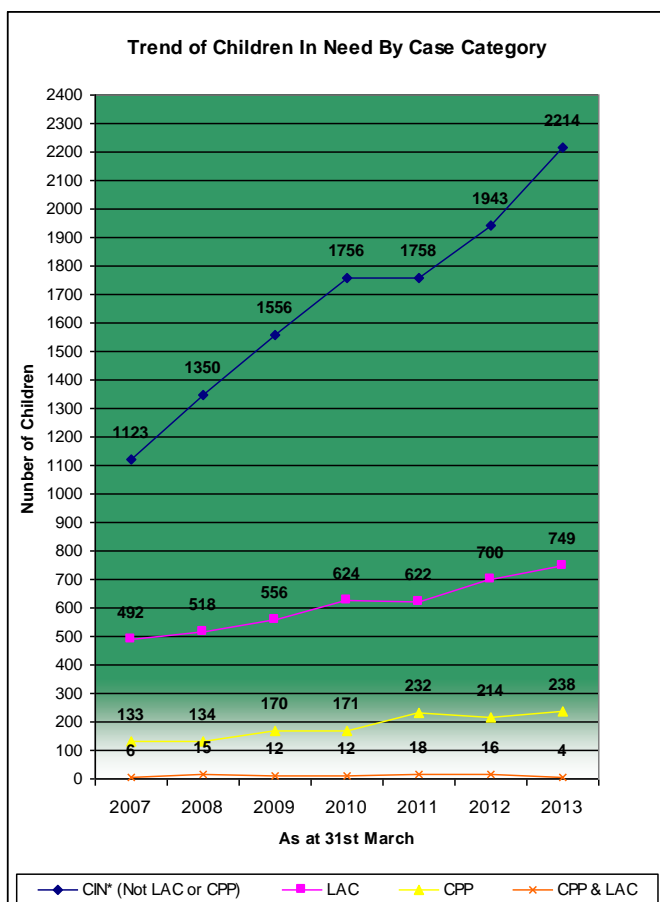
MAP 1



Base: 2,319 children in need (excludes looked after children).

Children in Need

FIGURE 7: Trend o Children in Need by Case Category



In accordance with Section 17 (10) of the Children Act 1989, a child is a ‘Child in Need’ if:

- ⇒ He/she is unlikely to achieve or maintain, or have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining, a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision for him/her of services by a local authority;
- ⇒ His/her health or development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired, without the provision for him/her of such services; or
- ⇒ He/she is disabled

Figure 7 (left) shows the numbers of open cases to children’s social care as at 31st March 2007-13 by category of case. The blue line shows numbers of children supported at home in their families, the pink line is the number of Looked After Children and the yellow line is the number of Child Protection Plans, all of which have shown a rising trend over the last 7 years.

Children in Need of Protection

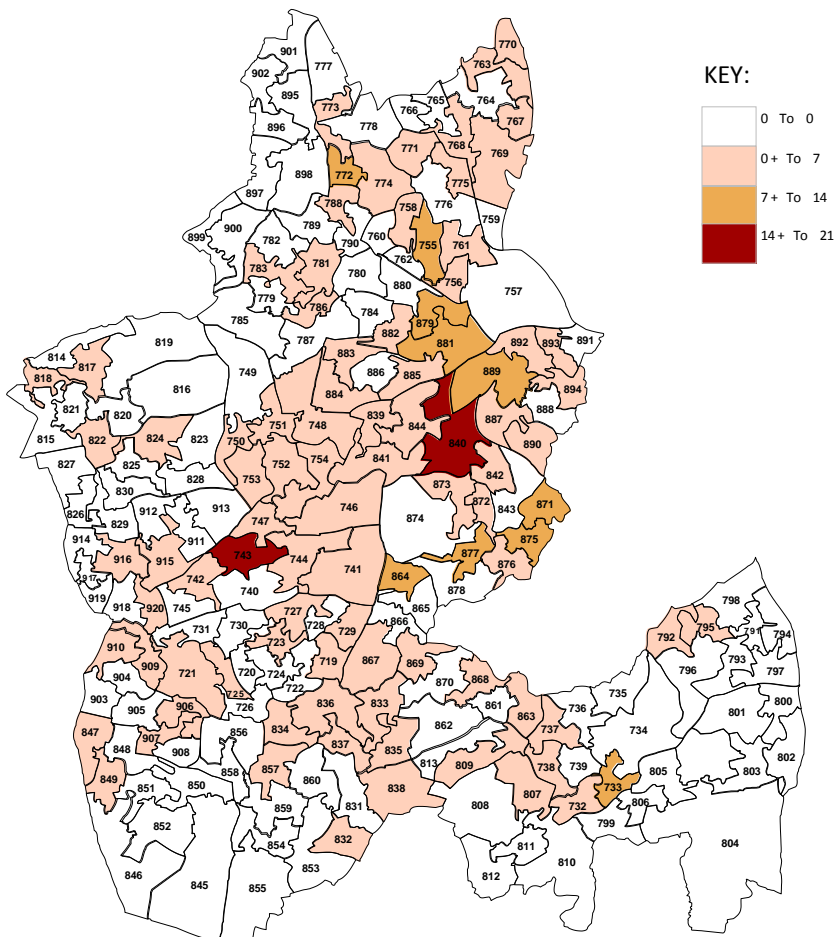
Some of the children referred to Children’s Social Care, are referred due to concerns about their safety and wellbeing. Where a child is believed to have suffered ‘significant harm’ or is ‘at risk of suffering significant harm’, there will be a Strategy Discussion with the Police (under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989). A proportion of these cases will result in the initiation of a Child Protection Conference, whereby a decision will be made as to whether the child remains at risk of suffering significant harm, in which case they will be made subject to an inter-agency child protection plan. For some children, it may be necessary to protect them using emergency powers to secure their immediate safety (police protection powers or emergency protection order by the local authority) or to safeguard and promote their welfare by instigating care proceedings with a view to them becoming looked after by the local authority.

The headlines in respect of child protection data are as follows:

- Of the 6,653 referrals made to Children’s Social Care during 2012-13, 454 resulted in a Section 47 child protection investigation. Of these, 37% were referred by education, 23% by the police, and 11% by health agencies. An additional 171 child protection investigations were conducted in respect of children who were already ‘open’ to social care services
- Of the child abuse investigations undertaken during 2012-13, there were 281 child abuse recorded crimes by the police and 90 cases were detected as child abuse related offences

- There has been a 55% increase in the number of Section 47 Strategy Discussions over the last 5 years – on average, 97% of all strategy discussions during 2012-13 resulted in a child protection investigation
- In 2012-13, just under 39.5% of all S47 Investigations resulted in an Initial Child Protection Conference, compared to 35% the previous year and an average conversion rate of 41.9% over the last 5 years
- There were 182 Initial Child Protection Conferences during 2012-13, 21 ‘Receiving-In’ Conferences and 332 Review Conferences – the total of 354 children were the subject of an Initial Child Protection Conference during the year.
- There were 327 children made subject to a Child Protection Plan during 2012-13, which represents a 18% increase compared to the previous year – on average, 88% of all Initial Child Protection Conferences result in a Child Protection Plan for one or more children;
- Black and minority ethnic communities accounted for 22.3% of child protection plans as at 31/03/2013;
- In 2012-13, 47% of children becoming the subject of a child protection plan were male, 38% were female and 15% were unborn
- 47% of all Child Protection Plans in 2012-13 were due to ‘Neglect’, with 30% due to emotional abuse – there has been a significant fall in the proportion of child protection plans relating to sexual abuse, from 19% in 2007-08 to just 5% in 2012-13 (although the rise in admissions to local authority care may in part explain this decline);

MAP 2



Map 2 (above) shows the number of children who became subject to child protection plans between 1st April 2012 and 31st March 2013 by Super Output Areas. The darker shaded areas indicate where there were higher numbers of child protection plans. The highest numbers within individual SOA's can be seen in St Thomas's Ward (SOA Code 840) and Brierley Hill (SOA 743) where 15 and 16 new Plans respectively began in the year.

FIGURE 8: Trends of Children Subject to a Child Protection Plan

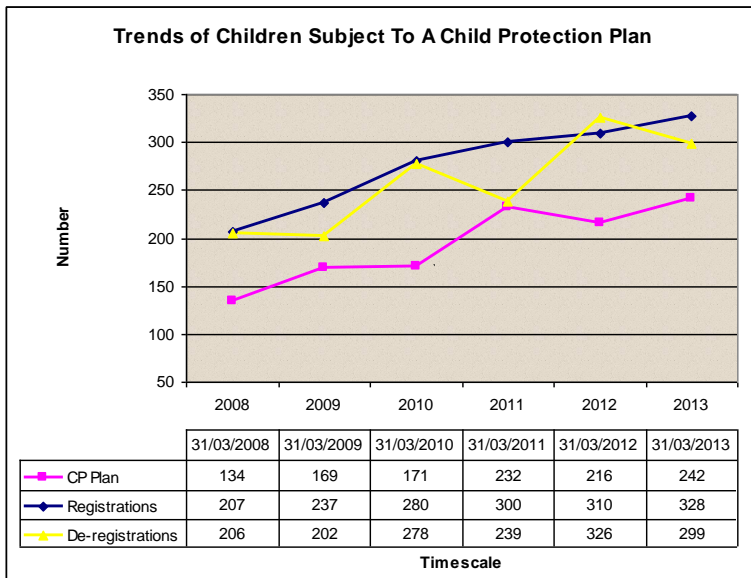


Figure 8 (left) illustrates the 6-year trend in respect of child protection plans @ 31.3, taking into new child protection plans (registrations) and ending of child protection plans (de-registrations) – both of these rates have increased which means that the duration for which children are remaining on a child protection plan is reducing overall.

FIGURE 9: Children ceased to be subject of a CP Plan by duration

Figure 9 (right) illustrates the length of time that children are subject to a child protection plan. The graph also shows that the pattern of duration for children subject to a child protection plan in Dudley during 2012-13 has broadly become more consistent with comparative averages through benchmarking with England, West Midlands and Statistical Neighbours (based on 2011-12 data).

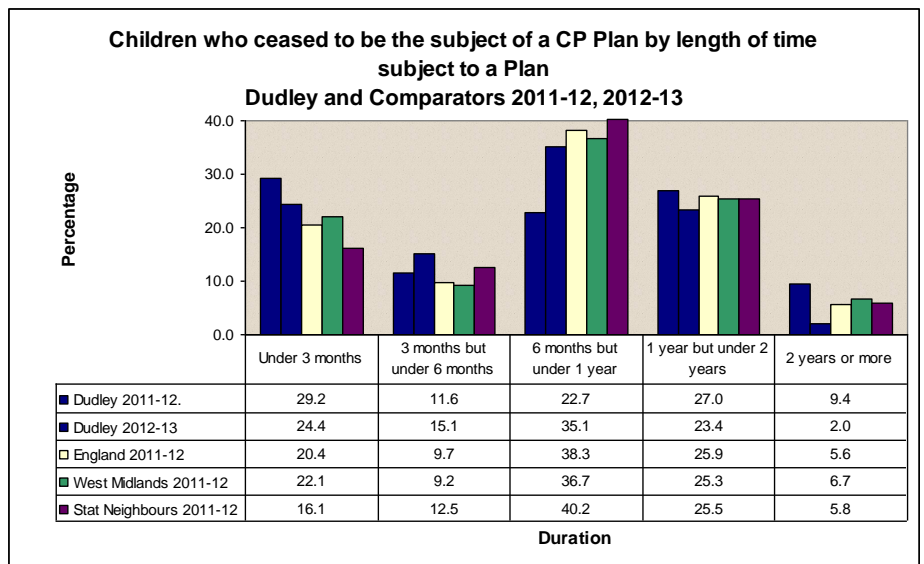


FIGURE 10

FIGURE 11

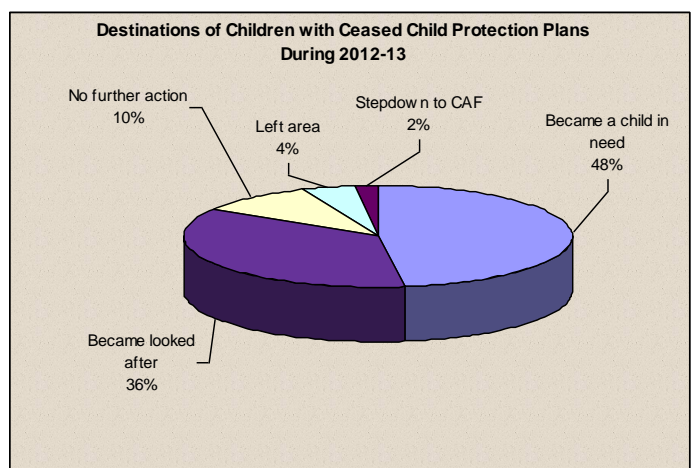
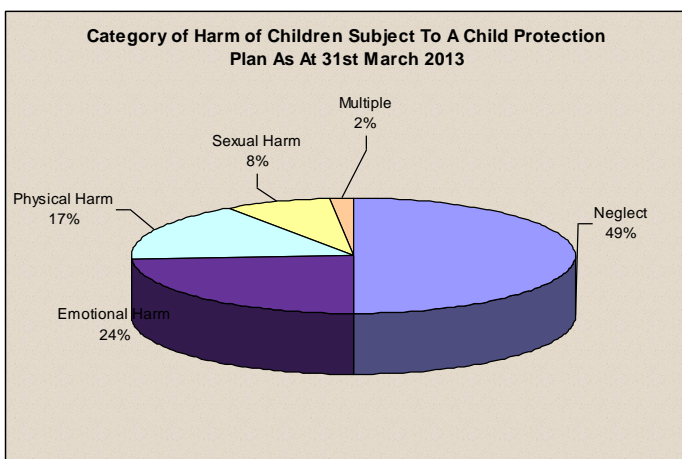


Figure 10 (left) shows the category of harm for all children who were registered on a CP Plan at the end of 2012-13. Of all CP cases, 49% were registered due to neglect only. Almost a quarter of all CP cases (24%) were registered due to emotional harm.

Figure 11 (right) shows the percentage of CP plans which ended during 2012-13 with the recorded outcome. Of all CP Plans that were ceased during the year, 48% continued to be a child in need and 10% ended with no further action. The proportion becoming looked after was 36%, an increase from 22% in 2011-12.

Children who are looked after by the local authority

At 31st March 2013, there were 730 children and young people looked after by Dudley, around 73% of whom came into the care of the local authority as a result of ‘abuse or neglect’.

FIGURE 12:

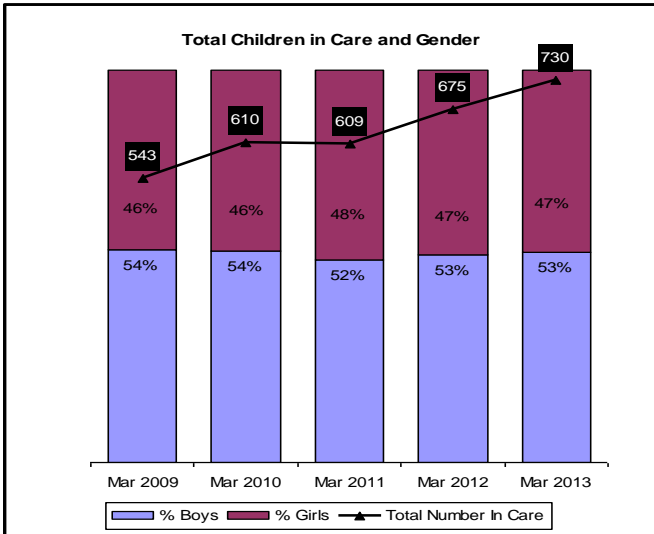


Figure 12 shows the increasing trend in the overall numbers of CIC. Numbers have increased by approximately 43% over a 5-year period from 509 as at March 2008 to 730 as at March 2013 (figures exclude overnight short breaks). Nationally the number of CIC has increased by 12.9% from 59,380 in 2008 to 67,050 in 2012.

Dudley CIC population is made up of 53% of boys and 47% of girls, as can be seen in Chart 1, and these proportions have altered little over the last 5 years. Nationally²⁰¹² CIC statistics show that 55% of CIC are male and 45% are female.

Age Groupⁱ

Figure 13 shows the numbers of CIC by age group at the end of each financial year (figures exclude overnight short breaks). The largest group is the 10 to 15 age group which has seen the biggest increase since 2009 of 78 children. The average age of CIC is falling has fallen slightly from 9.8 in 2009 to 9.1 in 2013.

Nationally²⁰¹² CIC statistics show that 6% of children as at the 31st March 2013 were Under 1, 19% aged 1 to 4, 19% aged 5 to 9, 36% aged 10 to 15 and 20% aged 16 and over. Locally 5% were Under 1, 21% aged 1 to 4, 23% aged 5 to 9, 39% aged 10 to 15 and 12% aged 16 and over

FIGURE 13:

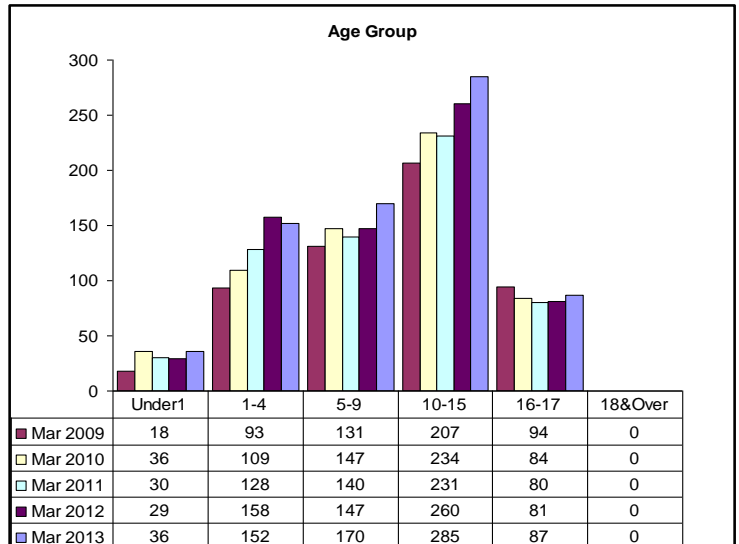
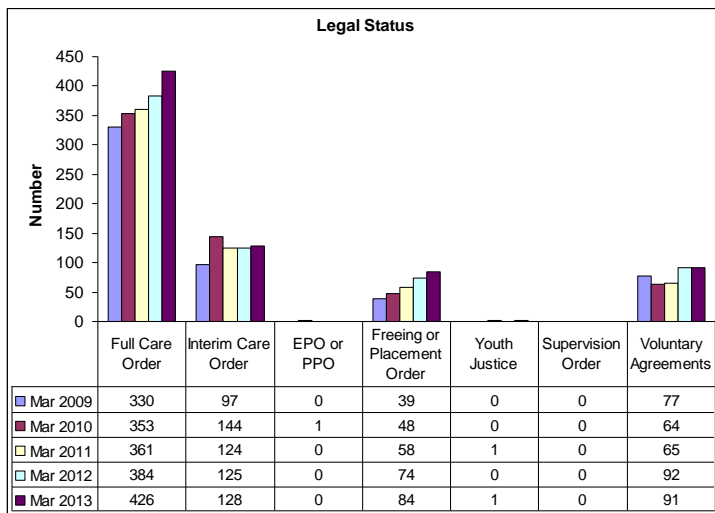


FIGURE 14:



Legal Statusⁱⁱ

It can be seen in Chart 3 that the largest group is the number of CIC on Full Care Orders which has increased from 330 as at March 2009 to 426 as at March 2013 (figures exclude overnight short breaks). Interim care orders account for 18% (2013) of all legal statuses in Dudley LAC, slightly below the National²⁰¹² figure of 20%. 76% of all Dudley LAC were on a care order (either interim or full) compared with 60% of LAC nationally.

Voluntary Orders make up 12% of the total. National²⁰¹² rates are currently higher at 29%.

Ethnicity

The proportion of children in care from a minority ethnic group has remained largely static over the last 5 years at between 11-15%.

Type of Placements

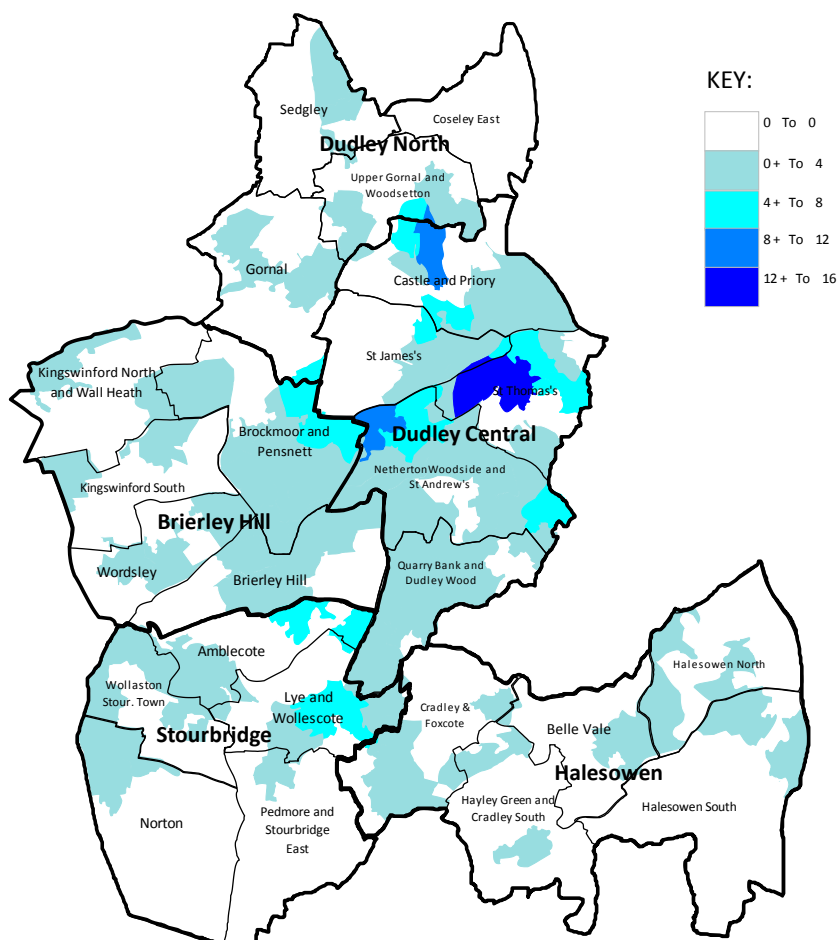
In respect of placements, in March 2009, 45% of the looked after population was placed with Dudley foster carers – in March 2013, 26% of the looked after population is placed with ‘in-house’ foster carers. During the same period, the proportion of looked after children placed with independent foster carers has risen from 12% to 31% whilst the proportion of children placed either with their parents or ‘family and friends’ carers has remained largely static (risen from 27% to 30%).

What happened during 2012-13?

During 2012-13, 210 children and young people became looked after by the local authority, 151 (72%) of whom as a result of ‘abuse or neglect’ compared to 55.5% nationally (2011-12). Of these new admissions:

- ⇒ 46% were under the age of 4 years and 33% between the ages of 10-15 years – this is broadly in line with national data for 2011-12;
- ⇒ 58% were previously subject to a child protection plan prior to becoming looked after – of these, 30% had been subject to a child protection plan more than once

MAP 3: Looked After Children by residence



Map 3 (right) shows the children who became looked after in the 12 months to the quarter end and shows where they were living at the time of becoming looked after.

Please note, that for those children who were living outside the area at the time of becoming looked after, the latest postcode where the child had lived during the borough was used. Where addresses were confidential, in a small number of instances, these have been excluded from the data.

The highest proportion of admissions appears to be in Dudley Central, particularly St Thomas's Ward and also in Castle & Priors and Netherton, Woodside & St Andrew's Wards.

During 2012-13, 161 children ceased to be looked after, 33% as a result of returning home and 25% due to being adopted or made subject to Special Guardianship (44 young people reached the age of 18 years). The average duration they were looked after was 3.5 years (1277), compared to 2.6 years (933) days in 2009.

Children & Young People who go missing

During 2012-13, the Runaways Team within the Youth Offending Service received a total of 238 reported missing episodes to the police, involving 126 children and young people (between the ages of 8 and 17 years old). These include children who are missing from local authority care or home.

The data presented below has been compared to data collated by the Children's Society during July 2010 – June 2011, in their report to Dudley Safeguarding Children Board on the scale, reasons and risks to young people running away in Dudley.

Of the 126 children,

- ⇒ 65 (52%) were male and 61 (48%) were female – this compares to 39% male and 61% female during the period July 2010 – June 2011;
- ⇒ 50% were aged 15-16 years of age – the average age compared to 2010-11 has increased marginally;
- ⇒ 79% of children were White, 10% Black/Black British and 6% Asian/Asian British – this indicates that children from a minority ethnic background are over-represented in comparison to the wider population
- ⇒ 29% (90 young people) were reported missing to the police on more than 1 occasion, of which 11 young people were reported missing on 4 or more occasions

Of the 238 missing episodes,

- ⇒ 58% (138 young people) were missing for under 24 hours
- ⇒ 15% (35 young people) were missing for up to 48 hours
- ⇒ 8% (19 young people) were missing for between for up to 7 days (in excess of 48 hours) and 5% (13 young people) were missing for over 1 week

The Runaways Team offer each young person a 'return home' interview to establish the 'push and pull factors' and reasons for why the young person was reported missing to the police, with the a view to identifying vulnerabilities and needs and if necessary signposting or referring them on to a range of other services or sharing relevant information with professionals already involved with the child. Some of the children reported missing are at risk of sexual exploitation.

Young People at risk of Sexual Exploitation

During 2012-13, 40 referrals were made to Young People at Risk of Sexual Exploitation (YPSE) Panel of which 37 were female and 3 male. Since the commencement of the YPSE Panel in 2008, over 150 young people have been discussed and assessed by the Panel as being at either as low, medium or high risk. Of the 56 young people referred to Panel between 1st January 2012 – 31st December 2012, 3 were believed to be experiencing child sexual exploitation in a group context, the remainder involved (in accordance with intelligence known at the time) individual perpetrators.

During the last 12 months, the Street Teams Project has worked directly with 47 young people either individually or in a group-work setting. The Project provided an annual report to DSCB in July 2013, further outlining their work and the impact on young people's lives.

For more information about the DSCB's work in respect of child sexual exploitation and children who go missing from home or care, email Jackie.jennings@dudley.gov.uk

Summary Statement of Safeguarding Effectiveness

How safe are children and young people in Dudley?

External Inspections

The last full inspection of safeguarding arrangements in Dudley by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission was in November 2011 (published in January 2012) – the overall effectiveness of safeguarding was rated as ‘adequate’ with ‘good’ capacity for improvement. The report made a total of 13 recommendations to be actioned within 3 or 6 months – Dudley Safeguarding Children Board has contributed to the implementation and monitoring of improvement activity during 2012-13 alongside conducting further self-assessment work in respecting of safeguarding outcomes.

In August 2012, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission undertook a 3-day thematic inspection of adult services’ arrangements for the safeguarding of children where they are parental substance misuse or mental health services. Dudley was one of 10 local authorities to be inspected – the report of the findings from these inspections was published in March 2013. An action plan has been developed in respect of the feedback to address key areas of improvement identified by the inspectors.

Other regulatory services to be inspected during 2012-13 include:

- ⇒ Early years – *as at 31st March 2013, 84% of Dudley’s childcare providers who were inspected by Ofsted were rated as ‘Good’ or ‘Outstanding’ with regard to the extent to which children feel safe and with regard to safeguarding practice, policy and the recruitment of suitable people into the workforce.*
- ⇒ Health – *a strategic review of Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust in respect of the ‘Health Visiting Offer’ identified a number of strengths within the service but identified professional support with regards to safeguarding as an area for further development.*
- ⇒ Children’s homes – *all of the local authority’s children’s homes are rated as ‘good’ or ‘outstanding’ during at the end of March 2013. In at least two of the homes, safeguarding children and young people is judged as ‘outstanding’*
- ⇒ Youth Offending Services - *took part in a pilot inspection for HMI Probation during June-July 2012 involving inspectors from Probation, Ofsted and Care Quality Commission. In respect of ‘protecting the young person’ the service was rated as good. The overall inspection was rated as good*

Neglected children shouldn't be invisible

If you suspect a child is being neglected, harmed or suffering domestic abuse, **do something about it**, call 01384 812345



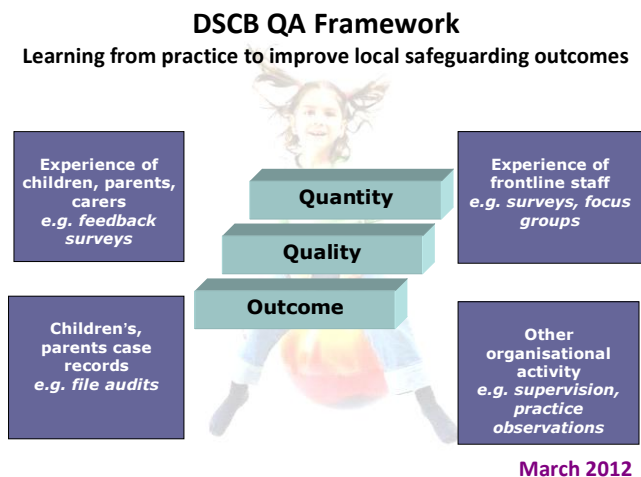
supported by safe & sound, Dudley safeguarding adults board and Dudley safeguarding children's board



How well are agencies safeguarding children and young people in Dudley?

Quality Assurance

The main mechanism for self-assessing how safe children and young people are in Dudley is through the application of the Board's Quality Assurance Framework, which was revised in March 2014, with 4 key components (see below).



In September 2012, DSCB published new inter-agency Child Protection Standards to help improve the quality and consistency of child protection practice across key agencies.

In February 2013, DSCB published a report outlining the emergent themes from audit activity across a range of partners, and examples of how organisations has identified lessons and were implementing improvements as a result of their single-agency audit activity.

The report can be downloaded at:

<http://safeguardingchildren.dudley.gov.uk/quality-and-practice/>

DSCB Complaints Procedures

During 2012-13, DSCB held 1 Complaints Panel in respect of appeals concerning the outcomes of child protection conferences. The key issues identified by the Panel were:

The Panel was conducted in accordance with Stage 2 of Section 17 of Dudley Safeguarding Children Procedures (Complaints & Appeals). The Panel consisted of DSCB representatives from Children's Social Care, Dudley Primary Care Trust, West Midlands Police, Early Years and Dudley Council for Voluntary Service and was supported by the Safeguarding & Review Unit. The panel was attended in part by the child's father and paternal grandfather and met with the Independent Reviewing Officer (Chair of the Conference).

The Panel identified a number of opportunities where agencies could have been more proactively engaged in providing earlier support and help to the child either under the auspices of common assessment and team around the child or via a child in need plan. Both of these approaches would have required the co-operation of family members and a lead professional role.

There was some evidence of the need to bring the concerns for the child's welfare to an Initial Child Protection Conference, due to the likely risk of significant harm rather than evidence that he had actually suffered significant harm.

The Panel felt that on balance the Initial Child Protection Conference should have been adjourned by the Chair due to inconsistencies in the information being presented and key professionals not being in attendance, but recognise that the Chair had to weigh this up against not wanting to pose additional risk to the child through undue delay and the need for managing a distressed parent. In the event of the Conference not being adjourned, the panel felt that on balance a Child in Need Plan may have been sufficient to address the issues being identified.

The appeal was therefore upheld, leading to the Child Protection Conference being reconvened.

Section 11 Audits

Section 11 of The Children Act (2004) places a statutory obligation on a number of agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people whilst carrying out their normal functions. One of the functions of the LSCB is to monitor the effectiveness of arrangements in a locality to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. This includes monitoring compliance with Section 11 of Children Act 2004 and Section 175 of Education Act 2002.

During 2011-12, key partner agencies undertook an audit of their Section 11 compliance using an online tool provided by Virtual College e-safeguarding children academy. It contains 11 standards:

- Senior management commitment to the importance of safeguarding children (1)
- A clear statement of the agency's responsibilities towards children available to staff (2)
- A clear line of accountability within the organisation for work on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children (3)
- Service development takes account of the need to safeguard and promote welfare (4)
- Service development is informed by the views of children and families (5)
- Individual case decisions are informed by the views of children and families (6)
- Effective inter-agency working enabling information sharing to service users (7)
- Staff training on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children for all staff working with or in contact with children and families (8)
- Safe recruitment (9)
- Effective inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (10)
- Effective inter-agency working and information sharing in order to ensure safeguarding and promoting children's welfare (11)

A report of organisational performance against Section 11 standards was included within our Annual Report for 2011-12:

Summary

Overall Compliance

- The **average compliance** score against all of the criteria within the standards for all organisations/agencies is **81.8%**

Standards

- The strongest areas of compliance (on average) relate to:
 - Safe recruitment
 - Senior management commitment to the importance of safeguarding children
 - Service development takes account of the need to safeguard and promote welfare
- The weakest areas of compliance (on average) relates to:
 - Service development is informed by the views of children and families
 - Effective inter-agency working and information sharing in order to ensure safeguarding and promoting children's welfare
 - Effective inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children

During 2012-13, the Board has been receiving scrutiny reports from each of the key agencies in respect of their strengths and areas for improvement. Each partner agency will be refreshing their Section 11 audit during the first half of 2013-14. Information from these audits will be included in next years Annual Report.

Statement of DSCB Effectiveness

Board Attendance

One of the measures of partner engagement and LSCB effectiveness is attendance at Board meetings and engagement in the sub-structure of the Board. In 2011-12, the Board introduced monitoring and reporting of attendance by partner agencies at the main DSCB meetings – overall average attendance is recorded as 72.7%. During 2012-13, average attendance has marginally declined to 71.7%.

From a total of 22 agencies, 8 partner agencies maintained a 100% attendance record for the last two years; there were 5 partner agencies whose attendance was 25% or below.

Agency	Attendance		Average (both years)
	2011-12	2012-13	
Social Care	100	100	100%
Dudley PCT – CCG from Jan 2013	100	100	100%
DWMHT	100	100	100%
West Mids Fire Service	100	100	100%
DACHS	100	100	100%
Community Safety	100	100	100%
Dudley Children's Trust	100	100	100%
Education Services	100	100	100%
DGOH	100	83.3	92%
Childcare Services Strategy	80	100	90%
Voluntary	80	100	90%
BCPFT	-	83.3	83%
DUE	80	83.3	82%
Youth Offending Service	100	50	75%
Connexions	80	66.6	73%
West Midlands Police	80	50	65%
Probation	40	83.3	62%
Primary Schools	60	50	55%
Colleges	60	33.3	47%
Special Schools	20	50	35%
CAFCASS	20	16.6	18%
Secondary Schools*	0	0	0%
West Midlands Ambulance Service**	0	0	0%

* Head Teacher representative from Secondary Schools Forum in place for 2013-14

** West Midlands Ambulance Service are unable to attend LSCB meetings due to lack of organisational capacity

LSCB Self-Assessment

DSCB conducted a self-assessment of its own effectiveness using the Ofsted Good Practice Checklist (published in September 2011). A summary of the Board's self-assessment against the 5 key areas is outlined below:

Good Practice Area	Self-Assessment	
	2012	2013
Governance arrangements	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Partnership working	Good	Good
Engagement with children and young people	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Business planning and relationship with Children's Trust/Partnership	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Quality Assurance	Poor	Satisfactory

LSCB Support & Challenge

DSCB has a key role in supporting agencies in respect of their safeguarding arrangements, largely through the provision of services provided by Safeguarding & Review. There are occasions when the Board, usually via the Head of Safeguarding or Chair, are required to challenge agencies where it is considered that safeguarding issues are not being sufficiently addressed, either in respect of an individual child or at a more strategic level.

During 2012-13, largely as a direct consequence of the Serious Case Review in respect of Child C, the Board developed and disseminated new guidance in respect of professional resolution and escalation. During 2013-14, a formal Register of Challenge will be introduced by DSCB and examples of how this guidance has been formally used will be included in next year's annual report.

Acknowledgments

The Board wishes to thank the following colleagues for 'stepping-up' to chair and lead work on behalf of DSCB:

Pauline Sharratt
Christine Ballinger
Pauline Owens
Jackie Jennings
Sue Haywood
Rebecca Bartholomew
Rachael Doyle
Ian McGuff

The Board also wishes to thank the administrative staff who provide support through co-ordination and minuting of meetings:

Sue Robinson
Helen Pryor-Andrews
Helen Fowler
Heidi Williams
Vivien Vasey

Finally, thank you to everyone who has contributed to improving the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in our borough



SECTION 3

Looking Ahead: Key Challenges and Priorities

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.

Key risks and challenges

There are a number of risks and challenges that will require action to mitigate against and minimise. Some of these risks are more specific to partner agencies, others to the work of the Board:

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;
- the impact of the Family Justice Review in terms of capacity to adhere to timescales and additional requirements with family court proceedings, particularly in view of the increasing complexity of the circumstances of some children who are subject to care proceedings;
- lack of consistency in respect of child protection planning and review evidenced through quality assurance activity and case reviews
- potential for increased risks to children who suffer from asthma as a result of legal changes with regards to the provision of emergency inhalers

Board Risks and Challenges:

- capacity to deliver key priorities and improvements identified within business plan and work programme
- the loss of 24 hour rapid response cover within health for unexpected child deaths
- the lack of timely distribution of child protection conference minutes

A formal Risk Register will be introduced by the Board during 2013-14

The Board appointed an Independent Chair in June 2013. Roger Clayton's initial priorities are to:

- ⇒ 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 LSCB
- ⇒ review and set a work programme to improve partnership engagement and leadership across the Board structure

Key Priorities for 2013-15

The key priorities for 2013-15 are:

PRIORITY 1

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

PRIORITY 2

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

PRIORITY 3

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

PRIORITY 4

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

PRIORITY 5

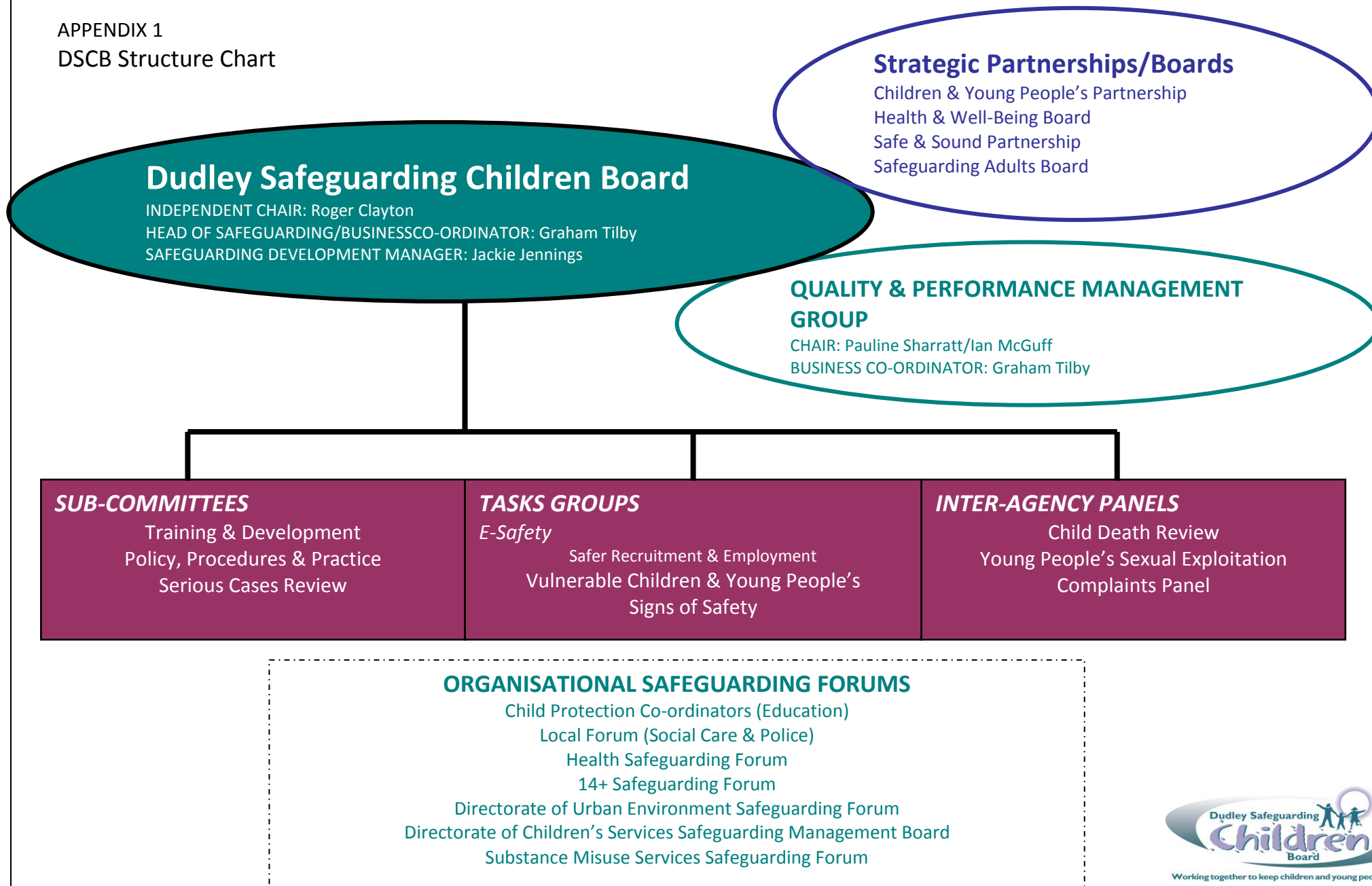
Improve the safeguarding and protection of children and young people who are living in households where there is domestic abuse, parental mental health and parental substance misuse

For further information go to the DSCB website and download the Board's Business Plan and Work Programme for 2013-15 or contact graham.tilby@dudley.gov.uk



APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1
DSCB Structure Chart



APPENDIX 2
DSCB Budget 2012-13

INCOME – Core Budget	AMOUNT		EXPENDITURE – Core Costs	
AGENCY/SOURCE				
Directorate of Children’s Services	123,700.00		Salaries	131, 595.54
Clinical Commissioning Group	57,700.00		Travel Expenses	1, 591.82
West Midlands Police	5,575.00		Street Teams Project	10,000.00
Income Carried Forward*	18,829.00		Serious Case Review	11,450.70
TOTAL	203,804.00		Support for Runaways Service***	-
INCOME – Training Budget			General Office Costs	13,590.55
AGENCY/SOURCE			Prevention/Communication****	-
Dudley Group Hospitals NHS Trust	4,000.00		LADO Software	2,450.00
Black Country Partnership Foundation NHS Trust**	-		Virtual College – Section 11	3,000.00
Dudley & Walsall Mental Health NHS Trust	-		Independent Chair	2,857.75
West Midlands Police	3,000.00		Web Application Maintenance & Support	550.00
West Midlands & Staffordshire Probation Trust	3,000.00		TOTAL	177, 085.66
Cafcass	550.00			
FE Colleges	1,000.00		EXPENDITURE – Training Costs	
Schools	3,900.00		Virtual College E-learning	3,500.00
Training Courses - Internal	5,670.00		Trainers & Training Materials	10,291.03
Training Courses - External	6,255.00		Room Hire & Catering	2,459.24
TOTAL	27,375.00		TOTAL	16,250.27
TOTAL INCOME	231,179.00		TOTAL EXPENDITURE	193, 336.93

* Income carried forward to contribute to the appointment of a 12 months Quality Assurance Officer

** 4,000 contribution agreed for 2013-14

*** 2,000 rolled-forward to 2013-14 to contribute to service review of young runaways (children who go missing from home or care)

**** 5,000 budget set for Prevention and Communication Work during 2013-14

APPENDIX 3

Dudley Safeguarding Children Board Membership

Names in italics are no longer members of DSCB

Name	Role	Agency
John Polychronakis	<i>Chief Executive Officer(Chair from November 2011)*</i>	Dudley MBC
Pauline Sharratt	Assistant Director – Children & Families	Directorate of Children’s Services, Dudley MBC
Jane Porter	Director of Children’s Services	Directorate of Children’s Services, Dudley MBC
Ian McGuff	Assistant Director – Quality & Partnership	Directorate of Children’s Services, Dudley MBC
Christine Ballinger	Divisional Lead – Social Work	Children’s Social Care, Directorate of Children’s Services, Dudley MBC
Graham Tilby	Divisional Lead - Safeguarding & Review **	Quality & Partnership, Directorate of Children’s Services, Dudley MBC
Jackie Jennings	Safeguarding Development Manager	Safeguarding & Review, Directorate of Children’s Services, Dudley MBC
Christine Russell	Divisional Lead – Family Support	Directorate of Children’s Services, Dudley MBC
Donna Farnell	Child Care and Quality Manager	Early Years, Directorate of Children’s Services
Pauline Owens	Designated Lead Nurse for Safeguarding	Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
Rebecca Bartholomew	Director of Nursing (Safeguarding Lead)	Dudley CCG
Jayne Clarke	Safeguarding Lead Nurse	Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust
Yvonne O’Connor	Deputy Director of Nursing	Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Dr. Zala Ibrahim	Consultant Paediatrician (Designated Dr for Safeguarding)	Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Adrian McNulty	Head of Dudley Probation	Staffordshire & West Midlands Probation Service
Anna Dodd	Divisional Director – Children, Young Peoples & Families	Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust
Sue Marshall	Director for Children, Young People & Families	Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust
Anne Boden	Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator	Community Safety Team, Dudley MBC
Sue Haywood	Assistant Head of Community Safety	Community Safety/DAAT, Dudley MBC
Anne Harris	Head of Safeguarding (Adults)	Directorate of Adults, Community & Housing Services, Dudley MBC
DCI Jane Parry	Detective Chief Inspector	Public Protection Unit, West Midlands Police
Chris Wood	Station Commander	West Midlands Fire Service
Julie Winpenny	Partnership Officer	West Midlands Fire Service
Jo Hartill	Head Teacher	Mount Pleasant Primary School (Primary Schools Forum Representative)
Helen Johnson	Head Teacher	Quarry Bank Primary School (Primary Schools Forum representative)
Judi Kings	Head Teacher	Halesbury Special School Special Schools Forum
Michelle King	Head Teacher	Castle High School (Secondary Schools Forum Representative)
Gill Coldicott	Assistant Principal – Student Support Services, Recruitment and Safeguarding	FE Colleges
Rosie Musson	Head of Governance and Partnership	Dudley & Walsall Mental Health Trust
Helen Ellis	Divisional Lead – Targeted Youth Support	Connexions Service, Dudley MBC
<i>Helen Hipkiss</i>	<i>Programme Consultant – Children’s Services</i>	<i>Strategic Health Authority</i>

Jayne Sargeant	Manager	The Phase Trust, Children, Young People's & Families Voluntary Sector Forum
Nicki Burrows	Children, Young People & Families Development Officer	Dudley Council for Voluntary Service
Karen Palk	Lay Member	Lay Advisor
Mike Galikowski	Service Manager	Youth Offending Services, Dudley MBC
Rachael Doyle	Principal Sport & Physical Activity Manager	Directorate of Urban Environment, Dudley MBC
Mike Wood	Children's Trust	Dudley Children & Young People's Partnership
Richard Clark	Principal Solicitor (Legal Advisor)	Legal Services, Dudley MBC
Heidi Crampton	Service Manager	CAFCASS
Cllr Tim Crumpton	Lead Member for Children's Services (Participant Advisor)	Cabinet Member – Children's Services, Dudley MBC

* Roger Clayton was appointed as Independent Chair of DSCB in April 2013 – the commissioned arrangement commenced in July 2013

** Business Co-ordinator to DSCB

APPENDIX 4

Summary of Child Protection Data

TABLE 1

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	5 year average
Strategy Discussion						
Number of children subject to Strategy Discussions	604	705	812	809	935	773
Number Requiring S.47 Investigation	560	686	779	797	887	742
% Requiring S.47 Investigation	92.7%	97.3%	95.9%	98.5%	94.9%	96.0%
Section 47 Investigation						
Number of Section 47 Investigation	546	659	785	783	879	730
Number Requiring Initial Case Conference*	286	263	362	273	347	306
% Requiring Initial Case Conference	52.4%	39.9%	46.1%	34.9%	39.5%	41.9%
Initial Case Conference						
Number of Initial Case Conference*	262	311	360	312	354	320
Number Subject to Child Protection Plan	217	267	295	277	328	277
% Subject to Child Protection Plan	82.8%	85.9%	81.9%	88.8%	92.7%	86.6%
Child Protection Plan						
Number of Child Protection Plans	169	171	232	216	242	206
New Child Protection Plans	237	280	300	310	328	291
Ceased Child Protection Plans	202	278	239	326	299	269
CPP Category of Harm						
Neglect	91	86	92	95	121	97
Physical	28	31	44	27	40	34
Sexual	8	18	15	14	19	15
Emotional	35	34	64	66	58	51
Multiple	7	2	17	14	4	9
Total	169	171	232	216	242	206
Review Case Conferences						
Number of Review Case Conferences	471	604	603	710	676	613

TABLE 2

	Dudley			West Midlands		Statistical Neighbours		England	
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2010-11	2011-12	2010-11	2011-12	2010-11	2011-12
Referrals during the year, rate per 10,000 children	555	419	444	622	570	581	590	557	533
Conversion rates from Referral to Initial Assessment	58%	82%	77%	65%	72%	87%	85%	72%	75%
Initial Assessments, rate per 10,000 children	322	354	342	405	408	503	499	398	398
New CP Plans, rate per 10,000 children	46	47	46	45	50	56	58	44	46
Repeat CP Plans, rate per 10,000 children	13%	14%	19	14%	15%	13%	13%	13%	14%
Ended plans in year, rate per 10,000 children	36	50	36	45	48	54	58	41	46

APPENDIX 5

DSCB Performance Data Set 2012-13

Risk Indicators

A number of risk indicators are under development and will be in place for monitoring during 2013-13

Child Protection Activity

Measure	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	Status	Target 12/13	Target 13/14	Lead	Commentary
Percentage of referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment NI 68	52.2%	81.7%	70.5%	↓	N/A	TBC	Social Care	The 2011-12 figure showed an increase in performance on the previous year, with 81.7% referrals going on to IA. Provisional results for 2012-13 = 70.5%. The Eng average performance 2011-12 was 74.6%
Rate of assessments per 10,000 of the CYP population (N7)	322	343	342	→	340	340	Social Care	Numbers of initial assessments only have been counted. England Rate in 2011-12 was 398. Initial and Core Assessments will be replaced shortly by a single assessment
% of initial assessments for children's social care carried out within 10 working days of referral NI 59. *	64.4%	69.8%	69.3%	→▲	72.5%		Social Care	2011-12 data showed an improvement of the % of IAs carried out within 10 days. The All England performance in 2011/12 was 77.4%. * To be superseded by single assessment indicator of assessments undertaken within 45 days
% of core assessments for children's social care carried out within 35 working days of start NI 60*	75.7%	80.8%	79.5%	→▲	87%		Social Care	Year End 2011-12 figure of 80.8% was an improvement in performance. The All England performance in 2011-12 was 75.5%. * As above
Rate of S47 enquiries per 10,000 of the CYP population (N8)	108	116	118				Social Care	England rate 2011-12 was 110, an increase from 101 in 2010-11. Rate of S47 investigations in Dudley are following an increasing trend
Rate of Initial Child Protection Conferences per 10,000 CYP population (N13)	56	46.7	53.5				Social Care	All England average rate 2011-12 was 49.6. Rate of Initial Conferences have increased in Dudley in 2012-13.
Median days between initiation of S47 and Initial Conference (N15)		15	16	↓	14	13	S&RU	Comparator group's averages are all 13. Room for improvement
Children becoming the subject of a CPP for physical, emotional, and sexual abuse or neglect :rate per 10,000 CYP population (% of total) as at 31st March (N12)	PHY: 8.9 (21%) EMO: 11.0 (30%) SEX: 3.2 (7%) NEG:18.6 (43%)	PHY:6.0 (13%) EMO: 13.6 (33%) SEX:3.5 (7%) NEG:21.1 (47%)	PHY: 2.7 (17%) EMO: 7.9 (25%) SEX: 2.5 (8%) NEG: 15.9 (51%)	N/A			Social Care	England 2011-12 PHY: 4.1 (14%) EMO: 10.9 (32%) SEX:2.0 (6%) NEG: 16.1 (48%)

% of Child Protection Review Conferences held within timescale NI 67	89.4%	88.5%	98.6%	↑	100%	100%	S&RU	All England 2011-12 performance was 96.7%
Child Protection Plans lasting 2 years or more NI 64	0.4%	9.4%	2.0%	↑	TBC	TBC	S&RU	England performance 2011-12 was 5.6%. Of the 294 children de-registered in 2012-13, 6 had been subject to a plan for over 2 years
% of cases where the lead SW has seen the CYP in accordance with the CP Plan for all child subject to a CP Plan during the year (N20)	N/A	N/A	24%		75%	85%	Social Care	As at 31/03/2013, 24% of latest visits had been undertaken in accordance with the CP Plan. This figure is known to be affected by teething issues with the recording of visits and frequency and work is being undertaken to address this. More robust data should be available in Qtr 1 13-14.
% of cases where the Core Group took place within timescales			New indicator under development					Core Groups should take place within 10 working days of the ICC and then every six weeks. Reporting of this new indicator is expected to be in place by the end of Qtr1 2013-14
N° of children subject to a CP Plan for a 2nd or subsequent time (NI 65)	39	43	57	↓	40	35	S&RU	57 children equates to 17.4% of all new plans. This compares with an England average rate of 13.8% and a West Midlands average of 14.6% (2011-12 published results)
Number of new CP Plans per 10,000 population for children aged 0-17	46	42	48	N/A	48	48	S&RU	Comparator data 2011-12 ; England average rate of 46 and West Midlands rate of 50
Children and young people subject to a child protection plan per 10,000 population aged under 18 as at 31 March (N19)	35.6	33.3	36.6	N/A	TBC	TBC	S&RU	Comparator data 2011-12 ; England average rate of 38 and West Midlands rate of 41
Number of looked after children per 10,000 population	95	104	109	↓	N/A	N/A	Social Care	Numbers of Looked After Children continue to follow an increasing trend
Other Indicators								
Measure	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	Status	Target 12/13	Target 13/14	Lead	Commentary
The number of incidents where police have attended a children's home in the Dudley borough regarding a missing/absent child	322	424	370		350	325	Police	Information extracted from the police Command and Control system using the list of homes and using a final classification code Public Safety & Welfare / Missing / Unauthorised Absence
Number of children whose death has been categorised as having modifiable factors	1	1	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	S&RU	CDOP reviewed 35 child deaths, 3 of which were categorised as having modifiable factors
Total number of meetings in respect of concerns/allegations in respect of people who work with children	117	64	111	N/A	N/A	N/A	S&RU	
Number of police DV Reports leading to a Social Care Referral	-	176	157	N/A	N/A	NA/	Social Care	Fewer police reports lead to a Social Care referral in 2012-13. This should be looked at in conjunction with the number of DV reports with an outcome of CAF Recommendation in the Priority Indicators section.

Number of Police Protection orders (all)	22	19	49		N/A	N/A	Police	There has been a significant increase in the number Police Protection Orders from 19 in the 2011-12 year to 49 in the 2012-13 year. This represents an increase of 158%
Number of Police Protection orders leading to an Episode of Care (% of all PPO's)	17 (77%)	15 (78%)	40 (82%)		N/A	N/A	Social Care	The proportion of police protection orders leading to an episode of care has been following an increasing trend over the last 3 year period, rising from 77% in 2010-11 to 82% in 2012-13.
Number of children subject to missing children reports	265	240	386		N/A	N/A	Police	YOS are Supplying Data for 2012-13 – awaiting response

Dudley Safeguarding Children Board Priority Indicators

1. Improve the protection of children from abuse and neglect through more effective inter-agency working

The % of plans with identified risk and protective factors			New indicator under development					DSCB have introduced Signs of Safety tools during the last two years – this indicator will reflect whether an analysis of risk and protective factors is being included within child protection planning
The % of children aged 4 to 17 whose views contributed to their latest CP Conference			New indicator under development					Contribution can be direct (attending conference) or Indirect (incorporated in a report to conference etc) Reporting of this new indicator is expected to be in place by the end of Qtr1 2013-14

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

Number of police DV reports which result in a recommendation of a CAF	Not Collected	Not Collected	94		N/A	N/A	DART	Newly collected information
Number of CAFs which started during the year*	417	296	306		N/A	N/A	IST	The total number of new CAFs recorded dropped in 2011-12 from 417 to 296. This number then increased slightly in 2012-13 to 306. (*CAF dataset is under development and will be included in appendices in future editions)
Number (%) of new referrals to Children's Social Care Teams where a CAF had been initiated within the previous 12 months	120 (3.0%)	78 (2.6%)	53 (1.7%)		N/A	N/A	IST	

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

Under development for 2013-14

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

Number of new referrals from any agency to YPSE Panel *	17	11	10		N/A	N/A	PCT	* Regional CSE dataset has been proposed and will be included in appendices in future editions)
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5. Improving the safeguarding and protection of children and young people who are living in households where there is domestic abuse, parental abuse, parental mental health and parental alcohol and substance misuse

Number children (within household) in Domestic Abuse notifications (392s) reported.	2290	2318	1798	N/A			Social Care/ Police	On average 150 Domestic Violence Notifications (392's) are now received and recorded each month
Number of MARAC cases of Domestic Abuse reported to police where children are reported as present at the time			New indicator under development				Police	Reporting of this new indicator is expected to be in place by the end of Qtr1 2013-14
Number of cases open to Adult Mental Health Services for parents			New indicator under development				Adult Mental Health	Reporting of this new indicator is expected to be in place by the end of Qtr1 2013-14
Number of children assessed by Social Workers as having parental mental health issues as a factor			New indicator under development				Social Care	Reporting of this new indicator is expected to be in place by the end of Qtr1 2013-14
Number of cases open to drug/substance/alcohol misuse adult Services for parents			New indicator under development				Adult Drug and Alcohol Services	Reporting of this new indicator is expected to be in place by the end of Qtr1 2013-14
Number of children assessed by social workers as having parents with drug/substance/ misuse issues as a factor			New indicator under development				Social Care	Reporting of this new indicator is expected to be in place by the end of Qtr1 2013-14

APPENDIX 6

DSCB Attendance by Partner Agencies (main Board)*

Agency	May 11 th 2012	Jul 11 th 2012	Sep 21 st 2012	Nov 14 th 2012	Mar 22 nd 2013-04- Planning & Dev session	Mar 22 nd Business Meeting	Total times acting member attended	% over last six meetings	No of times representative sent	Total % with member/rep
Social Care	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6/6	100		100
Dudley PCT – CCG from Jan 2013	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6/6	100		100
Black Country Partnership FT		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5/6	83.3		83.3
Dudley Group of Hospitals	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	3/6	50	2/6	83.3
FE Colleges	Y				Y		2/6	33.3		33.3
Education	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6/6	100		100
Primary Schools	Y	Y			Y		3/6	50		50
Secondary Schools							0/6	0		0
Special Schools				Y	Y	Y	3/6	50		50
Dudley & Walsall Mental Health Trust	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6/6	100		100
CAFCASS				Y			1/6	16.6		16.6
Youth Offending Service	Y		Y			Y	3/6	50		50
Probation Service	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	5/6	83.3		83.3
Connexions	Y		Y		Y	Y	4/6	66.6		66.6
West Midlands Fire Service	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6/6	100		100
West Midlands Police		Y	Y		Y		3/6	50		50
Community Safety	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6/6	100		100
Dudley Children’s Trust	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6/6	100		100
Directorate of Urban Environment		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5/6	83.3		83.3
Childcare Services Strategy/Children’s Centres	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6/6	100		100
Directorate of Adults, Community & Housing Services	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6/6	100		100
Voluntary Sector	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6/6	100		100
West Midlands Ambulance Service							0/6	0		0

Key: Red DSCB agency member did NOT attend
Amber DSCB agency member did NOT attend, but another person attended in their place or DSCB agency member attended for part of the meeting
Green DSCB agency member attended

Dudley Safeguarding Children Board

'Working Together to Keep Children & Young People Safe'

APPENDIX 7

Key Contacts for Designated Safeguarding Professionals

For safeguarding advice in respect of the key sectors of children's workforce please contact:

Early Years	kim.sharratt@dudley.gov.uk
GPs	pauline.owens@dudleyccg.nhs.uk
Black Country Partnership Trust	jayne.clark@bcpft.nhs.uk or lisa.chiltern@bcpft.nhs.uk
Education (Schools & Colleges)	funbir.jaspal@dudley.gov.uk or jayne.underwood@dudley.gov.uk
Youth Services	amanda.grove@dudley.gov.uk or jean.garwood@dudley.gov.uk
Sport & Physical Activity	rachael.doyle@dudley.gov.uk
Police	w.bird@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk
Social Care	jackie.jennings@dudley.gov.uk or angela.plant@dudley.gov.uk
Dudley Group of Hospitals	carol.weston@dgh.nhs.uk or sally.abbatiello-burns@dgh.nhs.uk
Dudley & Walsall Mental Health Trust	debbie.cooper@dwmh.nhs.uk
DSCB Administration	suzanne.robinson@dudley.gov.uk
Child Death Review Co-ordinator	helen.fowler@dudley.gov.uk
DSCB Training Programme	helen.pryor-andrews@dudley.gov.uk
Child Death Rapid Response Nurse	diane.hall@bcpft.nhs.uk
Quality Assurance	sue.caddick@dudley.gov.uk
Safeguarding Trainers	kim.sharratt@dudley.gov.uk or alyson.sayers@dudley.gov.uk

APPENDIX 8
JARGON BUSTER

CAF	Common Assessment Framework - main assessment tool used by agencies, often applied to vulnerable children
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CDOP	Child Death Overview Panel - responsibility for reviewing deaths of all children in the borough to inform learning
CIN	Child(ren) in Need - Children in need of services as defined by Section 17 of the Children Act
Core Group	Core Group - core group of professionals responsible for implementation of child protection plan
CQC	Care Quality Commission
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation - Sexual exploitation of children and young people up to the age of 18 years
DART	Domestic Abuse Response Team – virtual team of professionals who meet regularly to screen/risk assess all incidents of domestic abuse involving children
DACHS	Directorate of Adults, Community & Housing Services - part of Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
DCS	Directorate of Children’s Services - part of Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
DSCB	Dudley Safeguarding Children Board
DUE	Directorate of Urban Environment - part of Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
ICPC	Initial Child Protection Conference
IRO	Independent Reviewing Officer
LAC	Looked After Child(ren)
LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer – the role provides advice, guidance and management of allegations against people who work with children
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board
MAPPA	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements – provides inter-agency management of risks posed by sexual and violent offenders in the community
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference – inter-agency co-ordination of support and intervention to high risk adult victims of domestic violence
SCR	Serious Case Review – conducted when a child dies or is seriously injured and abuse or neglect is suspected and lessons in terms of inter-agency working
Section 17	Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 – children in need
Section 47	Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 – child protection enquiries
SILP	Significant Incident Learning Process – systems methodology for learning from significant or serious cases
TAC	Team Around the Child – professionals working with children and their families, usually having completed a Common Assessment
TYS Panel	Targeted Youth Support Panel – inter-agency meeting to respond to the needs of children ‘on the edge of becoming looked after’
‘Working Together’	Working Together to Safeguard Children – statutory guidance which outlines how agencies should collaborate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
YPSE Panel	Young People at Risk of Sexual Exploitation Panel – inter-agency meeting to respond to young people at risk of sexual exploitation



promoting an understanding that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

improving the safety and wellbeing of children and young people across all communities

developing safer services and employment practices across all organisations

For more information about the work of Dudley Safeguarding Children Board write to Graham Tilby, Safeguarding & Review Service, 6 St. James's Road, Dudley, West Midlands, DY1 3JL, or telephone 01384 813061 or email graham.tilby@dudley.gov.uk