

Dudley Safeguarding Children Board

'Working Together to Keep Children & Young People Safe'



Dudley Safeguarding Children Board **ANNUAL REPORT** 2011-12

FULL REPORT

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Foreword

“Children grow to fill the space we create for them, and if it’s big, they grow tall”

Keeping children safe is arguably one of the most important things we can do in order to secure a future for our children and provide them with every opportunity of reaching their full potential. All of us have a responsibility to safeguard children, regardless of whether we work directly with them, care for them or just have occasional contact with them; as professionals, as volunteers and as members of the public. But safeguarding children does not mean wrapping them up in cotton wool and trying to remove all the risks they may experience in their lives. So achieving a balance between allowing children to understand, and in some cases, experience risk, and minimising the risks they may be subject to is not always easy to do.

Dudley Safeguarding Children Board is the key means to ensuring that agencies and organisations work together to safeguard children and promote their welfare. This can only happen through partnership: between professionals, agencies and with communities. There are a number of challenges to achieving this and there is always more to do to improve the way agencies work together, communicate with one another, share information, and keep the child at the centre of what they are doing.

Our Ofsted inspection has judged our safeguarding arrangements to be ‘adequate’, with ‘good’ capacity to improve. The word adequate masks the real commitment and passion that is evident amongst so many professionals in Dudley; it does not in itself tell the full story of what we are achieving on a daily basis in protecting vulnerable children and young people. At the same time, it does highlight the need for us to be continually reflecting on a journey of improvement, to be striving relentlessly to improve outcomes for children and young people, particularly those in need of protection and those who have suffered abuse or neglect.

This annual report by no means tells the full story of safeguarding in Dudley, it simply cannot do so. It does, however, attempt to provide an overview of some of the key achievements, developments and challenges faced by agencies within the borough. Please take time to read it carefully – it is not intended to tick a box or to be just another report or plan that sits on a shelf. We want it to make a difference, in some way, to children’s lives.

Thank you for your contribution

Graham Tilby
Head of Safeguarding & Review
Business Co-ordinator of DSCB



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Introduction

The Board 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.

Whilst the work of Dudley Safeguarding Children Board (DSCB) contributes to the wider goals of improving the well-being of all children, its core objectives are to safeguard and protect children, defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development
- Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Understanding that role so as to enable those children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully

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

In accordance with statutory 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' guidance (2010), Local Safeguarding Children Boards are required to produce an Annual Report which includes:

- Providing a comprehensive analysis of the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements in the local area, including the extent to which the functions of the LSCB are being effectively discharged including:
 - policies and procedures for the safer recruitment of frontline staff
 - assessment of single and inter-agency training on safeguarding
 - lessons learnt about the prevention of future child deaths
 - progress on priority issues
 - progress made in implementing actions from individual Serious Case Reviews and their impact
- Recognise achievements and progress and provide a realistic assessment of the key challenges that remain
- Challenge the work of the 'Children's Trust Board' and its partners to ensure that necessary overarching structures, processes and culture are put in place to ensure that children are safeguarded

National Context

During 2011-12, there have been a number of key national developments across the safeguarding agenda. These include:

- Conclusion of the Munro Review of Child Protection arrangements and the government response to Munro
- Publication of Ofsted LSCB Good Practice guidance
- Conclusion of the Family Justice Review
- Publication of new guidance for the role of Director of Children's Services and Lead Member for Children's Services
- Publication of new guidance in respect of the management of allegations against staff working in schools
- Passage of the 'Protection of Freedoms Bill' through Parliament and the establishment of the Disclosure and Barring Service (combination of Independent Safeguarding Authority and Criminal Records Bureau)

Brief summaries of key national developments are included within the DSCB 'SafER' newsletter, along with electronic links to relevant information: for more information go to <http://safeguardingchildren.dudley.gov.uk/>

Local Context

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

- promoting an understanding that safeguarding children & young people is everyone's and every organisation's responsibility;
- improving children, young people's and adults understanding of risks to children's safety, how they can safeguard children and what to do if they are worried about a child being abused; *and*
- developing safer services and employment practices across organisations who work or come into contact with children or young people



In addition, each year the Board agrees a small number of key priorities to focus on – these are outlined within the DSCB Business Plan & Work Programme for 2012-13.

The chairing of Dudley Safeguarding Children Board has been in a transitional arrangement since November 2011, when John Polychronakis, Chief Executive of Dudley MBC became the interim chair superseding Pauline Sharratt, Assistant Director of Children & Families.

The membership of the Board is outlined within Appendix 1.

Achievements & Developments 2011-12

The LSCB has 5 key statutory functions (as outlined in Working Together, 2010). Some of these functions are specifically delegated to Sub-Groups to take a lead role in developments.

The key achievements and developments during 2011-12 in relation to these are:

Policies, Procedures & Protocols

Lead: Policy, Procedures & Practice Sub-Group

- Revision to a number of specialist safeguarding procedures within Section C of the safeguarding procedures manual
- Implementation of a new inter-agency thresholds framework for organisations working with children & young people - 'Right Services, Right Time, Right Place' – published in October 2011;
- Development of a Substance Misuse and Safeguarding Protocol

Training and development

Lead: Training & Development Sub-Group

- The Board provided multi-agency training for 1652 people during 2011-12, compared to 1705 during 2010-11 and 1894 the previous year, which represents a 13% decrease over 3 years

- The Board actively supported or provided face-to-face single-agency child protection training to 5151 people during 2011-12, a fall of 26% compared to the previous year;
- The Board facilitated 1166 people to complete one of the Virtual College e-learning programmes, a rise of 44% compared to the previous year;
- The Board delivered a total of 83 days of training (65 courses) during 2011-12
- The Board provided briefings for 460 people during the year

Communicating and raising awareness

Lead: Training & Development Sub-Group

- The Board supported a Regional Conference held by Stop it Now! as part of Safer Internet Day in February 2012, attended by over 50 people from a variety of agencies
E-Safety Strategy Group
- Dudley's Young People's Safeguarding Board (S4Kidz) has been less active during 2011-12. The group is currently in a period of transition as it combines with the N2N group of the Children & Young People's Partnership

Monitoring and evaluation

- Commissioned a Section 11 ('duty to safeguard') online audit tool – key member agencies were asked to complete the audit and a report presented to DSCB in September 2011 highlighting key themes. A scrutiny programme for 2012-13 was agreed in January 2011.
Quality & Performance Management Group
- Published a second QA Overview Report in June 2011, incorporating the themes from complaints and appeals in respect of child protection conferences and learning from case reviews
Quality & Performance Management Group
- Commissioned two Significant (Serious) Incident Learning Processes (SILPs), the first of which was reported to the Board in January 2012. The second one will be concluded by May 2012. The learning from both SILPs will be included in the Board's next QA Overview Report.
Serious Case Review Sub-Group
- Implementation of the key actions arising from the LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) Annual Report in respect of the management of allegations against people who work with children, presented to the Board in May 2011;
LADO Sub-Group
- Up-dated Terms of Reference for DSCB and all sub-groups in line with *Working Together to Safeguard Children* (published March 2010);
Quality & Performance Management Group
- Chair of DSCB transferred to John Polychronakis, Chief Executive of Dudley MBC from November 2011 as an interim measure whilst the Board considered future options for chairing arrangements;
Quality & Performance Management Group
- Board agreed an action plan in respect of Munro Review, following the publication of her final report and subsequent government response;
Quality & Performance Management Group
- Board conducted a self-assessment of its arrangements against the good practice report published by Ofsted in March 2012, the findings from this are incorporated into DSCB's Work Programme for 2012-13;
Quality & Performance Management Group

Participating in planning and commissioning

- The Annual Report and Business Plan was presented to the Children's Services Select Committee and Dudley Children's Trust in 2011
Quality & Performance Management Group
- The Board contributed to the Service Improvement Review in respect of domestic abuse within the borough, primarily with a view to identifying current provision and gaps in service. An action plan is under development
Quality & Performance Management Group
- The Board used its core funding to directly commission 3 services in respect of safeguarding:
 - Specialist service to work with young people at risk of sexual exploitation (delivered by Street Teams and part funded by Comic Relief);
 - Young Runaways Pilot Project to identify the needs and gaps in respect of children who go missing from home or care (delivered by The Children's Society – ended July 2011);
 - Stop it Now! Black Country & Birmingham project in respect of the prevention of child sexual abuse (hosted by Barnardos Community Routes – ended October 2011)

*Vulnerable Children & Young People's Task Group****Functions relating to child deaths***

Lead: *Child Death Overview Panel*

- During 2011-12, the Child Death Review Panel were notified in respect of 42 child deaths, of which 15 reviews were completed.* The panel concluded that 2 of these 15 unexpected deaths had 'modifiable factors'

Serious Case Reviews

Lead: *Serious Case Review Sub-Group*

- DSCB initiated a serious case review in December 2011, which is not due for completion until at least the end of July 2012;

Progress in respect of priority areas

DSCB agreed 3 key priority areas to focus its resources on to progress during 2011-12:

- A strengthened leadership role in supporting multi-agency learning concerning child protection practice and joint investigations in respect of child abuse & neglect
- Improving inter-agency responses to children & young people who are vulnerable to experiencing sexual exploitation, internal trafficking and serious forms of bullying and violence
- Improving inter-agency responses to children who are likely to, or who have, suffered emotional abuse and neglect

A summary of progress against each of these priorities can be found in Appendix 3.

The Board has agreed three priorities for action for the next 12 months – these are outlined within its Business Plan & Work Programme for 2012-13, which can be downloaded from the DSCB website – <http://safeguardingchildren.dudley.gov.uk/>

* The Panel scheduled to take place in February 2012 did not go ahead resulting in some reviews of child deaths being deferred until April 201

Safeguarding Activity 2011-12

The following summary data is presented in three parts:

- Information relating to 'Common Assessment' and 'Children in Need' activity
- Information relating to 'Child Protection' activity
- Information relating to 'Looked after children'

Summary of Common Assessment and Children in Need Activity

Common Assessments

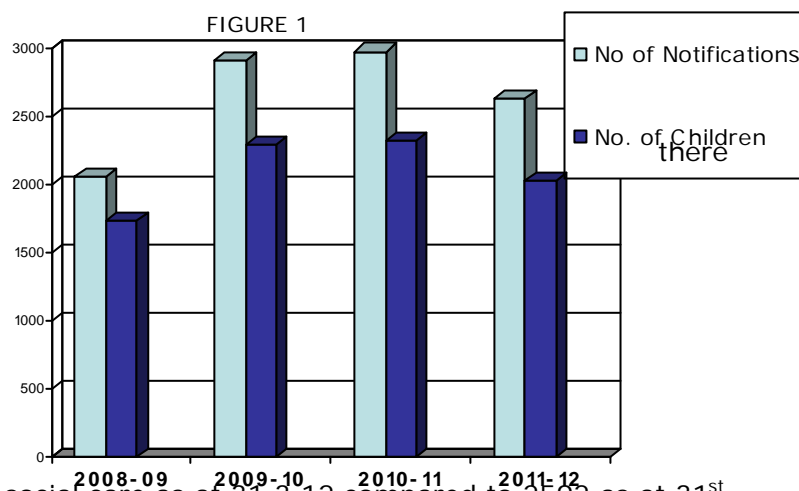
- During 2011-12, 465 common assessments were started of which 338 (73%) were completed in respect of vulnerable children and young people. 47.5% were started by schools; 17.2% by health professionals and 10.8% by children's centres;
- There was a 39.5% reduction in the number of common assessments started compared to the previous year (901), although the proportion of common assessments being completed in 2011-12 was an improvement compared to 2010-11

The information below relates to data obtained from children's social care, and compares activity from 2009-10 to 2011-12 (3 year period):

Contacts with Children's Social Care:

- In 2011-12, there were 14,248 contacts, which represents a slight decrease of 4.8% compared to the previous year in the context of an overall increase of 70% compared to 2006-07
- 26% of all contacts with social care come from the police; 14% from education; 9% from health agencies and 13% from a relative/friend;

Figure 1 (right) shows the number of domestic abuse notifications from the last four years, via the Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART). In 2011-12, were 2639 involving 2036 children, a fall of just over 11% from the previous year (notifications). In total since 2008, there have been 10,588 notifications involving 8381 children (it is likely that around 25% are repeat 'victims')



Referrals:

- There were 2737 open referrals to social care as at 31.3.12 compared to 2592 as at 31st March 2010 and 2581 as at 31st March 2011
- There were a total of 6117 during the whole of 2011-12, which represents a downward trend due to the way in which domestic abuse notifications are initially recorded as contacts (not necessarily referrals)

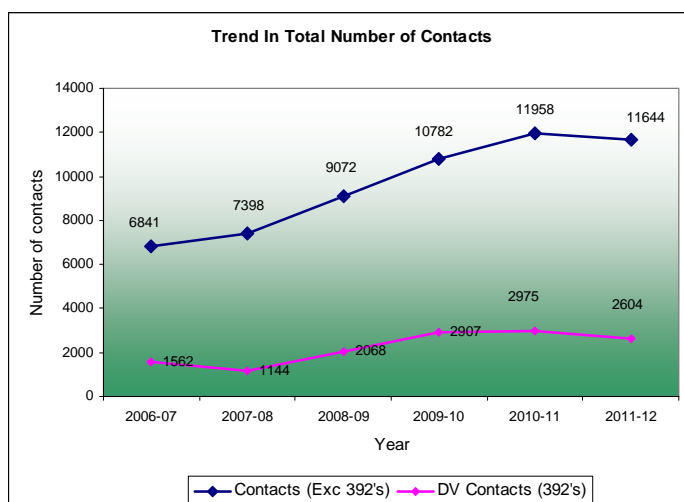


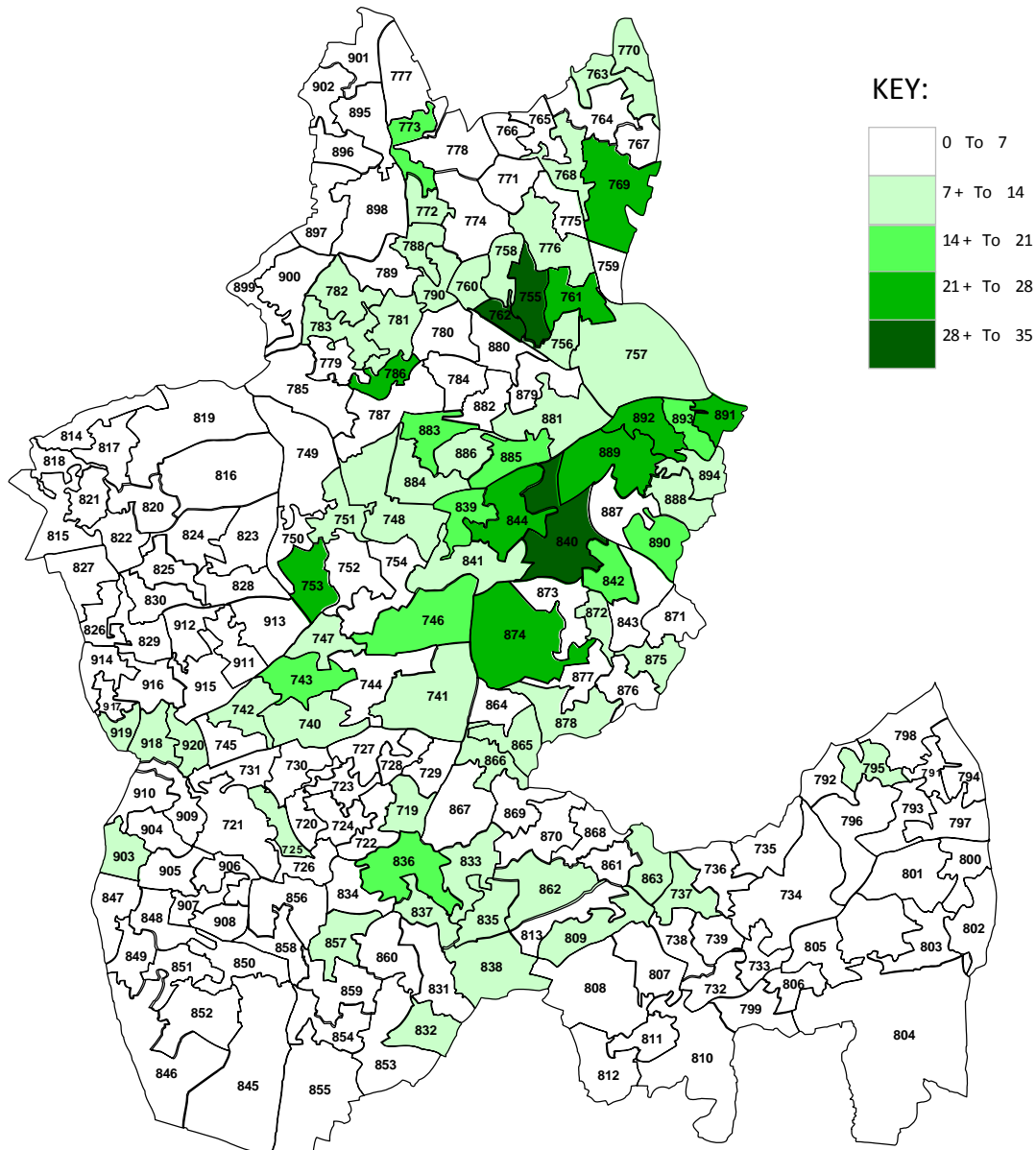
FIGURE 2

Figure 2 (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%.

If we exclude the police domestic abuse notifications (392s), contacts fell by 12% from the previous year.

Map 1 (below) shows Children In Need supported in their families as at 31st March 2012, 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 0 and 7 Children In Need as it is shaded in white. In contrast, in SOA area '840' in the centre of Dudley is shaded in the Darkest Green which indicates that between 28 and 35 children come from this area

MAP 1



* Super Output Areas are...

Summary of Child Protection Activity

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

- There has been a 77% increase in the number of Section 47 Strategy Discussions over the last 5 years – on average, 98.5% of all strategy discussions during 2011-12 resulted in a child protection investigation
- In 2011-12, just under 35% of all S47 Investigations resulted in an Initial Child Protection Conference, compared to 46% the previous year and an average conversion rate of 44% over the last 5 years – the fall may be linked to the continuing rise in the number of children becoming looked after by the local authority, who are not initially subject to child protection plans;
- There were 155 Initial Child Protection Conferences during 2011-12, 20 'Receiving-In' Conferences and 326 Review Conferences – the total of 312 children were the subject of an Initial Child Protection Conference during the year.
- There were 277 children subject to a Child Protection Plan during 2011-12, which represents a 6% fall compared to the previous year – on average, 89% of all Initial Child Protection Conferences result in a Child Protection Plan for one or more children;
- Black and minority ethnic communities accounted for 15% of child protection plans as at 31.12.12;
- The number of new cases of emotional harm has increased by 160% over the 15 month period. In Quarter 4, 45% of children becoming the subject of a child protection plan were male, 44% were female and 11% were unborn
- 44% of all Child Protection Plans in 2011-12 were due to 'Neglect', with 31% 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 6% in 2011-12 (although the rise in admissions to local authority care may in part explain this decline);

FIGURE 3

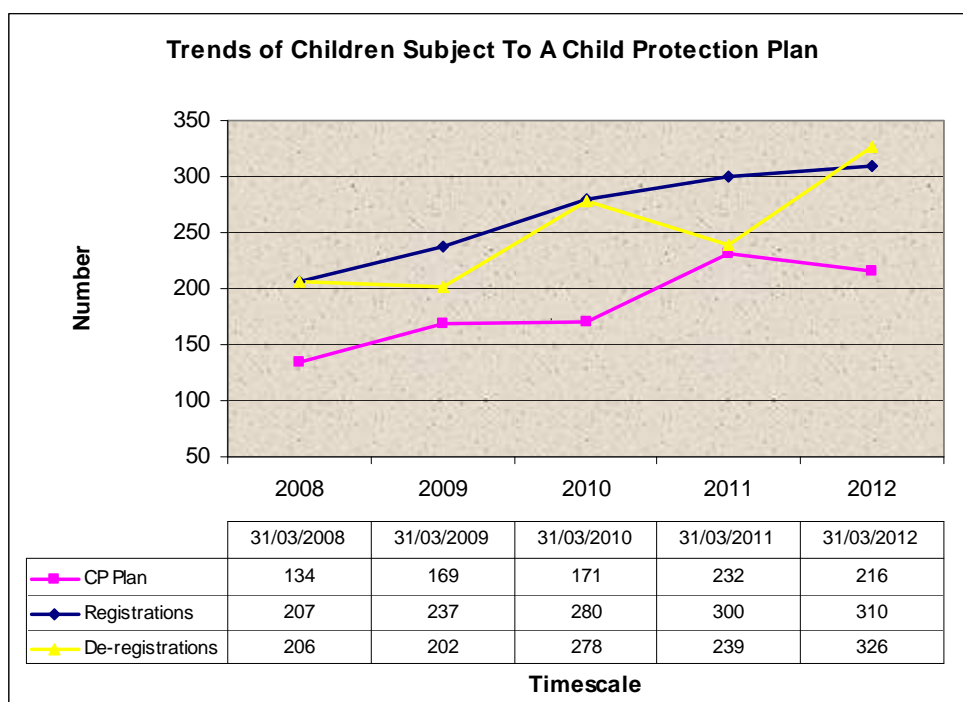
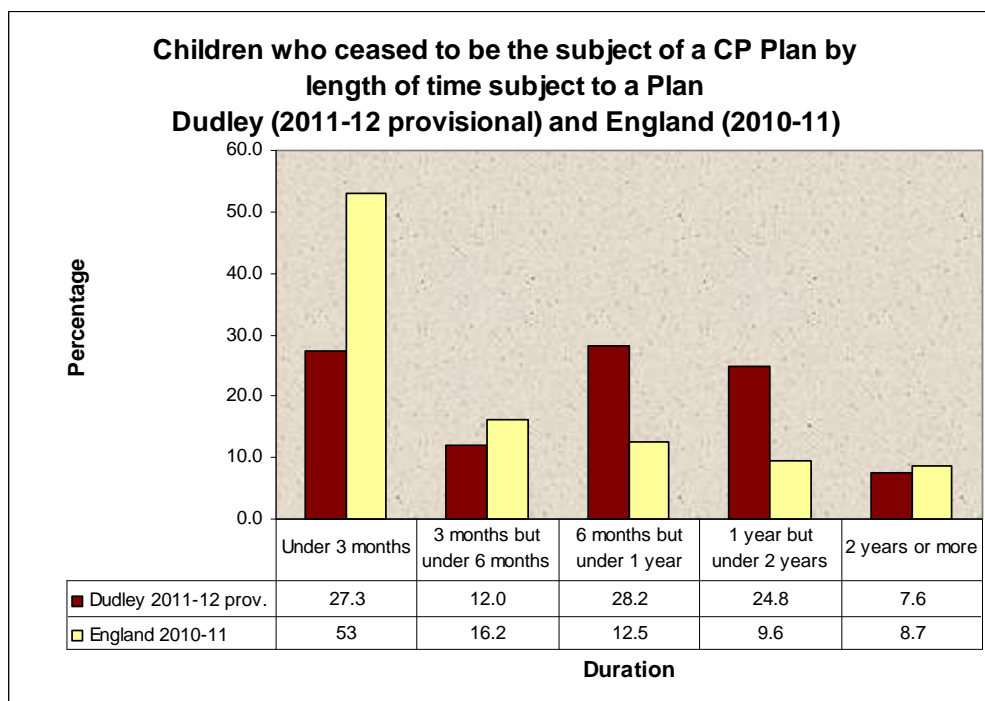


Figure 3 (left) illustrates the 5- year trend in respect of child protection plans @ 31.3, taking into new child protection plans (registrations) and ending of child protection plans (de-registrations) – both of these rates have increased which means that the duration for which children are remaining on a child protection plan is reducing overall.

Figure 4 (below) shows comparator data of the duration of children who ceased to be a subject of a child protection plan. Of all children whose plans were ended during 2011-12, children in Dudley were more likely to be kept on a plan for between 6 months and 2 years (53%) than in England (23%). Over half (53%) of CP plans in England were ceased under 3 months during 2010-11 compared with 27.3% in Dudley during 2011-12.

FIGURE 4



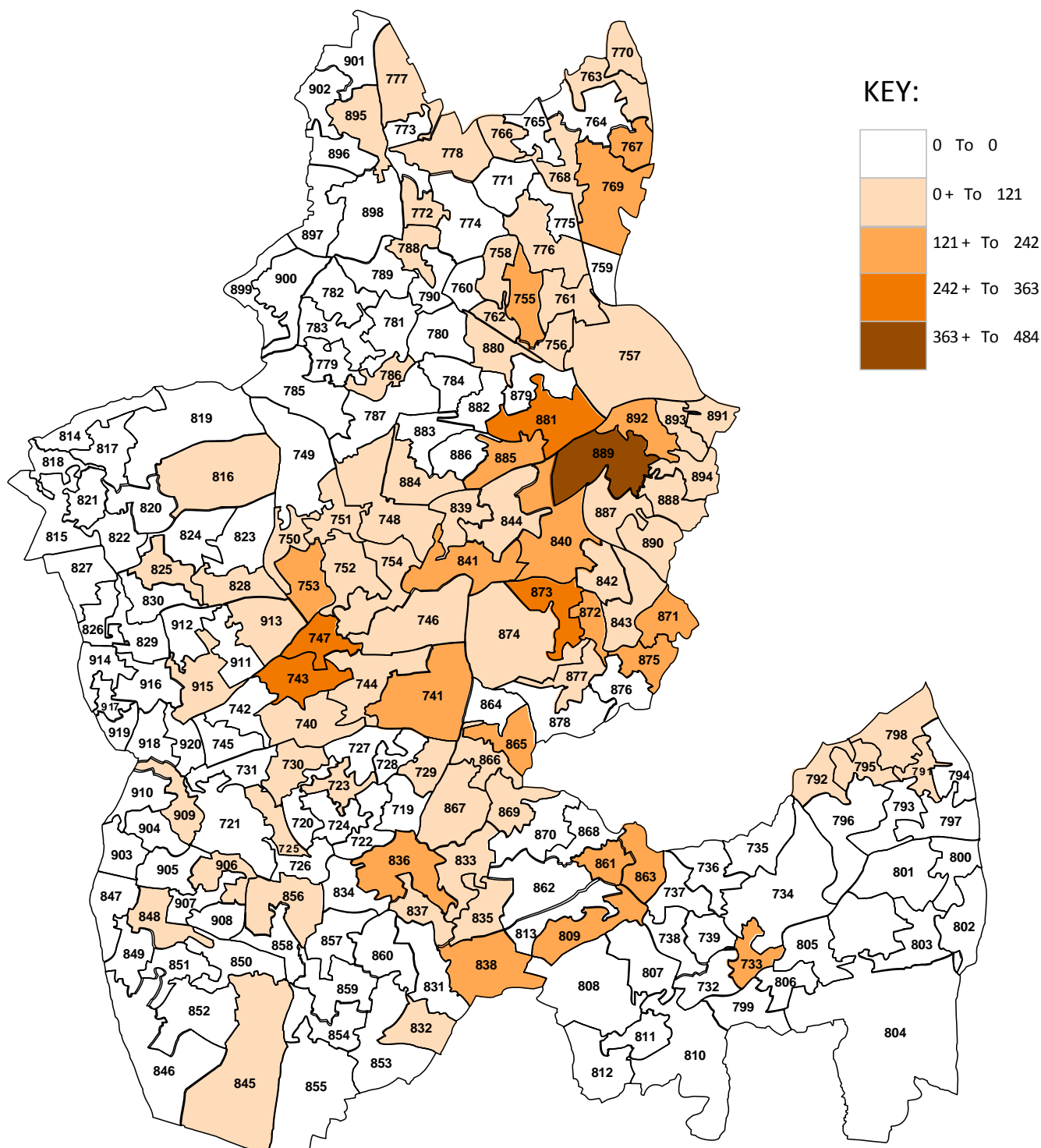
Neglected children shouldn't be invisible

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

MAP 2



Map 2 (above) shows the rates of children who became subject to child protection plans between 1st April 2011 and 31st March 2012 per 10,000 children aged under-18 years of age for Super Output Areas*. The darker shaded areas indicate where there were higher numbers of child protection plans. The highest rate within an individual SOA can be seen in St Thomas's Ward.

FIGURE 5

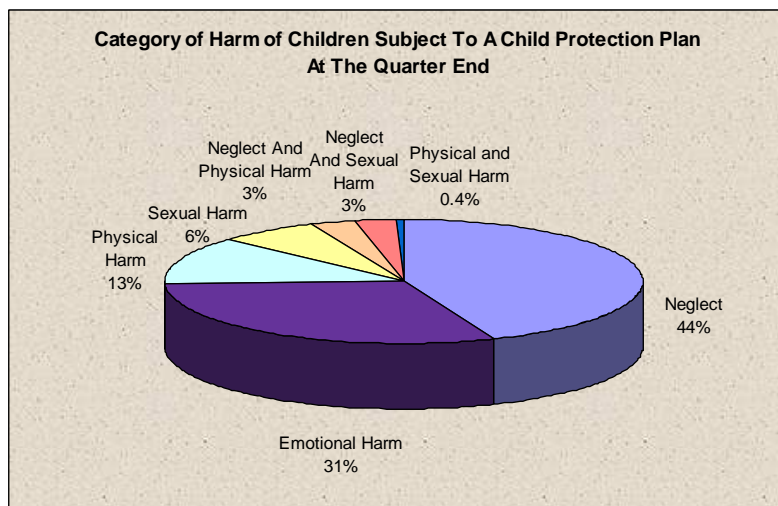


Figure 5 (left) shows the category of harm for all children who were registered on a CP Plan at the end of Quarter 4 2011-12. Of all CP cases, 44% were registered due to neglect only. Almost a third of all CP cases (31%) were registered due to emotional harm.

FIGURE 6

Figure 6 (right) shows the percentage of CP plans which ended during Quarter 4 of 2011-12 (1.1.12-31.3.12) with the recorded outcome. Of all CP Plans that were ceased during Quarter 4, 48% continued to be a child in need and 13% ended with no further action. The proportion becoming looked after was 28% in Quarter 4.

FIGURE 7

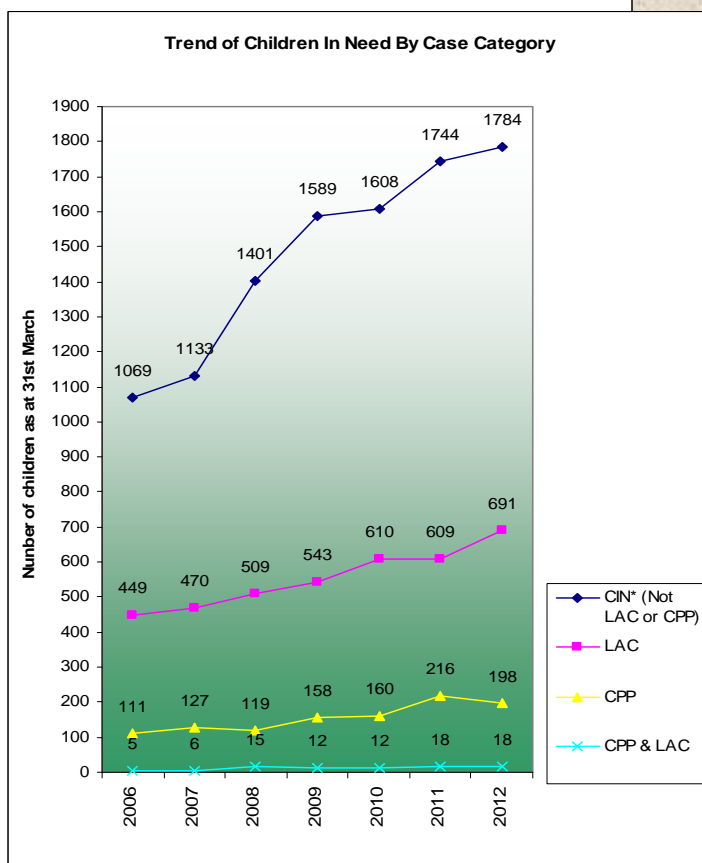
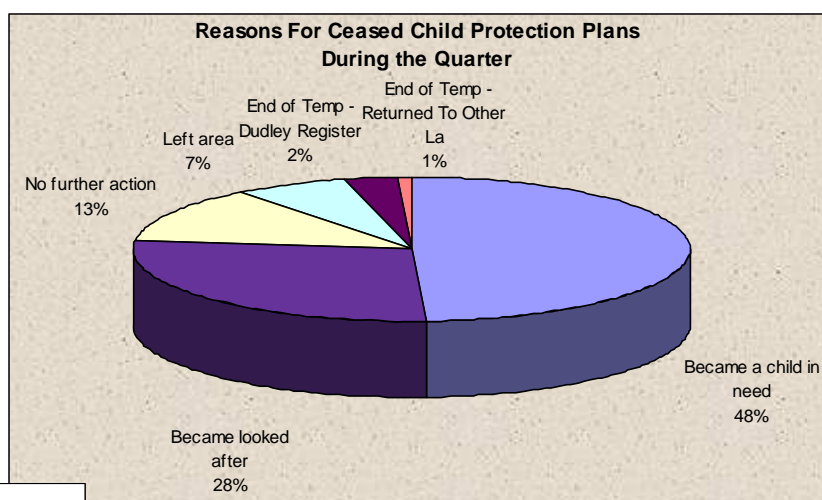


Figure 7 (left) shows the numbers of open cases to children's social care as at 31st March 2006-12 by category of case. The blue line shows numbers of children supported at home in their families, the pink line is the number of Looked After Children and the yellow line is the number of Child Protection Plans, all of which have shown a rising trend over the last 6 years.

Summary of Child Protection Data

Table 1 (below) provides a summary of the child protection data over the last 5 years.

TABLE 1

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	5 year average
Strategy Discussion						
Number of children subject to Strategy Discussions	456	604	705	812	809	677
Number Requiring S.47 Investigation	439	560	686	779	797	652
% Requiring S.47 Investigation	96.3%	92.7%	97.3%	95.9%	98.5%	96.3%
Section 47 Investigation						
Number of Section 47 Investigation	435	546	659	785	783	642
Number Requiring Initial Case Conference*	240	286	263	362	273	285
% Requiring Initial Case Conference	55.2%	52.4%	39.9%	46.1%	34.9%	44.4%
Initial Case Conference						
Number of Initial Case Conference*	235	262	311	360	312	296
Number Subject to Child Protection Plan	200	217	267	295	277	251
% Subject to Child Protection Plan	85.1%	82.8%	85.9%	81.9%	88.8%	84.9%
Child Protection Plan						
Number of Child Protection Plans	134	169	171	232	216	184
New Child Protection Plans	207	237	280	300	310	267
Ceased Child Protection Plans	206	202	278	239	326	250
CPP Category of Harm						
Neglect	66	91	86	92	95	86
Physical	11	28	31	44	27	28
Sexual	25	8	18	15	14	16
Emotional	24	35	34	64	66	45
Multiple	8	7	2	17	14	10
Total	134	169	171	232	216	184
Review Case Conferences						
Number of Review Case Conferences	413	471	604	603	710	560

TABLE 2

	Dudley		West Midlands	England
	2011-12	2010-11	2010-11	2010-11
Source	Dudley MBC (Swift/ICS) PROVISIONAL	DfE (CIN Census 2011)	DfE (CIN Census 2011)	DfE (CIN Census 2011)
Referrals during the year; rate per 10,000 children aged under 18 years	433	555	622	557
Initial assessments completed during the year; rate per 10,000 children aged under 18 years	354	322	405	398
New registrations; rate per 10,000 children aged under 18 years	47	46	45	44
Re-registrations during the year; percentage of registrations	14%	13%	14%	13%
De-registrations during the year; rate per 10,000 children aged under 18 years	50	36	45	41
Children on CP Plans as at the end of the year; rate per 10,000 children aged under 18 years	33	36	41	39

Table 2 (above) provides comparator information in respect of Dudley (2010-11 and 2011-12), with West Midlands and England (2010-11).

Other Safeguarding Activity

- 44 young people were referred to the Young People at Risk of Sexual Exploitation (YPSE) Panel during 2011-12 – a total of 110 young people have been discussed by the Panel over the last three years;
- There were 68 meetings in respect of concerns or allegations relating to 44 people who work with children & young people – a further 43 cases were referred to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) for advice and support in respect of concerns or allegations about their employment suitability or potential risk of harm to children

Looked After Children Summary

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

- There were 682 children in care at the 31st March 2012, which represents a 11% increase from the end of previous year

FIGURE 8

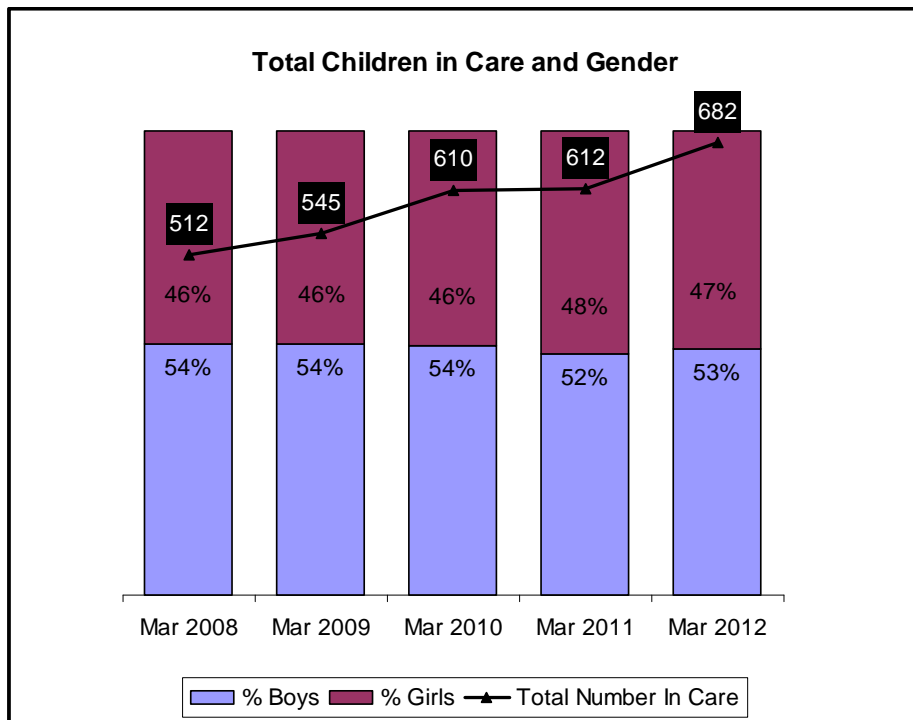


Figure 8 (left) shows the increasing trend in the overall numbers of children in care (CIC). Numbers have increased by approx 33% over the 5-year period from 512 as at March 2007 to 682 as at March 2012. Nationally the number of CIC has increased by 9.3% from 59970 in 2007 to 65520 in 2011.

Dudley CIC population consists of more boys (53%) than girls (47%) as can be seen in Chart 1 and these proportions have altered little over the last 5 years. Nationally, 2011 CIC statistics show that 56% of CIC are boys, and 44% Girls. Dudley therefore currently

has a higher % of girls in care than the national average.

FIGURE 9

Figure 9 (right) shows that the numbers of children in care by age group @ 31st March. The largest group is the 10 to 15 age group. The group that has seen the biggest increase over the past five years is the 1 - 4 age group (88 children). The average age of CIC is falling. As at 31st March 2012 the average of CIC was 9 years old. In 2008 the average age of CIC was 10.4 years.

Nationally, CIC statistics show that 6% of children as at the 31st March 2011 were Under 1 (4% in Dudley @ 31.3.12); 18% aged 1 to 4 (24% in Dudley @ 31.3.12), 18% aged 5 to 9 (22% in Dudley @ 31.3.12), 37% aged 10 to 15 (38% in Dudley @ 31.3.12) and 21% aged 16 and over (12% in Dudley @ 31.12.12).

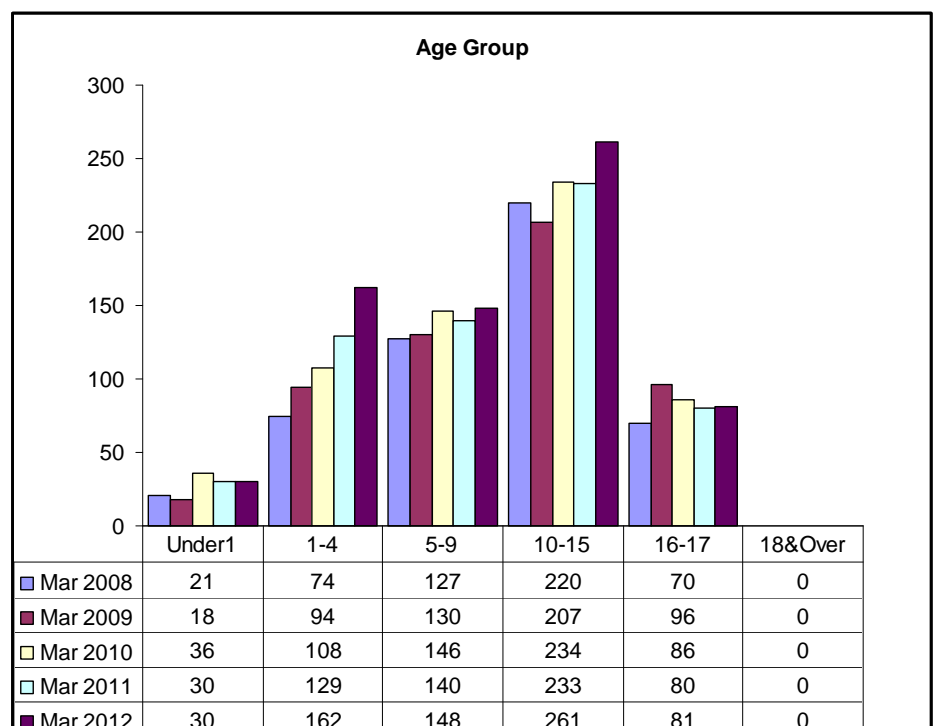
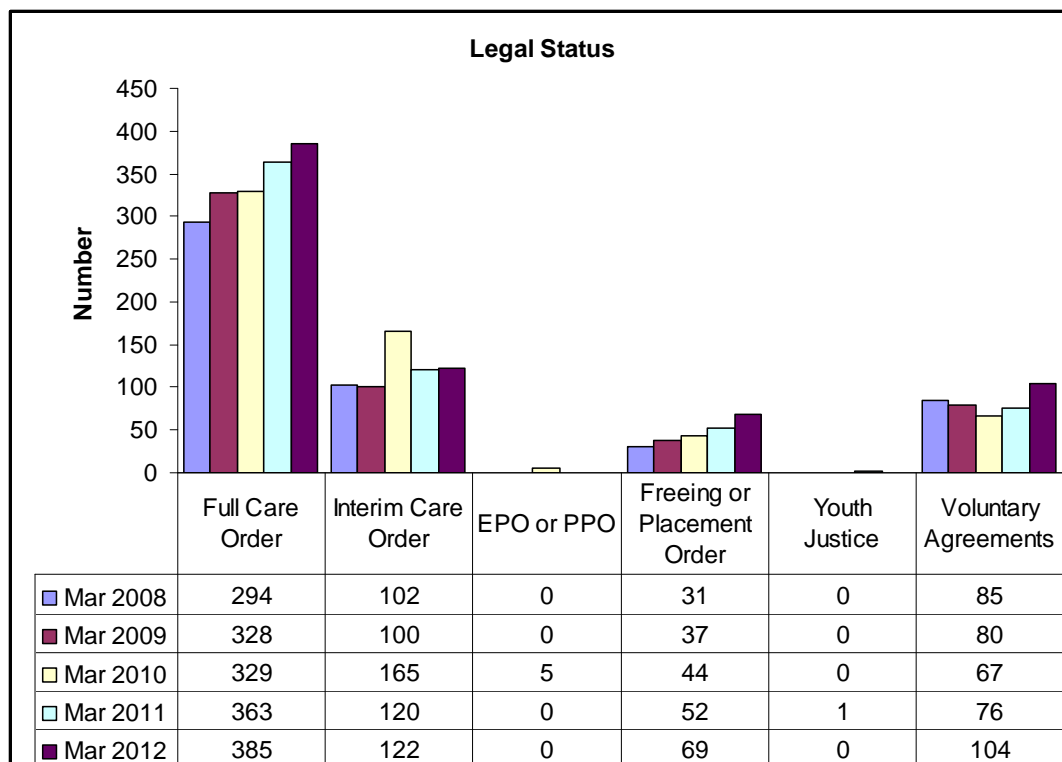


FIGURE 10

Figure 10 (right) highlights the increase in the number of children in Dudley on Full Care Orders from 294 as at March 2008 to 385 as at March 2012. Interim care orders account for 18% (2012) of all legal statuses, which is slightly below the national average of 21% (2011). 74% of all Dudley LAC were on a care order (either interim or full) compared with 60% of LAC nationally. Voluntary Orders have made up 15% of the total. National rates 2011 are currently higher at 31%.

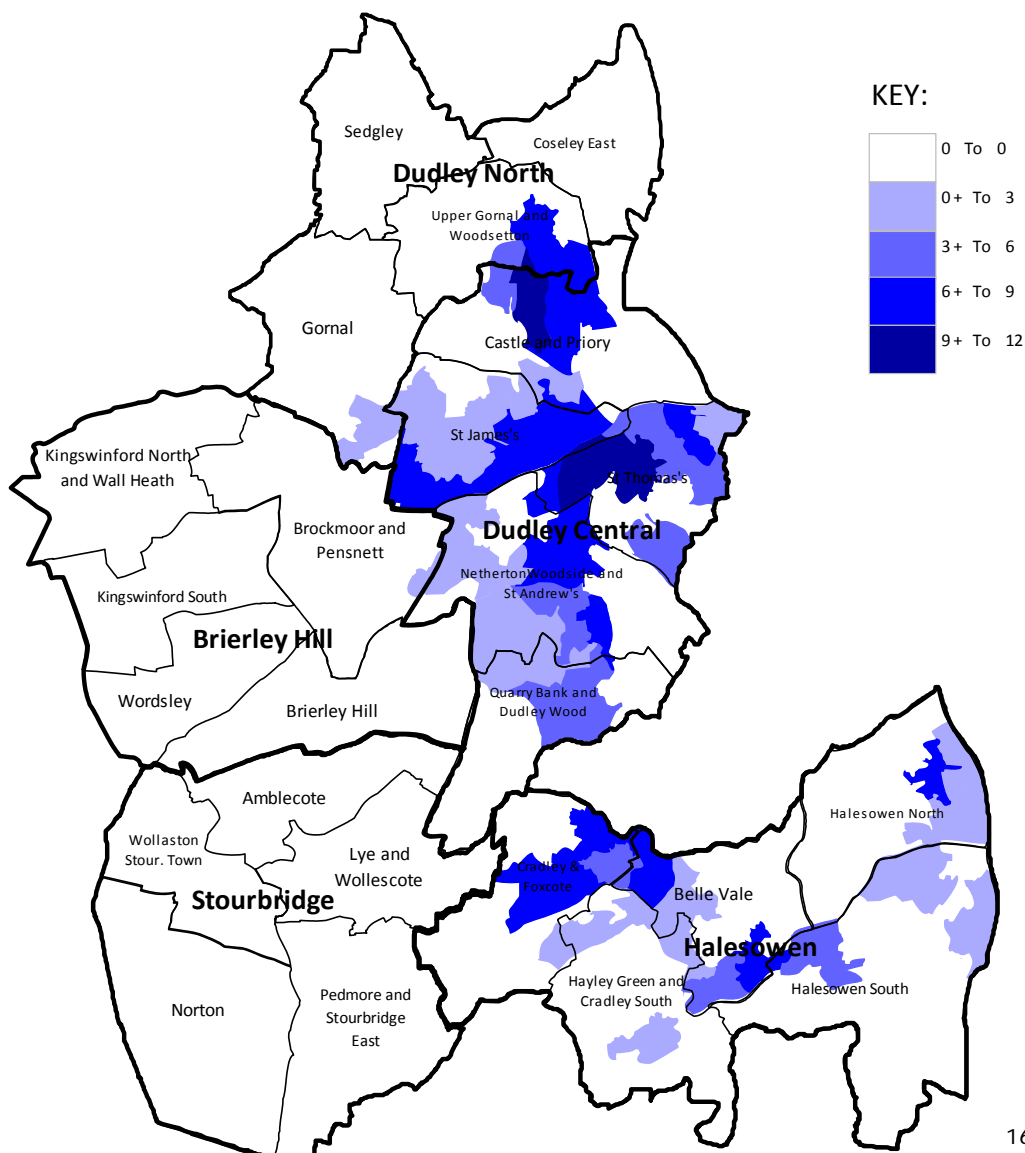


MAP 3

Map 3 (left) 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 as a proportion of all children who started to be looked after during this time.*

The highest concentration of admissions to care is from Dudley Central and particularly St Thomas's Ward and Castle and Priory

Where addresses were confidential, in a small number of instances, these have been excluded from the data.



Summary of Performance Information

The Quality & Performance Management Group is responsible for monitoring a range of performance information on a quarterly basis. The key headlines for 2011-12 are:

- Improved performance by children's social care in respect of timeliness of completion of initial and core assessments despite continued demand;
- Below national average performance in respect of the timeliness of initial and review child protection conferences;
- Decline in performance in respect of proportion of children subject to a child protection plans for two years or more;
- Improves stability of placements of looked after children, despite rising trend of numbers of children in care;

Strategic Needs Analysis

The Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) is the main vehicle for strategically analysing data and information from a range of sources in order to inform planning activity. In respect of safeguarding children, the key areas to highlight are:

- Some evidence of increased activity in respect of the initiation and completion of common assessments in relation to vulnerable children and young people, although this has fluctuated during the year and has been impacted by the reduction in dedicated support to the processes (i.e. the reduction from 5 to 2 Integrated Services Managers);
- Improved rate of conversion from referral to initial assessment in children's social care, which could indicate more appropriate referrals to social care due to impact of common assessment and early intervention and better understanding of thresholds;
- Continued rising trend in the number of children being looked after by the local authority, placing increased strain on front-line services and resources, and review arrangements;
- Evidence of the need to prioritise service responses in accordance with highest areas of need and deprivation, particularly those 'super output areas' with a concentration of children in need, children subject to child protection plans and children becoming looked after;

Effectiveness of Safeguarding Arrangements

The assessment of effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements during 2011-12 has three key strands:

- safeguarding inspection (external view)
- self-assessment (partnership view)
- Section 11 audit (organisational view)

Safeguarding Inspection

The announced inspection of Safeguarding & Looked After Children's Services took place in Dudley between 28 November and 9 December 2011. The 7 inspectors representing Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission met with a large number of practitioners and managers during the two weeks of fieldwork, facilitating interviews and focus groups.

The report was published on 25 January 2012 – a full copy is available to download at <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/local-authorities/dudley>. It contains a total of 22 judgements (10 in respect of safeguarding and 12 in relation to services for looked after children. There are four key judgements - the table below provides a record of the main findings:

Safeguarding Services - Key Judgements	
Overall effectiveness	Adequate
Capacity for Improvement	Good
Safeguarding outcomes for children & young people	
Children and young people are safe and feel safe	Adequate
Quality of provision	Adequate
The contribution of health agencies to keeping children & young people safe	Adequate
Ambition and prioritisation	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Performance management and quality assurance	Adequate
Partnership working	Good
Equality and diversity	Good
Services for looked after children - Key Judgements	
Overall effectiveness	Good
Capacity for Improvement	Good
How good are outcomes for looked after children and care leavers?	
Being healthy	Adequate
Staying safe	Good
Enjoying and achieving	Outstanding
Making a positive contribution, including user engagement	Good
Economic well-being	Good
Quality of provision	Adequate
Ambition and prioritisation	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Performance management and quality assurance	Adequate
Equality and diversity	Good

The report makes a total of 13 recommendations to be actioned within 3 or 6 months (see below) – Dudley Safeguarding Children Board will take a proactive approach in scrutinising and/or delivering improvements in respect of many of these recommendations.

Areas for improvement – safeguarding

Within three months
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the draft health action plan is agreed and fully support improvements in health provision, including case recording, health contribution to holistic assessments of need and risk, case planning and measurement of health outcomes and impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NHS Dudley and NHS providers ensure timely access to emotional and mental health services for women who require additional support prior to and following the birth of their children
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop explicit joint protocols between children's services, health and adult social care to ensure that older young people and those at points of transition receive appropriate, timely and continuous services to meet their assessed needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish joint and agreed quality standards for safeguarding practice across the partnership and implement a joint quality assurance and performance framework underpinned by efficient information systems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend audit processes to routinely monitor the consistency and quality of practice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure MARAC is fully operational and effective leadership is in place in order to meet the level of demand for such arrangements
Within six months
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the electronic recording system in children's social care is fully operational and embedded to support effective case recording, captures the views of service users and collate data and information in a way that is immediately useful to front line and senior managers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop explicit arrangements for the use of the CAF within strategies for early intervention and family support to ensure that all agencies are assuming responsibility for being lead professionals in suitable cases

Areas for improvement – looked after children services

Within three months
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the draft health action plan is agreed and fully support improvements in health provision, including case recording, health contribution to holistic assessments of need and risk, case planning and measurement of health outcomes and impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NHS to review the capacity of the specialist health services to looked after children and young people to ensure health support, including dental health care and annual health assessments, is accessible, timely and user-friendly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NHS Dudley and partners to review the additional support needed for teenage and looked after parents, including those who have experienced loss and establish relevant joint services to support their identified therapeutic needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure there is sufficient IRO capacity to enable the team to fully implement their quality assurance responsibilities including data collation on quality and performance and reporting to relevant boards and committees
Within six months
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen quality assurance and auditing systems across the partnership to ensure there is in-built and robust challenge to practice against jointly agreed service and quality standards

Action Plans in respect of all recommendations are now in place and implementation of key improvements underway. [A summary of these key actions can be found within Appendix 1 of the DSCB Business Plan and Work Programme 2012-13.](#)

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
Governance arrangements	Satisfactory
Partnership working	Good
Engagement with children and young people	Satisfactory
Business planning and relationship with Children's Trust/Partnership	Satisfactory
Quality Assurance	Poor

[A full outline of the self-assessment can be found within the DSCB Business Plan and Work Programme 2012-13 \(Appendix 2\)](#)

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 64%. From a total of 22 agencies, 9 partner agencies maintained a 100% attendance record; there were 5 partner agencies whose attendance was 25% or below.

[A summary of partner agencies attendance is found within Appendix 3.](#)

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.

The requirement for all agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people is also reflected in the statutory guidance *'Working Together to Safeguard Children'*, 2010. This includes detailing the roles and responsibilities of respective agencies, the voluntary and private sectors and faith communities in safeguarding and promoting welfare.

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)

For most of the 11 standards, there are a series of sub-criteria totalling 45 across the whole audit tool. For each of the criteria, there are a set of grade descriptors ranging from 25% (red), 50% (blue), 75% (amber) to 100% (green) compliance.

A breakdown of compliance in terms of aggregated scores can be found in Appendix 1. This highlights the lowest and highest areas of compliance and the average score for compliance against each of the 11 standards. [A breakdown of compliance against the 11 standards by each organisation can be found at Appendix 4. This includes each organisation's overall score for compliance \(based upon an average across the 11 standards\).](#)

During 2011-12, each of the partner organisations will present a summary of their safeguarding self-assessment, highlighting areas of strength and areas for improvement – this forms part of the DSCB scrutiny programme to provide 'support and challenge' in respect of safeguarding effectiveness.



A summary of the collated results is outlined below:

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 (9)
 - Senior management commitment to the importance of safeguarding children (1)
 - Service development takes account of the need to safeguard and promote welfare **(4)**
- The **weakest areas** of compliance (on average) relates to:
 - Service development is informed by the views of children and families (5)
 - Effective inter-agency working and information sharing in order to ensure safeguarding and promoting children's welfare (11)
 - Effective inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (10)
- The range of compliance against most standards is significant, with at least one organisation scoring 100% against 9 of the 11 standards
- Each organisation will need to decide its priorities for action in respect of standards they have scored less well, for example, below 70%, although improvement activity should not necessarily exclusively relate to such areas of poorer compliance. There may be some standards where the ambition of the organisation is to improve to 100%, even from a relatively good position

Criteria

- The **strongest areas** of compliance across all the audits relate to:
 - the organisation has a recruitment policy in effect which ensures professional and character references are always taken up (9.1)
 - there is a named senior manager who champions safeguarding throughout your organisation (1.1)
 - the organisations written policies and procedure for safeguarding & protecting children are mandatory for staff and volunteers (2.10)
 - appropriate staff and volunteers who work or who have contact with children & families receive training on their professional roles and responsibilities and those of their organisation (8.2)
 - where appropriate enhanced or standard CRB checks are completed on all those staff and volunteers who work primarily or directly with children & young people... (9.4)
 - face-to-face interviews are carried out (9.5)
- The **weakest areas** of compliance across all the audits relate to:
 - contractors to the organisation who work with children are who delivering statutory services are Section 11 compliant and have been audited (10.6)
 - as a minimum the organisation evaluates outcomes from the perspective of the child or young person (11.3)
 - the organisation has identified principles of working with children and their families for all staff who work with them (10.1)
- There are 4 criteria which are red (25% compliance) – these were across two partner organisations

Lessons learnt from serious case reviews and child deaths and progress in implementing actions

Serious Case Reviews

The implementation of action plans in respect of previous serious case reviews are monitored by the Serious Case Review Sub-Committee. During 2011-12, DSCB initiated a Serious Case Review in respect of Child C, which is still underway – it is envisaged that this will be concluded by September 2012 and subsequently published on the DSCB website.

Significant Incident Learning Processes

The Board also undertook two Significant Incident Learning Processes (SILPs), a new process involving an independent facilitator and the active engagement of the practitioners and managers in a structured learning approach. The first of these was concluded in November 2011 – it identified the need for improvements in relation to:

- child protection conferences and child protection plans
- family and parenting assessments
- administrative support for child in need meetings and core groups
- child death processes and the aftermath for professionals
- cross-boundary working
- practice for the 'team around the child' (whether informally or formally constituted)

The executive summary from the second SILP will be presented to DSCB in July 2012.

Child Death Reviews

During 2011-12, the Child Death Review Panel completed 15 reviews of child deaths and assessed two of these deaths as having modifiable factors. It also completed a more in-depth 'Root Cause Analysis' review of an asthma related child death. The reviews identified the need for improvements in respect of:

- Asthma management between key agencies such as GP, school health advisor, school and parent
- Impact of missed appointments
- Discharge planning, recording and follow-up
- Impact of change of agency thresholds
- Communication and information-sharing between agencies
- Impact of difficult relationships between professionals and parents

Key improvements identified through quality assurance activity

Quality assurance and audit activity occurs at a single agency level and through multi-agency processes. During 2011-12, the Board has been revising its Quality Assurance Framework, which is due to be launched in June 2012. The framework will include new inter-agency child protection standards and audit tools.

In June 2011, the Board published two key reports, the first entitled 'The Child's Voice' provided an overview of key messages from serious case reviews, learning from DSCB complaints panel, Key feedback from service users and professionals in respect of child protection conferences, and learning from local case reviews; the second report highlighted 12 cases identified by local practitioners as demonstrating good practice, particularly in respect of partnership working. Practitioners were also asked to identify areas for improvement in respect of multi-agency working. These were:

Both reports can be downloaded from the DSCB website – <http://safeguardingchildren.dudley.gov.uk/>

DSCB Complaints

During 2011-12, DSCB held 1 Complaints Panel in respect of appeals concerning the outcomes of child protection conferences, compared to 6 Panels during the previous year. The key issues identified by the Panel was the effect of lack of available resources on social care and partner agencies in conducting important pieces of specialist work such as parenting assessments and work to consider the impact of domestic abuse on children.

The learning from case reviews, complaints and audit will be outlined in greater depth within an overview report due to be published in June 2012

Key Challenges for the future

To some extent the very nature of safeguarding children will always present challenges across the professional landscape, both nationally and locally – what then are the key ones for Dudley?

- capacity of front-line services to respond to demand and complexity of child protection work, notably at a time of recession where the impact of poverty is likely to increase pressures within some families;
- the impact on frontline practice of continued 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;
- the impact of cuts within public sector and to voluntary sector services on the provision of early intervention and some areas of more specialist assessment and intervention;

Key Priorities for 2012-13

The key priorities for 2012-13 are:

- Improve the consistency and quality of inter-agency child protection practice
Lead: Quality & Performance Management Group
- Provide support and challenge to embed common assessment and deliver early support to vulnerable children, young people and their families
Lead: Early Intervention Development Group
- Improve inter-agency responses to children & young people at risk, or who have suffered, sexual exploitation or abuse
Lead: Vulnerable Children & Young People's Task Group

For further information go to the DSCB website and download the Board's Business Plan and Work Programme for 2012-12 or contact graham.tilby@dudley.gov.uk

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

Dudley Safeguarding Children Board Membership

Names in italics are no longer members of DSCB

Name	Role	Agency
John Polychronakis	Chief Executive Member (Chair from November 2011)	Dudley MBC
Pauline Sharratt	Assistant Director – Children & Families (Chair until November 2011)	Directorate of Children's Services, Dudley MBC
Jane Porter	Interim 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 Manager, Fieldwork Services	Children's Social Care, Directorate of Children's Services, Dudley MBC
Graham Tilby	Head of Safeguarding & Review (Business Co-ordinator)	Safeguarding & Review, Quality & Partnership Directorate of Children's Services, Dudley MBC
Jackie Jennings	Safeguarding Development Manager	Safeguarding & Review, Quality & Partnership Directorate of Children's Services, Dudley MBC
Christine Russell	Children's Centres Manager	DCS - Extended Services Strategy
Donna Farnell	Child Care and Quality Manager	Early Years, Directorate of Children's Services
<i>Hilary Walker</i>	<i>Director of Quality (until March 2012)</i>	<i>Dudley Primary Care Trust</i>
Pauline Owens	Designated Lead Nurse for Safeguarding	Dudley Primary Care Trust
David Farnsworth	Black Country Cluster Quality Lead (from January 2012)	Dudley PCT
Stephen Cartwright	Medical Director (Designated GP)	Dudley PCT
Yvonne O'Connor	Deputy Director of Nursing	Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Zala Ibrahim	Consultant Paediatrician (Designated Dr for Safeguarding)	Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
<i>Bronwen Elphick</i>	<i>Head of Dudley Probation (Member until November 2011)</i>	<i>Staffordshire & West Midlands Probation Service</i>
Adrian McNulty	Head of Dudley Probation (Member from November 2011)	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
<i>DCI Phil Dolby</i>	<i>Detective Chief Inspector (until July 2011)</i>	<i>Public Protection Unit, West Midlands Police</i>
DCI Jane Parry	Detective Chief Inspector (from July 2011)	Public Protection Unit, West Midlands Police

Chris Wood	Station Commander	West Midlands Fire Service
Julie Winpenny	Local Authority Liaison Officer	West Midlands Fire Service
Jo Hartill	Head Teacher	Mount Pleasant Primary School (Primary Schools Forum Representative)
<i>Paul Moore</i>	<i>Head Teacher (until July 2011)</i>	<i>Northfield Road Primary School (Primary Schools Forum representative)</i>
<i>Rebecca Garrett</i>	<i>Member (from November 2011)</i>	<i>Peters Hill Primary School (Primary Schools Forum representative)</i>
Judi Kings	Head Teacher	Special Schools Forum
Vacancy*	Head Teacher	Secondary Schools Forum
<i>Dorothy Loudon</i>	<i>Counselling & Welfare Officer</i>	<i>Dudley College (FE Colleges Representative)</i>
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	Commissioning Manager	Connexions Service, Dudley MBC
Helen Hipkiss	Programme Consultant – Children's Services	Strategic Health Authority
<i>Arnie Troxler</i>	<i>Senior Development Officer (until May 2011)</i>	<i>Dudley Council for Voluntary Service</i>
Jayne Sargeant	Manager (from September 2011)	The Phase Trust, Children, Young People's & Families Voluntary Sector Forum
Nicki Burrows	Children, Young People & Families Development Officer (from May 2011)	Dudley Council for Voluntary Service
<i>Julie Davies</i>	<i>Lay Member (ended 2012)</i>	<i>Lay Advisor</i>
Karen Palk**	Lay Member (from March 2012)	Lay Advisor
<i>Marie Haynes</i>	<i>Lay Member (ended 2012)</i>	<i>Lay Advisor</i>
Mike Galikowski	Service Manager	Youth Offending Services, Dudley MBC
Rachael Doyle	Principal Sport & Psychical 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
Vasalee Crawford	Service Manager	CAFCASS
<i>Cllr Liz Walker***</i>	<i>Lead Member for Children's Services (Participant Advisor)</i>	<i>Cabinet Member – Children's Services, Dudley MBC</i>

* There has been a vacancy for a Secondary Head Teacher representative since January 2011

** Karen Palk was a Shadow Lay Advisor during 2011-12 and will be a Lay Advisor during 2012-13

*** Tim Crumpton became Lead Member for Children's Services in May 2012 and is now a participant observer on the Board

APPENDIX 2

DSCB Attendance by Partner Agencies (main Board) *

Agency	May 2011	July 2011	September 2011	November 2011	January 2012	Agency member attended	% over last 5 meetings	No of times agency representative attended	Total % with member/rep
Children's Social Care	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5/5	100		100
Dudley Primary Trust	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	4/5	80	1/5	100
Dudley Group of Hospitals GOH	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	4/5	80	1/5	100
FE Colleges	Y	Y	N	Y	N	3/5	60		60
Education	N	N	N	N	N	0/5	0		0
Primary Schools	N	Y	Y	N	Y	3/5	60		60
Secondary Schools	N	N	N	N	N	0/5	0		0
Special Schools	Y	N	N	N	N	1/5	20		20
Dudley & Walsall Mental Health Trust	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	4/5	80	1/5	100
CAFCASS	Y	N	N	N	N	1/5	20		20
Youth Offending Service	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5/5	100		100
Probation Service	N	N	N	Y	Y	2/5	40		40
Connexions	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	3/5	60	1/5	80
West Midlands Fire Service	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5/5	100		100
West Midlands Police	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	3/5	60	1/5	80
Community Safety Team	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5/5	100		100
Dudley Children's Trust	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5/5	100		100
Directorate of Urban Environment	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	4/5	80		80
Extended Services Strategy	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	3/5	60	1/5	80
Directorate of Adults, Community & Housing	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	3/5	60	2/5	100
Voluntary Sector	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	4/5	80		80
West Midlands Ambulance Service	N	N	N	N	N	0/5	0		0

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

* These figures do not include attendance at the DSCB Development Session in March 2012

Dudley Safeguarding Children Board

'Working Together to Keep Children & Young People Safe'

Key Priorities 2011-12				
What was our Priority?	What have we done?	What have we yet to do?	Who will take the lead?	When will we do it by?
A strengthened leadership role in supporting multi-agency learning concerning child protection practice and joint investigations in respect of child abuse & neglect	Under the auspices of the DSCB QA Framework (2010) we have:	Review QA Framework in the light of new Working Together guidance (expected April 2012) and Ofsted Inspection Report	S&R Policy, Procedures & Practice Sub-Committee	June 2012
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> concluded case reviews in respect of 2 children; concluded a Significant Incident Learning Process (SILP) in respect of 1 child 	Produce QA Overview Report		June 2012
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> initiated a SILP in respect of 1 child produced and disseminated 2 Overview Reports in respect of learning from case review, audit and complaints 	Convene further workshops in respect of 'working with highly resistant families'		March 2012
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> facilitated 3 learning events for front-line staff/managers facilitated 2 workshops in respect of 'working with highly resistant families (C4EO) 	Develop a joint audit programme – police, health, social care and education	Local Forum	March 2012
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> conducted joint audit activity between police, social care and health conducted a review of the use of secure and residential placements 	Extend CP Co-ordinators Forum to include police, social care & health representatives in collaboration with Local Forum – practice focus		March 2012
	Strengthened Local Forum (extended to include health with new terms of reference)	Complete Serious Case Review (Child C) and disseminate learning	SCR Panel	July 2012 (subject to review)

Key Priorities 2011-12

What was our Priority?	What have we done?	What have we yet to do?	Who will take the lead?	When will we do it by?
Improving inter-agency responses to children & young people who are vulnerable to experiencing sexual exploitation, internal trafficking and serious forms of bullying and violence	<p>In respect of child sexual exploitation (CSE) and internal trafficking, we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthened YPSE Panel Presented an annual report from Dudley Street Teams to DSCB (July 2011) Contributed to Bedford University research and completed self-assessment checklist for LSCBs Contributed to the development of a West Midlands (Police area) regional strategy and action plan 	<p>Implement actions arising from regional and local strategy/action plan</p>	<p>Vulnerable C&Yps Task Group</p>	<p>As defined by plan</p>
	<p>In respect of young runaways, we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concluded a 12-month pilot evaluation of need (Children's Society) Agreed development of internal service response for children who run away from home 	<p>Complete training and introduce new service response</p>	<p>Vulnerable C&Yps Task Group</p>	<p>February 2012</p>
	<p>In respect of bullying, we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributed to development of new guidance Conducted learning event in respect of social networking (ABW) 	<p>Agree arrangements for children who run away from care</p>	<p>DSCB</p>	<p>March 2012</p>
	<p>In respect of domestic violence, we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributed to development of new guidance Conducted learning event in respect of social networking (ABW) 	<p>Contribute to evaluation of impact of Anti-Bullying Co-ordinator</p>	<p>Anti-Bullying Steering Group</p>	<p>As defined by project plan</p>
	<p>In respect of domestic violence, we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed DART evaluation & identified additional resource Contributed to Service Improvement Review 	<p>Appoint to new Education Liaison post</p> <p>Support implementation of action plan</p>	<p>Local Forum</p> <p>DA Forum</p>	<p>April 2012</p> <p>As defined by action plan</p>

Key Priorities 2011-12

What was our Priority?	What have we done?	What have we yet to do?	Who will take the lead?	When will we do it by?
Improving inter-agency responses to children who are likely to, or who have, suffered emotional abuse and neglect	<p>During 2011-12, we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioned and delivered Signs of Safety training to Brierley Hill practitioners (initial pilot) and Halesowen practitioners Conducted some evaluation of the impact of Signs of Safety tools on frontline practice Reviewed the Neglect Strategy 	<p>Conclude a further 2-day training course within 2011-12 for Halesowen and Brierley Hill practitioners</p> <p>Conduct a more formal evaluation of the impact of Signs of Safety on outcomes for children and their families</p> <p>Refresh the Neglect Strategy in the light of national and local changes</p>	<p>Neglect Task Group</p>	<p>March 2012</p> <p>June 2012</p> <p>June 2012</p>

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

Other Planned Improvements & Developments during 2011-12

Priority	Key Activity	Progress
Work with Community Safety and Safe & Sound Partnership to progress key areas of interface	Development of a protocol between substance misuse services and safeguarding in respect of adults who misuse alcohol and drugs	Completed
	Contribution to work in respect of safeguarding children and young people who may be affected by gang activity	On-Going
	Contribution to the completion of the Service Improvement Review in respect of domestic abuse	Review completed and interim action plan produced
	Work in respect of preventing violent extremism and radicalisation and the development of the 'Channel Panel' (in collaboration with West Midlands Police Counter Terrorism Unit)	On-Going
Work with Stop it Now! Black Country & Birmingham (Barnardos) in respect of a prevention strategy for child sexual abuse, and establishment of Inform and Inform Plus group-work programmes for internet safety	Implement 'Parents Protect' programme of public education as part of roll-out of 'Disclosure pilot' (Sex Offender Review)	Local project hosted by Barnardos ceased at the end of October 2011 – some work is being progressed by Lucy Faithful Foundation
	Establish Inform and Inform Plus Groups to run twice-yearly across Birmingham and Black Country (in collaboration with the Lucy Faithful Foundation)	
Work with Dudley Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Board in respect of key areas of integration and interface	Develop and deliver joint training	Joint training strengthened
	Develop protocol/standards between children's and adults services where there is a need for joint working	To be developed
	Consider options for a more integrated approach to adult and children's safeguarding arrangements	On-Going

APPENDIX 4
Section 11 Audits by Partner Agencies

Standards	Highest Score	Lowest Score	Average Score
(1) Senior management commitment to the importance of safeguarding children	100%	62%	86.8%
(2) A clear statement of the agency's responsibilities towards children available to staff	100%	70%	84.3%
(3) A clear line of accountability within the organisation for work on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children	100%	58%	83%
(4) Service development takes account of the need to safeguard and promote welfare	100%	75%	86%
(5) Service development is informed by the views of children and families	100%	50%	69%
(6) Individual case decisions are informed by the views of children and families	100%	75%	75%
(7) Effective inter-agency working enabling information sharing to service users	100%	62%	77.5%
(8) Staff training on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children for all staff working with or in contact with children and families	100%	56%	83.5%
(9) Safe recruitment	100%	64%	88.1%
(10) Effective inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children	91%	58%	74.1%
(11) Effective inter-agency working and information sharing in order to ensure safeguarding and promoting children's welfare	87%	62%	73.3%

STANDARDS

Partner Organisation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Average
Directorate of Children's Services	93%	79%	83%	75%	75%	75%	75%	75%	82%	75%	75%	78.4%
Directorate of Urban Environment	87%	75%	58%	75%	50%	-	100%	75%	92%	62%	62%	73.6%
Youth Offending Services	81%	70%	91%	75%	-	75%	-	87%	82%	-	-	70.1%
Dudley PCT	87%	97%	91%	100%	75%	75%	62%	93%	96%	91%	75%	85.6%
Dudley Group of Hospitals	93%	93%	83%	100%	75%	100%	87%	100%	64%	83%	75%	86.6%
Dudley & Walsall Mental Health Trust	87%	85%	75%	75%	50%	75%	75%	87%	82%	58%	81%	75.5%
West Midlands Fire Service	81%	83%	83%	100%	100%	100%	75%	56%	92%	62%	68%	81.8%
Directorate of Adults, Community & Housing	62%	81%	83%	75%	75%	75%	75%	56%	92%	62%	68%	73.1%
Cafcass	100%	100%	100%	100%	75%	75%	87%	87%	100%	91%	87%	91.1%
West Midlands Probation Service	100%	89%	100%	100%	75%	75%	87%	100%	92%	70%	87%	88.6%

APPENDIX 5 Key Contacts for DSCB

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

Early Years	kim.sharratt@dudley.gov.uk
Primary Care	pauline.owens@dudley.nhs.uk or ellen.footman@dudley.nhs.uk
Education (Schools & Colleges)	funbir.jaspal@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@dgoh.nhs.uk or Sally.Abbatiello-Burns@dgoh.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
Domestic Abuse Named Nurse	Christine.ariythuri@dudley.nhs.uk
Child Death Rapid Response Nurse	diane.hall@dudley.nhs.uk

