

West Sussex Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2017–18

Update to the Children and Young People's Services
Select Committee
10 January 2019

Lesley Walker, WSSCB Independent Chair

The WSSCB – Introduction

- ▶ The WSSCB is a statutory body comprised of a multi–agency partnership, with an Independent Chair.
- ▶ It has a strategic role and must ensure that partner agencies co–operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- ▶ The WSSCB must ensure:
 - there are common practices and policies in place across the agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of West Sussex children;
 - agencies are effective in their safeguarding responsibilities.

WSSCB – Statutory requirements

- ▶ Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 sets out the objectives of LSCBs, which are:

to coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and

to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.

Oversight and Challenge

The WSSCB's core statutory functions include:

- ▶ Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of multi-agency work;
- ▶ Developing cross cutting policies and procedures;
- ▶ Communications, awareness raising and training;
- ▶ Participating in planning of multi-agency services for children;
- ▶ Reviewing the deaths of all children in WS;
- ▶ Undertaking Serious Case Reviews.

WSSCB 2017–18 priorities

- ▶ Delivered via a two year Business Plan 2017–19 , complemented by a Board Improvement Plan

3 key areas:

1. Identification, prevention and protection of children at risk of/or experiencing Neglect.
2. Identification, Prevention and protection of children from exploitation and abuse.
3. Children and Young People's emotional well-being and mental health.

An additional focus through these areas on: early help provision, children in need, child protection and children who are looked after.

Key challenges and future priorities

- ▶ The pressures on WS Services and the capacity to meet rising demand (highlighted in last year's WSSCB annual report) remain a significant concern.
- ▶ A peer review (December 2017) highlighted issues which the WSSCB are now addressing via a robust improvement plan.
- ▶ Children and Young People at risk through e.g. Criminal and Sexual Exploitation, radicalisation and harmful practices.
- ▶ Our response to neglect: child protection statistics indicate this remains the key category for children on Child Protection Plans.
- ▶ Transition to Local Child Safeguarding Partnership arrangements under Working Together to Safeguard Children by September 2019.

Messages for Local Politicians

- ▶ The importance of promoting the work of the current Board and the new Child Safeguarding Partnership arrangements (to be implemented by September 2019).
- ▶ The need to ensure linkages with the work of other Boards, Partnerships and Initiatives across the Council and beyond, including the Health and Wellbeing Board, Adults Safeguarding Board, Districts and Boroughs and our Community Safety Partnerships.
- ▶ The need to improve our links with the community in relation to safeguarding children locally.

Questions?