



Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board

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'Working together to Safeguard Children and Young People'

Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board, established by The Children Act 2004, comprises senior managers from partner agencies, which have a statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. The Board has responsibility for co-ordinating the work of these agencies, but also ensuring that they work effectively together to safeguard children and young people. Hilary Thompson is the Independent Chair of WSCB.

Joint Commission Board: The Board agreed the proposals for the working arrangements between WSCB and the JCB. These should ensure robust scrutiny of the JCB's commissioning arrangements by WSCB.

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Anti-Bullying Strategy: Chris Golbourn, Service Development Manager for Vulnerable Children, Children's Services, reported on progress. There is now a multi agency Strategic Group leading this work and an Anti-Bullying Co-ordinator in post. The County Council's Scrutiny Committee has been auditing practice across the County and will report on their findings at the end of 2008.

Management of Allegations against people who work with children and young people: The Board received the Annual Report on the how these processes, outlined in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2006, are operating. As anticipated, due to increased awareness across agencies of their responsibilities, there has been an increase in the number of allegations, which has placed significant demands on key agencies.

Guidance for Individual Management Reviews: The Board approved this guidance for the authors of IMRs when Serious Case Reviews are undertaken. This reflects the guidance contained in Working Together 2006 and advice from Ofsted and the Government Office West Midlands.

WSCB Performance Management Information: The Board has a duty to co-ordinate the work of agencies in safeguarding children and young people, but also to ensure the effectiveness of this interagency working. A key task for WSCB has been to establish a dataset, which can identify trends and issues needing further attention. An initial dataset was agreed which will come into operation from January 2009.

Agencies' Safeguarding Policies and Procedures: A report was presented of the audit of procedures in partner agencies. The findings were that most agencies have updated these since the publication of Working Together 2006 and staff awareness is promoted through the induction processes.

Child Death Review Processes: These statutory processes came into operation in April 2008 and the Board was updated on their implementation. The Child Death Overview Panel is established and reviewing all deaths of children and young people in the County; an Administrator is in post and a Co-ordinator has been appointed. The West Mercia Protocol for the Management of Unexpected Deaths is operational and will be reviewed in October 2008.

Information on WSCB and its activities can be accessed on www.worcestershiresafeguarding.org.uk or obtained from Jane Shotton, Administrator, 01905 752803, email: JShotton@worcestershire.gov.uk