

Work conducted by Wandsworth LSCB in 2006/07, and key areas for development in 2007/08

Overview

Wandsworth has a strong record of performing well in relation to child protection and safeguarding. Our structures, both operationally and strategically have provided an effective safety net in relation to identifying and working with those children considered to be at the highest risk of significant harm within the Borough. The WSCB therefore started from a strong base position in April 2006.

There is high quality multi-agency working to protect and safeguard individual children, including close working between Children's Services and Police and Health colleagues. This inter-agency working is being further developed with the Common Assessment Framework and Lead Professional Initiatives. Activity in the first year has, of necessity, been exceptionally high and demanding, but essential early tasks are generally now complete or on target,

The following lists outline the work conducted by the Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Board in 2006/2007.

Procedures and Protocols Issued or Endorsed

- Mental Health/Children's Services Protocols on Working Together
- Safe Recruitment Guidance and related training
- Police/Council Protocol for Working Together in relation to Child Protection Enquiries
- Allegation Management Procedures
- Domestic Violence – Advice for Education Establishments
- Procedures for Children Missing Education*
- London Child Protection Procedures (issued locally on behalf of the Pan-London Safeguarding Children Board)
- Private Fostering – Statement of Local Authority Duties and Functions
- Pre-Birth Assessments and Pre-Birth Child Protection Conferences – Practice Guidance

Strategies and Plans Produced

- Anti-Bullying Strategy*
- WSCB Communications Strategy
- Children's Workforce Strategy
- 'Hidden Harm' Action Plan

Significant Issues considered

- e-Safety and IT Security – Child Grooming, Use of Chatrooms, Use of Council Public Access Internet Terminals for Illegal Activities

- Abuse of Personal Mobile Phone Cameras in settings with Children & Young People
- Offensive Weapons Policy in Schools
- “Hidden Harm” – Children and Young People with substance misusing parents/carers
- London Child Death Review Panel Arrangements
- Neighbourhood Watch - CRB checks for volunteers
- Serious Case Reviews and Action Programme
- Training for Front-Line Staff in Section 11 Duties
- Performance indicators relating to safeguarding
- Establishment of Rapid Response Teams & Child Death Review Arrangements
- Arrangements for Serious Case Reviews
- Publicity and Communications Issues
- CYPP priorities for Safeguarding
- MAPPA arrangements and collaboration with London MAPPA
- Safeguarding Needs of Disabled Children and those with other Special Priorities/Needs
- Family Centres Policies and Procedures
- Vetting and Barring Scheme for Recruitment

* Currently at final draft stage for final approval

Key Areas for development 2007/08

Wandsworth SCB recognises that there is a wide range of issues within the overall safeguarding agenda which need further development, and the following have been identified as areas which have been prioritised for 2007/08.

- (i) Further development in relation to the engagement and participation of Voluntary and Community Sector and Faith communities.
- (ii) Putting in place effective arrangements to consult with children, young people and their families in relation to safeguarding to ensure that we ascertain the wishes and feelings of children (including children who might not ordinarily be heard) about the priorities and effectiveness of local safeguarding work.
- (iii) To further develop our practice in relation to safeguarding disabled children.
- (iv) To establish local arrangements in relation to a “Rapid Response team for unexpected child deaths” and “Child Death review team” (from April 2008).
- (v) To discontinue the use of the Child Protection Register, replacing it with systems identifying those children in need of formal child protection plans.