

# Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together

Our Arrangements for Safeguarding Children  
and Young People in Wolverhampton



CITY OF  
WOLVERHAMPTON  
COUNCIL

Page 151

**NHS**  
Wolverhampton  
Clinical Commissioning Group



## Foreword

Wolverhampton is proud of the work undertaken by the Local Safeguarding Children Board and the progress it has made in some key areas of safeguarding including; work on the Orange campaign for domestic abuse; promoting good practice and awareness raising as part of the annual Safeguarding week, in turn raising the profile of the many aspects of abuse; the Children's Safeguarding Board - B-Safe; multi-agency learning and development opportunities and development of a number of documents to support practitioners in effective safeguarding.

The existing strong partnership engagement with the board and the integrated arrangements with the Safeguarding Adult's Board provides a strong platform from which the new arrangements have been developed.

It is a key aim of the new arrangements to capture the best bits of the current board and build on these to strengthen the impact the partnership has on safeguarding some of the most vulnerable in the city.

We look forward to engaging with partners, children, young people and families across the city in Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together.



**Sally Roberts**  
Chief Nurse & Director of Quality Services



**Andy Beard**  
Chief Superintendent



**Emma Bennett**  
Director of Children's Services

## 1. Introduction



1. This document sets out how the strategic safeguarding partners in Wolverhampton intend to work together with our wider safeguarding partners (the relevant agencies) to keep children, young people and families in Wolverhampton safe.
2. Wolverhampton's statutory key partners (the Local Authority, Clinical Commissioning Group and West Midlands Police) met in October 2018 to consider 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018' guidance and agreed that an independent review should be commissioned to support Wolverhampton in implementing the new arrangements, whilst maintaining distinct links between the Children's Partnership and the Adult Safeguarding Board.
3. The independent review process included face-to-face and online consultation with current Board members, stakeholders and partner organisations.
4. The safeguarding partners together with relevant agencies (appendix 1), concluded that the new arrangements should be more dynamic, flexible and responsive to learning from feedback from children, young people and families, and utilise data obtained from a variety of scrutiny and audit methods, as well as learning from all safeguarding reviews. Our structures moving forward will be simplified, will reduce bureaucracy, whilst ensuring partners hold each other to account.

5. Wolverhampton takes pride in the effectiveness of our current integrated child and adult safeguarding structure that we will maintain and develop as 'Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together' (WST). There will be 'mirrored' arrangements across the adult and child partnerships as illustrated in our safeguarding arrangements diagram in section 3 below.
6. Under our new arrangements, Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Together will continue to safeguard children and young people through our relationship and strength-based restorative practice approach. We will promote and build a sense of community, developing shared responsibility and accountability, so that children, young people and families develop resilience that supports them in staying safe.
7. We will agree our shared priorities, set in consultation with our wider partners, and with an overarching emphasis upon scrutiny and assurance. We will measure our success by responding to the question; "what difference have we made?" with reliable data and first hand accounts drawn from audit responses and the experiences of children, young people, families and our frontline professionals.
8. We have confidence that Wolverhampton's children and young people and families are best placed to support us in setting our shared priorities and we will have conversations and learn from what they tell us about the impact we are having upon their welfare and that of our communities and how we can improve.
9. We will develop and expand our existing relationships with early years, schools, colleges and educational establishments so that education becomes the 'fourth' safeguarding partner.
10. Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Together will maintain already close and established relationships with other local partnerships.

#### Thresholds of Need and Support in Wolverhampton

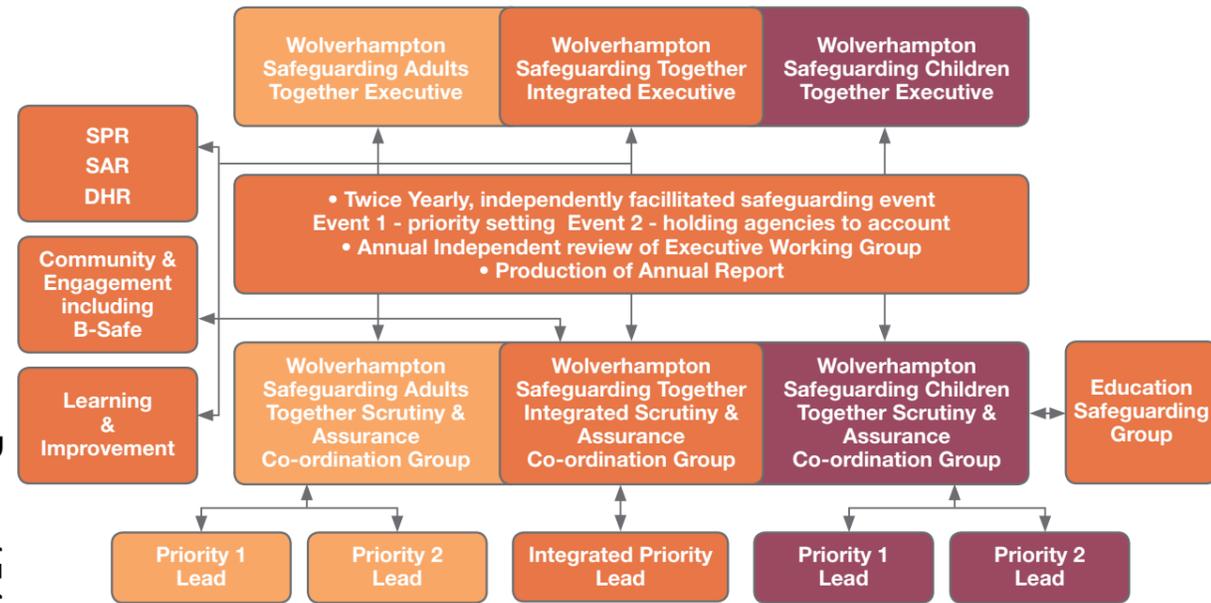
1. We updated our threshold document in 2017, and its purpose is to assist everyone involved in making decisions about the most appropriate support to provide to children, young people and their families in relation to different levels of need. It also clarifies how various levels of support can be accessed as a new threshold of need is reached.
2. This guidance contains the framework in which all agencies and organisations provide support and early help to vulnerable children, young people and their families. It recognises that many agencies and organisations as well as parents / carers and other family members provide support to children and young people.
3. Wolverhampton has formulated a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) that includes early intervention services and social care services. This is supported by partner representation of agencies including Probation, Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust, Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group, West Midlands Police and Recovery Near You.

## 2. The safeguarding partners and our relevant agencies

1. **A safeguarding partner in relation to our local authority area is defined under the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act, 2017) as:**
  - (a) City of Wolverhampton Council
  - (b) Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group
  - (c) West Midlands Police
2. **In Wolverhampton the lead representatives for the Safeguarding Partner organisations are:**
  - (i) The City of Wolverhampton - Managing Director
  - (ii) Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group - Accountable Officer
  - (iii) West Midlands Police- Chief Constable
3. **All three partners have equal and equitable responsibility for safeguarding arrangements. Locally, the lead representatives have delegated their functions to the:**
  - Director of Children's Services - City of Wolverhampton Council
  - Chief Nurse & Director of Quality - Wolverhampton CCG
  - Chief Superintendent-Wolverhampton Neighbourhood Policing Unit
4. **The local safeguarding partners have acknowledged the strength and maturity of the current safeguarding partnership arrangements and will maintain the same relevant agencies list as currently exists for the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board (see appendix 1), whilst acknowledging that the list is flexible and will be revised and republished as necessary.**
5. **Residential homes are recognised as relevant agencies and will be involved in our bi-annual safeguarding events and all other safeguarding activities including workforce development. (There are currently no youth custody facilities within the local authority area.)**
6. **Organisations not individually named in the relevant agencies list of the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Together arrangements should nonetheless collaborate with the safeguarding partners to safeguard children in Wolverhampton.**
7. **These safeguarding arrangements will apply across the geographical area of the City of Wolverhampton.**
8. **The safeguarding partners; Wolverhampton CCG and West Midlands Police Wolverhampton Neighbourhood Policing Unit boundaries correspond with those of the local authority.**

### 3. Wolverhampton Safeguarding arrangements

#### Proposed structure



Page 154

#### The Executive Group

1. The safeguarding partner representatives listed in section 2 paragraph 3 above will Chair the Executive Group in rotation. In addition Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Together will identify and include representation upon the Executive Group from the Education Safeguarding Group to make education a 'fourth' safeguarding partner.
2. The Education Safeguarding Group will represent all educational providers - Early Years Settings, schools, colleges and universities.
3. The Scrutiny & Assurance Co-ordination Group Chairs, and the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Together Business Manager will attend the Executive Group.
4. The Executive Group will ensure regular review and scrutiny of arrangements and activity of the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children

Together. The commissioning of an independent scrutineer to further the work of Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Together will provide assurance:

- That we are responding to the needs of children in the area through our shared priorities.
  - Concerning the effectiveness of the Executive Group safeguarding arrangements and how the safeguarding partners hold each other to account and escalate concerns. (Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Together will operate according to a Memorandum of Understanding between the Safeguarding Partners that will include an escalation policy).
5. The Independent scrutineer and facilitator will include accounts of these two areas within the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Together partnership annual report (see section 9)

#### Setting the priorities for Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Together

1. Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Together will work with partners on clear priorities, which are agreed by the Executive Group.
2. Drawing upon the audits and performance data from the Scrutiny & Assurance Co-ordination Group and our 'expert by experience' consultations with children and young people and families through our community engagement group, priority setting will be a flexible and dynamic based on a core set of priorities developed in response to the needs of children and young people in the city.
3. The Executive Group will work with an independent facilitator and scrutineer will bring together all Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Together partners at bi-annual safeguarding events.
4. At the first event, our priorities will be agreed and shared with partners and together we will identify how they can contribute and respond. At the second event, the independent facilitator and scrutineer and Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Together will collate

progress against the priorities from all our partners. We will share an agreed action plan with partners that ensures that we are able to identify impact upon outcomes and demonstrate how safeguarding of children in Wolverhampton has been improved by our priorities.

5. For each shared priority a priority lead will be established drawn from our partner agencies. Each priority will follow a cycle:

- The group will work flexibly to initially scope a priority, identify appropriate data review, audit and consultation processes and how they can be achieved
- Audits, data review and consultations, feedback, or an 'expert by experience phase' are carried out
- Succinct summary report and action plans from the priority working group are shared with the Scrutiny and Assurance Co-ordination Group and Executive Group and are then reported at the Bi-annual safeguarding event, where action plans are agreed with all partners



## 4. Scrutiny and Assurance: assessing the effectiveness of help (including early help) being provided to Children and families

### Independent scrutiny

1. The independent scrutiny function will provide the constructive and critical challenge to the effectiveness of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Together partnership has chosen to use a range of independent scrutiny methods rather than retain a single independent scrutineer.
2. Our progress against our shared priorities will be subject to constant challenge and review by an independent scrutineer. The scrutineer will work with the Executive Group and Scrutiny & Assurance Co-ordination Group to ensure sufficient data and feedback is available to allow the partnership to demonstrate whether priorities have been achieved.
3. The scrutineer will facilitate our bi-annual safeguarding event that will ensure that our priorities are responding to the needs of children in the city and have a direct influence upon positive outcomes.
4. It is essential that our all our partners have a sense of ownership and responsibility for achieving our priorities, hence the shared agreement against our priority setting.
5. There will in addition be independent scrutiny of the effectiveness of the Executive Group and of the safeguarding arrangements of the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Together partnership through an appraisal carried out by an independent scrutineer.
6. It will be the responsibility of the Executive Group to take forward any recommendations made (either through the independent scrutineer or through peer/LGA reviews) concerning the arrangements and these will be accounted for in the annual report.
7. Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Together will employ a 'toolkit' of scrutiny methods designed to identify the strengths and areas to be developed in the new arrangements.
8. These will include:
  - Multi-agency case file audits
  - Young people peer reviews
  - Peer reviews in arrangements with other Local Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangement (MASA) Partnerships.
  - Peer review commissioned through the Local Government Association
  - Commissioned independent audits/ inspection
  - Scrutiny of single agency quality assurance systems
  - Inter agency peer review
  - Learning walks
  - Children's advocates
9. Annually the Executive Group, working with the Scrutiny & Assurance Co-ordination Group, will set our scrutiny plan that will inform our decisions concerning areas requiring independent scrutiny. We intend to re-visit priorities to ensure they remain embedded in best practice.

### The Scrutiny and Assurance Co-ordination Group

1. The Scrutiny and Assurance Co-ordination Group will draw upon the experience and expertise and active involvement of our current board members and partners to assist the Executive Group identify priorities and the most suitable methods of scrutiny.
2. Our independent review of safeguarding arrangements revealed a strong desire amongst partners for less report writing and more focused and targeted activity to improve outcomes for children, involving a wider range of agencies and individuals from within the partnership. We believe that the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Together arrangements will offer this opportunity.
3. The Scrutiny and Assurance Co-ordination group will be pivotal in answering the question 'What difference have we made?' in relation to any area of activity identified by the Executive Group.
4. Our safeguarding partners can already provide valuable detailed performance and quality data drawn from their statutory and governance responsibilities, that can inform our priorities and can be subject to independent or peer review.
5. We intend to increase the use of the already established and successful frontline practitioner forums across all safeguarding partner agencies, so that practitioners feel empowered to contribute feedback on outcomes against our priorities, or share concerns, knowing they will be listened to.
6. We believe that a learning culture embedded throughout every organisation with a safeguarding responsibility is vital to ensuring we continue to safeguard children, young people and families effectively.
7. The Scrutiny and Assurance Co-ordination group will work with the Learning and Improvement Group to ensure that key themes and learning from Local and National Child Safeguarding Practice reviews and Learning lessons reviews, rapidly inform our multi-agency training and influence the priorities we set and our subsequent action plans.
8. Our Community Engagement group will provide young people's peer reviews and audits to the Scrutiny and Assurance Co-ordination Group and feedback from the already established young people's B-Safe and Youth Council.
9. Consultation with children, young people and their families who have received help (or early help) as part of an 'Expert by Experience' approach will ensure the voice of the child is central to our work.
10. Our emphasis upon flexibility will allow thematic audits to be agreed by the Executive Group and Scrutiny and Assurance Co-ordination Group as a response to concerns raised by partners. These audits will occur as a rapid response to a concern and may sit outside the priority setting cycle.

## 5. Learning and development: our multi-agency training

1. Wolverhampton has a well-established integrated learning and improvement framework 2016-2018 and this will be revisited in 2019 to ensure the structure is suitable for the Integrated Safeguarding Wolverhampton Together arrangements.
2. We are committed to a culture of continuous learning to identify improvements needed and to consolidate good practice. Professionals will continue to have access to a wide range of learning and this will be disseminated through a range of methods:
  - Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together multi-agency training
  - The Bi-annual Safeguarding Events
  - Conferences
  - Development days
  - Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Together newsletters
  - Information on the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Together website
  - Awareness campaigns
  - Partnership forums.
3. The Learning and improvement Group will ensure training is effective and complies with best practice in Working Together 2018 guidance.
4. The group will draw a multi-agency training programme which brings together a range of professionals and organisations to model partnership working in practice.
5. We are committed to evaluating the effectiveness of training through quality assurance and feedback and evaluation. We will develop impact measures through audits, and action plans completed with participants allowing them to identify changes they could make to their professional practice based on Learning from the training. We will then revisit those plans, with their consent at agreed intervals to assess how practice has been influenced in reality.
6. The Scrutiny and Assurance co-ordination group will also have a role in monitoring and evaluating the impact of multi-agency training through thematic audits.



## 6. Voice of the Child and Community Engagement

### Voice of the Child

1. Wolverhampton is proud of the outstanding level of engagement the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board has already developed with children and young people in the city. The B-Safe Team is Wolverhampton's Junior Safeguarding Children Board, made up of local young people who get involved with safeguarding activities and decisions across the city.
2. The board enables the voice of Wolverhampton's young people to be heard and reflected in safeguarding business and activities, empowering young people to contribute to the processes and methods to keep them safe, and to increase awareness of safeguarding amongst parents and professionals.
3. The B-Safe Team has been finding out about issues that matter to young people in this city around staying safe, such as extremism and terrorism, bullying, drugs and alcohol, violence in relationships and mental health.
4. Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Together aim to develop a range of young people's forums to ensure the voice of young people is always heard and that they can have a part in shaping the priorities of the partnership.
5. We believe that by establishing 'Expert by Experience' audits of the views of children, young people and their families who have been offered or received help or (Early Help) in Wolverhampton, we will have a clearer perspective on what is effective and what needs to change, to improve outcomes and strengthen families.

### Education- our 'fourth' Safeguarding Partner

6. Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Together recognises that in 2019 early years settings, schools, colleges and educational establishments

have an ever expanding role in identifying children with needs and children at risk and are a crucial part of Early Help in the city. This is one reason that we see education as a crucial 'fourth' safeguarding partner.

7. The Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board already has well-established links into the Board through the Education Reference Group and Connect-ED but we will explore in 2019 the most effective way of enhancing the safeguarding role of schools, early years settings and colleges through our local networks and safeguarding mechanisms within the local authority.
8. Early Years settings are not presently fully represented on the current Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board and it will be a goal in the first year of the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Together arrangements that we identify how Early Years can be established as full safeguarding partners and the views of the sector represented at Executive Group and the bi-annual safeguarding events, as well as where appropriate, on Priority working groups.

### Community Engagement

1. Our present Community Engagement Group has established close links to faith and religious groups in our diverse city. We work constructively with third sector organisations, charities and other providers working with children and young people.
2. The Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together integrated children and adult safeguarding partnership will continue to deepen and develop the engagement with all our communities to 'make safeguarding everyone's business.'

## 7. Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

1. The Wolverhampton partnership took part in a Birmingham-led process around the implementation of Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPPRs) and has subsequently adopted 'West Midlands Regional Framework and Practice guidance' for Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews providing guidance for decisions on whether to undertake Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.
2. Our current integrated standing Serious Case Review (SCR) and Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) Group will continue in place and will follow the new practice guidance. It will be closely linked with the Learning and Improvement and the Scrutiny and Assurance co-ordination groups.
3. Upon receipt of a notification of a serious incident, the Group will assure that they make the appropriate notifications to safeguarding partners, the Department of Education, Secretary of State, OFSTED (dependent upon the nature of the incident). The Business manager and support team of the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Together will facilitate the sharing of notifications.
4. The Group will undertake a rapid review process as described in the guidance. All decisions related to the commissioning and publication of LCSPPRs will be notified to the national SCPR Panel, the Department of Education and OFSTED.
5. The decision whether or not to conduct a LCSPPR will be taken by the Chair of the Executive Group in consultation with the other statutory partners. All LCSPPR undertaken by Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Together will be published on the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Together Partnership website.
6. The Learning and Improvement group will ensure that key learning, themes and action plans arising from any review undertaken are shared promptly with the Scrutiny and Assurance group so that themed audits may be considered, but also so that they may influence our shared priorities.

## 8. Financial arrangements

1. The Safeguarding Partners have already agreed a funding formula for 2019-20, that extends the financial arrangements in place for the previous Safeguarding Children Board.

## 9. Reporting on our Shared Priorities: our Annual Partnership Report

1. The Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Together will continue to publish an annual report that will include a substantial contribution from the independent scrutineer who will report upon the bi-annual safeguarding events and reflect on progress across the partnership's stated shared priorities.
2. Independent scrutiny and assurance of the effectiveness of the safeguarding arrangements will also be a feature of the annual report.
3. The report will describe the work of the Scrutiny and Assurance Co-ordination Group over the year and provide data from all our scrutiny methods to provide evidence of the difference Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Together has made to outcomes for children, young people, families and vulnerable adults receiving help (including Early Help) in Wolverhampton and how it has contributed to safeguarding these groups.
4. The report will celebrate the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Together partnership's engagement with all elements of our communities through our community engagement group, and lay out how our 'expert by experience' feedback from children, young people and families has influenced service provision in the city.
5. We will ensure that the report is widely shared with the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies and will be available for public access on the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Together website.



## Appendix 1

### Relevant Agencies

Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together will comprise of the named statutory safeguarding partners and those agencies and organisations listed below, each of whom has been chosen because they have varying degrees of contact with children and/or adults at risk and those who care for them:

- Adoption at Heart
- The Armed Forces
- The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust
- Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust
- British Transport Police
- Care Quality Commission (CQC)
- Childcare providers including nurseries and childminders
- Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service
- City of Wolverhampton Council
- Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group
- Education Providers including college and university settings
- General Practitioners and other relevant Primary Care Professionals
- Healthwatch Wolverhampton
- Housing Providers
- Independent Fostering Agencies
- National Health Service England/Improvement
- Probation – The National Probation Service and the Community Rehabilitation Company
- Care Homes & Care Providers (children & adults)
- Safer Wolverhampton Partnership
- UK Visa, Immigration, Enforcement and Border Force
- Urgent Care Provider
- Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector including charities, religious organisations and providers of sport and leisure activities
- West Midlands Ambulance Service Foundation Trust
- West Midlands Coroner's Office
- West Midlands Fire & Rescue Authority
- West Midlands Police
- Youth Offending Service
- Where appropriate, other services commissioned by any of the above

Representatives should be able to promote the effectiveness of the Partnership through their responsibility and accountability for the services their agencies deliver to children & adults at risk, and through their ability to influence the effectiveness of their agencies contribution to multi-agency safeguarding.

## Glossary of Terms

**CCG** - Clinical Commissioning Group

**DHR** - Domestic Homicide Review

**EWG** - Executive Working Group

**MASA** - Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangement

**MASH** - Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub

**LCSPRs** - Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

**LSCB** - Local Safeguarding Childrens Board

**LGA** - Local Government Association

**SAR** - Safeguarding Adult Review

**SCPR** - Safeguarding Children Practice Review

**SCR** - Serious Case Review

**WSCB** - Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children's Board

**WST** - Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together

**WSCT** - Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Together

*For further information*

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CITY OF  
WOLVERHAMPTON  
COUNCIL

Page 159



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