



ANNUAL REPORT 2012 - 2013

“Keeping Children Safe and Healthy”

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE WARWICKSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (WSCB)

- The Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board ensures that sound arrangements to protect children are in place in Warwickshire.
- The Board safeguards children by contributing to the prevention of harm and the promotion of the welfare of children in Warwickshire.
- The Board achieves these objectives by promoting inter-agency cooperation, collaboration and challenge.

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1. FOREWORD BY CHRIS HALLETT Independent Chair of Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB)

A major focus of activity for WSCB over the last year has been consideration of how the Board and its partners will implement the findings and recommendations of the Munro Review of Child Protection and government response published last year. For this reason, the new Strategic Priorities of WSCB for the period 2012-2015 feature prominently in this year's annual report. Identification of these priorities, a task which has involved the full membership of the Board, has enabled us to develop a comprehensive Munro implementation plan. WSCB is well positioned to play its part in taking this work forward having received strong endorsement of its work in Warwickshire in an Ofsted inspection of safeguarding and looked after children services conducted in the County at the end of 2011. Among the points highlighted by the inspectors were:

- WSCB demonstrates its vision and ambition and the implications for service provision very well to the workforce;
- The WSCB Annual Report demonstrates how statutory requirements are being met;
- The Board plays a major part in contributing to sound arrangements for partnership working in the County;
- The *Memorandum of Understanding* between WSCB and Warwickshire Children's Trust precisely defines accountability and communication between the two bodies;
- Priorities for the WSCB are clearly stated within the Board's Action Plan;
- High levels of training are provided by the Board linked to service improvements identified in strategic plans;
- The Board demonstrates strong support for collaborative work with children and young people;
- WSCB contributes to the monitoring of safeguarding performance;
- The Board's subcommittee structure – recently reviewed and updated – enables a diverse mix of professional expertise to be employed to address the Board's safeguarding agenda and achieve its strategic priorities.

What was also pleasing about the inspectors' assessment was their recognition of the important contribution the Board has made to professional practice as well as its strategic influence. The WSCB Case Escalation Process and Warwickshire Risk Assessment Model were cited as effective mechanisms for action. Further details of the Ofsted inspection are included in this report under what is now a standing item, namely inclusion of assessments of the effectiveness of local arrangements to safeguard children (see section 9). In future WSCB annual reports, these assessments will extend to a consideration of the effectiveness of early help provision and plans in Warwickshire in line with the Munro Review and the likely requirements of a new version of *Working Together to Safeguard Children*

due to be published in autumn 2012 (which will herald a new edition of the “Blue Book”). A full report will be received by WSCB before the end of 2012 on this provision to ensure it is compliant with the requirements of the Munro Review and pointing the way forward.

It should be noted that the Ofsted inspection commented on the quality of current early intervention and early help services and these observations are highlighted in section 9. Since this inspection, an Early Intervention Business Unit has been established in Warwickshire County Council and its manager sits on the WSCB. *Family Intervention Projects (FIPs)*, originally established in some parts of Warwickshire to support families with multiple needs, have now been rolled out across the whole County, underlining the commitment to and investment in early help commented upon by the Ofsted inspectors. There are plans to develop a “Troubled Family Strategy”. These developments, allied to the anticipated report to the Board, auger well for the future.

A further significant area of work for the Board over the last year has been the completion of a Serious Case Review. LSCBs are required to demonstrate how these reviews impact on improvements to services for children and families. Accordingly, a summary of the main findings and actions arising from the Serious Case Review are set out in section 7 of this report. I should like to take this opportunity to thank all those who contributed to the successful completion of this substantial piece of work, which was evaluated very positively by Ofsted.

In my introductions to previous annual reports I have highlighted how the important business of safeguarding children is taking place in a very difficult economic and organisational climate. I have continued to welcome the regular updates provided to the Board at each of its meetings by partner agencies, describing how they are managing these challenges. The on-going nature of these challenges is confirmed in this report by the data relating to child protection activity in Warwickshire over the period April 2011 to March 2012 appearing in section 8. The trends of previous years, in terms of rising numbers of children requiring a child protection plan, has continued with an 11.7% increase on last year’s figure. The Board and its partners remain committed to supporting professionals and others in delivering a high quality of response to the needs of these children and their families in challenging conditions, and I am pleased to see the evidence of this in the assessments of safeguarding arrangements included in this report.

In this regard, the observations made by the two lay members of WSCB, Mrs Angela O’Boyle and Mr Keith Drinkwater, in their contribution to this document, are as significant as they were last year. Their continuing contribution to our work and the invaluable scrutiny and challenge they provide are greatly appreciated. I am particularly pleased and grateful that Keith has become the Vice-Chair of WSCB. This can only serve to strengthen the independent aspects of the operation of the Board.

The report, as in previous editions, summarises the activity of the subcommittees - the “engine room” of the Board - and our working groups,

where a huge amount of work continues to take place. A further task and finish group has been launched under the auspices of the Warwickshire Missing Persons Working Group to ensure we are positioned to implement the government's action plan for Children who are Sexually Exploited. The review of the subcommittees of the Board described in last year's report has been completed. The need to have adequate capacity to implement our new strategic priorities in addition to taking forward other tasks described in section 6, confirms the importance of the arrangements on which the Board has agreed.

This year has seen significant changes in the membership of the Board. We have bade fond farewells to Martin Cliff and John Sullivan (both from Warwickshire Children's Services) and Mary Weeks (NHS Warwickshire), all of whom have been stalwarts of WSCB for many years. Our grateful thanks go with them. We also said good-bye to Marion Davis (Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families in Warwickshire County Council), Richard Desjardins (representing the Voluntary and Community Sector), and Tracey Wrench (Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust - CWPT) and Graeme Pallister (Warwickshire Police). However, it has been my pleasure to welcome to our ranks Wendy Fabbro (Strategic Director for the People Group, Warwickshire County Council), Jackie Channell (Designated Child Protection Nurse), Mel Coombes (CWPT), Adrian Over (Interim Education Safeguarding Manager), Richard Long (Warwickshire Police), and Jodie Green who I am delighted to say is going to maintain our vital links with the Voluntary and Community Sector.

There is another important arrival to mention and this is our WSCB Interagency Training Officer, Mark Simmonds, who arrived earlier this year and has taken up his role with great energy and enthusiasm. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Pat Convery who undertakes an enormous amount of administrative and support work on behalf of WSCB, and without whom it would not have been possible to complete the Serious Case Review referred to in this report as effectively or smoothly.

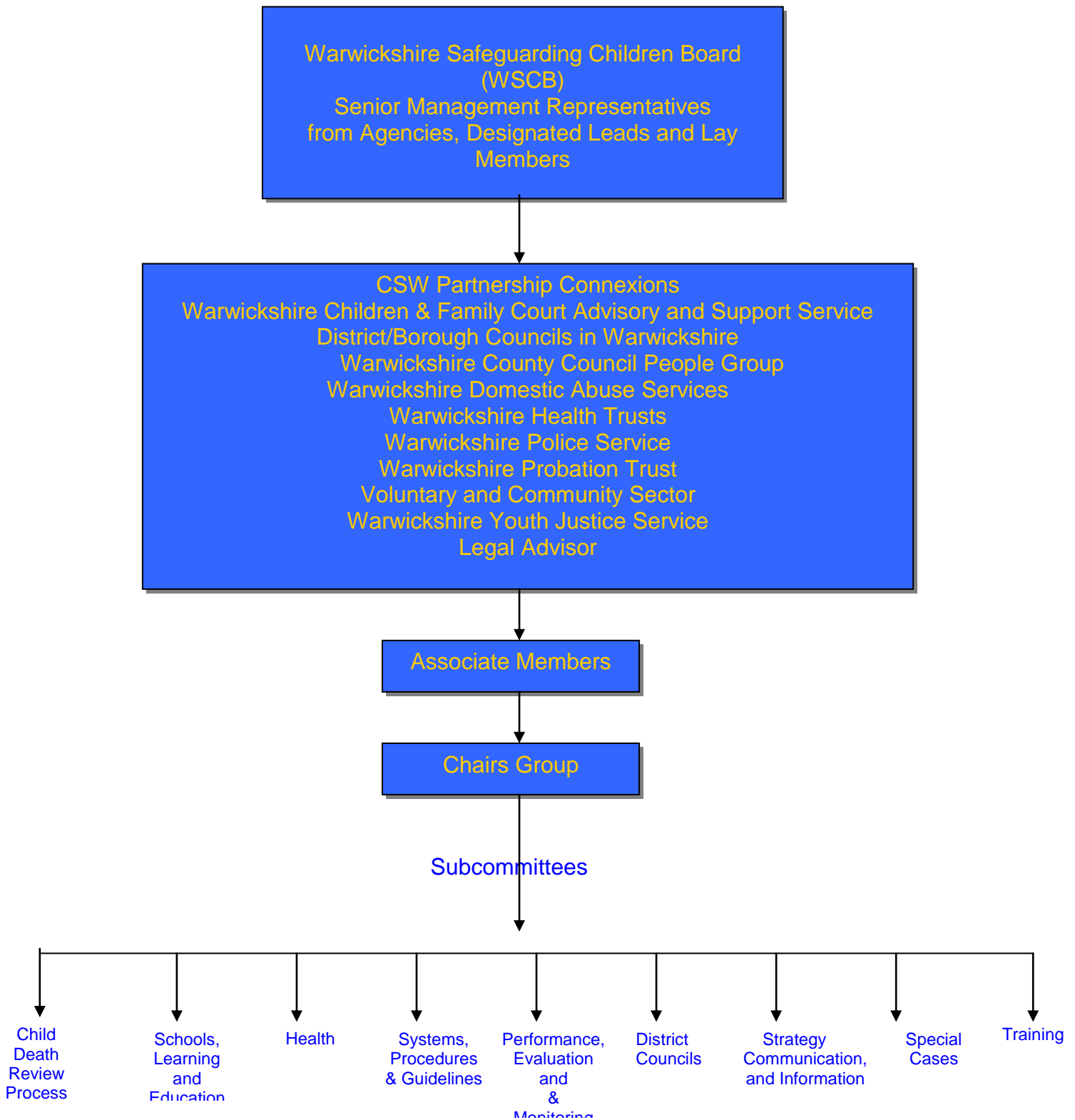
At the end of December we shall be saying a fond farewell to Vic Tuck who is retiring. Vic has been the Development Manager for WSCB for the past twelve years and one can only describe his contribution to the Board and keeping children safe from harm in Warwickshire as awesome. His knowledge, skills and attributes will be sorely missed and at the moment we are in the process of securing a replacement manager. I am sure the whole of WSCB would wish Vic the very best in his retirement. I know Vic wishes to thank members of the Board, past and present, partner agencies and the many other people who have been associated with the work of WSCB over this period, for their unstinting help and support.

As I commented last year, as we contemplate the year ahead, no one should be in any doubt as to the ongoing scale of the task we face in keeping children safe and healthy. The Board continues to value the dedication and skill that professionals across the County demonstrate on a day to day basis in meeting this challenge.

Finally, I would like to thank WSCB Board members, Associate members and members of the various subcommittees and working groups since the progress made by WSCB as documented in this annual report would not have been achieved without their dedication and diligent contribution to the activities within the report. Many thanks to you all.

Chris Hallett
Independent Chair of WSCB

2. STRUCTURE OF THE WARWICKSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD



3. MEMBERSHIP OF WSCB

Fay Baillie

Director of Nursing for the Arden Cluster – NHS Coventry and NHS
Warwickshire

Maria Barnes

Service Manager North Safeguarding – People Group, Warwickshire County
Council

Jenny Butlin-Moran

Service Manager Child Protection - People Group, Warwickshire County
Council

Paul Chapman

Policy Officer – Stratford District Council

Jackie Channell

Designated Nurse Child Protection – NHS Coventry and NHS Warwickshire

Mel Coombes

Executive Director of Quality, Safety and Service User Experience–Coventry
and Warwickshire NHS Partnership Trust

Craig Dicken

Communities Officer (Equalities and Cohesion) - Nuneaton and Bedworth
Borough Council

Hugh Disley

Head of Service Early Intervention – People Group, Warwickshire C.C.

Keith Drinkwater

Lay Member and Vice Chair

Liz Elgar

Service Manager - Coventry and Warwickshire CAFCASS

Wendy Fabbro

Strategic Director – People Group, Warwickshire County Council

Victoria Gould

Young People’s Legal Services Manager, Warwickshire County Council

Jodie Green

Youth Work Officer, NFYF Clubs - Representative of the Warwickshire
Voluntary and Community Sector

Chris Hallett (WSCB Independent Chair)

Bill Hunt

Deputy Chief Executive - Warwick District Council

Sue Ingram

Domestic Abuse Manager – Community Safety, Drugs and Alcohol Action Team, Warwickshire County Council

Detective Inspector Nigel Jones

Warwickshire Police

Detective Chief Inspector Richard Long

Warwickshire Police

Angela O'Boyle

Lay Member

Adrian Over

Education Safeguarding Manager –People Group, Warwickshire C.C.

Simon Powell

Assistant Director (Community Development) - North Warwickshire Borough Council

Phil Sawbridge

Head of Service Safeguarding - People Group, Warwickshire County Council

Steven Shanahan

Head of Housing Services - Rugby Borough Council

Dr Peter Sidebotham

Designated Doctor Child Protection – NHS Warwickshire

Steve Stewart

Executive Director - Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership: Connexions

Cllr Mrs Heather Timms

Warwickshire County Council Lead Portfolio Holder for Children - People Group, Warwickshire County Council

Lesley Tregear

Manager - Warwickshire Youth Justice Service

Dr. Vic Tuck

Development Manager - Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board

Andy Wade

Assistant Chief Probation Officer – Warwickshire Probation Trust

Jenny Wood - Head of Social Care and Support – People Group, Warwickshire County Council

4. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES OF WARWICKSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD 2012-2015

Having achieved its Strategic Priorities for 2008-2011 or reached a point where these could be relinquished to a discrete working group for consolidation and development, Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board set itself the task of identifying new Key Strategic Priorities for the period 2012-2015. The process commenced at the 8th Annual WSCB Conference in October 2011, ensuring the widest possible involvement and ownership of these new priorities. They have been derived from the findings and recommendations of the Munro Review of Child Protection in England and the Government Response. They are consistent with the Mission Statement of Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board which appears at the beginning of this annual report.

Subsequently, these priorities were developed and refined by the WSCB Chairs Group on behalf of the Board, and now constitute a comprehensive Munro Review Implementation Plan which is set out below. The actions which flow from each strategic priority have been assigned to the appropriate WSCB Subcommittee with the Chairs Group taking responsibility for their overall implementation as well as spearheading key aspects of each priority:

Strategic Priority 1

Create and Maintain a Learning System which builds on the achievements to date of the WSCB Training Strategy and within which the perspectives of children and young people are at the heart of learning.

Actions:

- Review and update the WSCB Training Strategy and its content in the light of the Munro Review (***Training Subcommittee***);
- Strengthen the links already established between WSCB and the Warwickshire Children in Care Council for the purpose of securing continued feedback on the child protection system as experienced by children and young people. Explore other mechanisms by which this might also be achieved (***Munro Recommendation 3) (Performance, Monitoring and Evaluation Subcommittee***);
- Embed this feedback within all training programmes delivered by WSCB (***Training Subcommittee***);
- WSCB to monitor and evaluate the steps taken within the County to take forward the professional capabilities framework that is being developed nationally, and also work undertaken to ensure social work students are prepared for the challenges of child protection work (***Munro Recommendations 11 and 12) (Chair's Group on behalf of the Board)***);
- Ensure that findings from Serious Case Reviews continue to be integrated as appropriate into training programmes, and are reflected in interagency and single agency child protection procedures (***Special***

Cases; Systems, Procedures and Guidelines, and Training Subcommittees);

- Pilot the SCIE systems methodology in Warwickshire to explore the learning potential of this approach and prepare WSCB for its anticipated implementation by the government (**Munro Recommendation 9) (Special Cases Subcommittee).**

Strategic Priority 2

Strengthen Accountabilities by continuing to provide leadership and challenge on children’s safeguarding issues, holding agencies and other strategic bodies to account for the effectiveness of their safeguarding activity and provision in Warwickshire.

Actions:

- Ensure the local “test of assurance” is satisfactorily completed by Warwickshire County Council in respect of the positions of Director of Children’s Services and Lead Member for Children’s Services (**Munro Recommendation 7) (Chair’s Group on behalf of the Board)** ;
- WSCB to satisfy itself that as a result, leadership of children’s services in the County remains robust and effective, particularly in relation to children’s safeguards and child protection (**Chair’s Group on behalf of the Board**);
- Ensure that assurances are obtained from the Chair of the new Warwickshire Health and Well-Being Board that safeguarding children will be a priority of the Board, with regular updates received by WSCB on the actions being taken to remodel local services in a manner that is consistent with this priority (**Munro Recommendation 8) (Chair’s Group on behalf of the Board)**;
- Continue to receive regular reports from partner agencies of WSCB on safeguarding provision and in particular how current challenges and changes are impacting on the ability to demonstrate continued compliance with section 11 of the Children Act 2004, and how these challenges are being addressed (**At WSCB Meetings**);
- Conduct a further audit of section 11 at the mid-point of the period covered by these strategic priorities (**Performance, Monitoring and Evaluation Subcommittee**);
- Warwickshire to contribute to the national consultation exercise on a new national inspection framework (**Munro Recommendation 2) (Performance, Monitoring and Evaluation Subcommittee)**;
- Consider how WSCB will contribute to the implementation in Warwickshire of a new safeguarding performance data set as envisaged by the government following the Munro Review (**recommendation 4) (Performance, Monitoring and Evaluation Subcommittee)**;
- WSCB to undertake a “health check” in respect of the questions for LSCBs posed in the Ofsted Report: *Good Practice by Local Safeguarding Children Boards* (**Strategy, Communication and Information Subcommittee**);

- WSCB Annual Reports to be shared in future with the W.C.C Chief Executive and Leader of the Council and subject to the passage of legislation, The Health and Well-Being Board and Police and Crime Commissioner (**Munro Recommendation 5) (Performance, Monitoring and Evaluation Subcommittee)**;
- The relationship between WSCB and the Warwickshire Children’s Trust to be re-considered in the light of these changes and how the current *Memorandum of Understanding* between the two may need to be redrafted as a consequence (**Chair’s Group on behalf of the Board**);
- The Annual Report to continue to contain as a major feature an assessment of the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements (**Performance, Monitoring and Evaluation Subcommittee**);
- All WSCB Subcommittees to review and where appropriate update their strategic objective and terms of reference to reflect the actions assigned to them in this document (**All WSCB Subcommittees**).

Strategic Priority 3

Promote Effective Practice by continuing to ensure that child protection systems and practices in Warwickshire are rooted in an evidence-based approach where the best available research and knowledge is consistently applied, informed by the perspectives and experiences of children and young people.

Actions:

- New WSCB Interagency Child Protection Procedures produced which fully reflect the findings of the Munro Review, Government Response, subsequent new Government Guidance, and best practice locally and nationally (**Munro Recommendation 1) (Systems, Procedures and Guidelines Subcommittee)**;
- All single- agency “internal” child protection procedures reviewed to ensure these are also fully compliant with these components (**Systems, Procedures and Guidelines Subcommittee**);
- Exploration as to how, in addition to our single and interagency training programmes, relevant research may be best disseminated to practitioners and others across the County in order to further embed evidence-based practice (**Strategy, Communication and Information Subcommittee**);
- Current work being undertaken on behalf of Warwickshire Children’s Services by the Dartington Social Research Unit to inform the re-design and delivery of services and the further introduction of evidence-based programmes, to be considered by the Board to assess its implications for interagency working. (**Munro Recommendation 13) (Performance, Monitoring and Evaluation Subcommittee)**;
- WSCB to monitor progress on the implementation of the proposal that a Principal Child and Family Social Worker be established within Warwickshire Children’s Services (**Munro Recommendation 14) (Chair’s Group on behalf of the Board)**).

Strategic Priority 4

Promotion of Early Help for Children, Young People and Families

Actions:

- Warwickshire Children's Trust to provide WSCB with a report setting out the availability and effectiveness of early help and intervention, and how any gaps identified in this report will be addressed **(To be sought by the Chair's Group on behalf of the Board)**;
- To enable the progress of early help services to be monitored and evaluated, further reports to be compiled on an annual basis by the Children's Trust **(To be sought by the Chair's Group on behalf of the Board)**;
- WSCB to establish processes by which it will quality assure the early help plans developed by partner agencies and others **(Strategy, Communication and Information Subcommittee)**;
- Details of the effectiveness and efficiency of these services to be included in the WSCB Annual Report alongside accounts of the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements in the County **(Performance, Monitoring and Evaluation Subcommittee)**.

(All relating to Munro Recommendations 6 and 10)

Allocation of Actions by Responsible Body

Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board:

- Continue to receive regular reports at business meetings from partner agencies on safeguarding provision and in particular how current challenges and changes are impacting on the ability to demonstrate continued compliance with section 11 of the Children Act 2004, and how these challenges are being addressed by partners.

Chairs Group (on behalf of the Board):

- Monitoring of overall implementation of the strategic priorities with progress reports appearing in the WSCB Annual Report;
- Seeking assurances from others where appropriate that actions referred to in the Munro Review and government response are being satisfactorily addressed in Warwickshire;
- Monitoring and evaluation of steps taken within the County to take forward the professional capabilities framework which is being developed nationally, and also work undertaken to ensure social work students are prepared for the challenges of child protection work;

- Ensuring the local “test of assurance” is satisfactorily completed by Warwickshire County Council in respect of the positions of Director of Children’s Services and Lead Member for Children’s Services;
- Enabling WSCB to satisfy itself that as a result, leadership of children’s services in the County remains robust and effective, particularly in relation to children’s safeguards and child protection;
- Ensuring that assurances are obtained from the Chair of the new Warwickshire Health and Well-Being Board that safeguarding children will be a priority of the Board, with regular updates received by WSCB on the actions being taken to remodel local services in a manner that is consistent with this priority;
- Ensuring the relationship between WSCB and the Warwickshire Children’s Trust is re-considered in the light of these changes and how the current *Memorandum of Understanding* between the two may need to be redrafted as a consequence;
- Monitoring progress on the implementation of the Munro recommendation that a Principal Child and Family Social Worker be established within Warwickshire Children’s Services;
- Ensuring that Warwickshire Children’s Trust provide WSCB with a report setting out the availability and effectiveness of early help and intervention, and how any gaps identified in this report will be addressed;
- Enabling the progress of early help services to be monitored and evaluated on an on-going basis by seeking annual reports from the Children’s Trust.

Performance, Monitoring and Evaluation Subcommittee:

- Strengthening the links already established between WSCB and the Warwickshire Children in Care Council for the purpose of securing continued feedback on the child protection system as experienced by children and young people. Exploration of other mechanisms by which this might also be achieved;
- Conducting a further audit of section 11 at the mid-point of the period covered by the strategic priorities for 2012-2015;
- Managing Warwickshire’s contribution to the national consultation exercise on a new national inspection framework;
- Consideration as to how WSCB will contribute to the implementation in Warwickshire of a new safeguarding performance data set as envisaged by the government following the Munro Review;
- Ensuring WSCB Annual Reports are shared in future with the W.C.C Chief Executive and Leader of the Council and subject to the passage of legislation, The Health and Well-Being Board and Police and Crime Commissioner;
- Ensuring the Annual Report continues to contain as a major feature an assessment of the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements;

- Assessing the implications for interagency working of the study currently being undertaken on behalf of Warwickshire Children's Services by the Dartington Social Research Unit to inform the re-design and delivery of services and the further introduction of evidence-based programmes;
- Ensuring an assessment of the effectiveness and efficiency of early help services is included in the WSCB Annual Report alongside accounts of the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements in the County.

Special Cases Subcommittee:

- Ensuring that findings from Serious Case Reviews continue to be integrated as appropriate into training programmes, and are reflected in interagency and single agency child protection procedures (*with Systems, Procedures and Guidelines Subcommittee and Training Subcommittee*);
- Piloting the SCIE systems methodology in Warwickshire to explore the learning potential of this approach and prepare WSCB for its anticipated implementation by the government;

Strategy, Communication and Information Subcommittee:

- Undertaking a "health check" in respect of the questions for LSCBs posed in the Ofsted Report: *Good Practice by Local Safeguarding Children Boards*;
- Exploration as to how, in addition to our single and interagency training programmes, relevant research may be best disseminated to practitioners and others across the County in order to further embed evidence-based practice;
- Establishing processes by which WSCB will quality assure the early help plans developed by partner agencies and others;

Systems, Procedures and Guidelines Subcommittee:

- Ensuring that findings from Serious Case Reviews continue to be integrated as appropriate into training programmes, and are reflected in interagency and single agency child protection procedures (*with Special Cases and Training Subcommittees*);
- Ensuring new WSCB Interagency Child Protection Procedures are produced which fully reflect the findings of the Munro Review, Government Response, subsequent new Government Guidance, and best practice locally and nationally;
- Ensuring all single agency "internal" child protection procedures are reviewed to ensure these are also fully compliant with these components.

Training Subcommittee:

- Reviewing and updating the WSCB Training Strategy and its content in the light of the Munro Review;
- Embedding feedback on the experiences of children and young people of child protection within all training programmes delivered by WSCB;
- Ensuring that findings from Serious Case Reviews continue to be integrated as appropriate into training programmes, and are reflected in interagency and single agency child protection procedures (*With the Special Cases; Systems, Procedures and Guidelines Subcommittees*).

All Subcommittees:

- Reviewing and where appropriate updating their strategic objective and terms of reference to reflect the actions assigned to them.

5. LAY MEMBERS REPORT – COMPILED BY ANGELA O’BOYLE AND KEITH DRINKWATER.

As lay members it is our remit to promote good governance by ensuring that the Warwickshire Safeguarding Board operates effectively and retains a clear focus on issues relating to the safeguarding and well-being of the County’s children and young people. Our experiences have provided reassurance regarding the quality of the work undertaken, and confidence that the Board is effectively discharging its duty to safeguard and protect children.

Substantial reports and Board meetings provide us with details of the safeguarding activities of agencies, and of the work of the Board’s specialist sub-committees. Regular presentations to the Board have increased our knowledge and raised awareness of a number of agency developments. They have brought to our attention achievements, innovations, areas for improvement and identified emerging concerns.

Training sessions, conferences, and reports of external inspection bodies provide insight into the complex work and demands made of the safeguarding agencies. Responses to these external reports have shown a willingness to learn lessons from their findings, and have demonstrated the Board’s overall commitment to continuous improvement.

The economic crisis has affected the funding of public services. Many agencies have faced severe financial constraints: cuts in funding have led to a reduction in provision and staff redundancies. Limited resources are being used to maintain essential services: however without adequate funding high standards cannot be maintained. An admirable response from the wider community has, to some extent, ameliorated the detrimental impact caused by budget cuts. Voluntary agencies and faith groups have increased their help to children and families, and striven to provide support and to create environments which promote children’s safety and healthy development.

The strength of the Safeguarding Board is the commitment of partners to the implementation of the Safeguarding Plan. The diversity, expertise and specialist knowledge of its members enables it to provide well-qualified professional leads for the various sub-committees where detailed work is done. The effectiveness of the contributing agencies is strengthened by adoption of the agreed management framework, a whole system approach which focuses on outcomes. This framework is fundamental to achieving coherence which takes account of local priorities, reflects government requirements and ensures maximum provision for safeguarding. It includes a requirement for agencies to provide details of their safeguarding audits planned for each year and to report their outcomes. It makes safeguarding a shared responsibility and individual agencies accountable for taking the appropriate actions to secure it.

This unifying framework will enhance the good practice already apparent in agencies which contribute to safeguarding in Warwickshire. During the past year considerable achievements provide evidence of good multi-agency work.

These include the very positive Ofsted evaluation and all aspects of the recent Serious Case Review. The successful Family Interventions Scheme has yielded good results and will serve as a sound basis for the incoming government scheme to help troubled families. Warwickshire's commitment to this initiative is welcome as it adopts a holistic approach to families who have difficulties and cause problems. It should help agencies to reduce the risk of harm to children and improve the lives of their families.

These programmes incorporate aspects of the Munroe recommendations which called for a revised approach to safeguarding children. Last year's Annual Conference, 'The Child's Journey: Safeguarding Children in Warwickshire agencies' was a great success and instigated significant progress and activity. The next conference will further amplify the work when it takes as its theme: 'Evidence-Based Programmes in Safeguarding Children: Implementing in Warwickshire what works.'

Despite the pressures on the public sector, the quality of the Safeguarding partnership continues to be of a high standard with evidence of commitment, expertise and professionalism. Safeguarding practice is underpinned by partners' mutual trust, hard work and reliability. As lay members, we cannot overstate the value and importance of this multi-agency work. We are indebted to all those who provide the resources which both prevent harm to children and help those who have been hurt.

It is the duty of the Safeguarding partnership to tackle known causes of abuse and to understand and combat the multitude of social and psychological issues which damage children. To prevent this, risks must be recognised, exposure to damaging experiences prevented, and effective help given. Warwickshire's Safeguarding Children partnership achieves these goals through a well-co-ordinated response and implementation of its mission to protect the county's vulnerable children.

Keith Drinkwater: Vice-Chair of WSCB
Angela O'Boyle

6. PROGRESS REPORTS FROM THE SUBCOMMITTEES OF WARWICKSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

Last year's report described how Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board had embarked on a review of its subcommittee structure to identify ways in which this might be streamlined and possible efficiencies achieved. The Chairs Group led this work on behalf of the Board, mindful of the consideration that the current structure had served the Board well in terms of delivering statutory requirements and other responsibilities, and that the structure in place needed to continue to have the capacity to deliver the high volume of work the Board is required to achieve. The second phase of the review focused increasingly on how we could ensure the Board's structures were compliant with the findings of the Munro Review and Government Response and capable of delivering the challenging WSCB Strategic Priorities for 2012-2015 and Implementation Plan described in Section 4 of this report. As a result of this exercise, the functions of some subcommittees were modified and titles amended to reflect new roles and responsibilities, and embrace the spirit of the Munro Review. Work-plans were updated to incorporate any actions assigned to the subcommittee arising from the new strategic priorities of the Board.

The result of this review is that WSCB now has eight sub-committees, comprising representatives from the member agencies of the WSCB, which are tasked to complete work plans and report progress on these plans to the full Board when it meets. The Chairs Group continues to provide a forum where the Independent Chair of WSCB, Vice Chair, all the chairs of the subcommittees and WSCB Development Manager meet to identify issues which the Board may need to consider and advise upon the strategic dimensions that arise.

In compliance with government guidance the **Warwickshire Child Death Review Process (CDOP)**, is officially classified as a formal subcommittee of the Board making nine in all, but is distinguished from the others by its specific statutory functions rather than acting as a vehicle for driving the business of the Board. Its activities are described in full in the Annual Report of the sub-regional child death review processes encompassing Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire. This document can be found on the WSCB web-site.

In summary, ensuring that all agencies provide information to the three Child Death Review Panels, which comprise the sub-regional CDOP, in a timely way enabling these panels to complete reviews, has continued to advance significantly over the last year. The development of robust electronic systems has made it possible to conduct CDOP business more efficiently. The system of "fast track" review established last year for cases that can be appropriately managed in this way has gone from strength to strength, making it possible to review a higher volume of cases, including neo-natal deaths.

Progress Reports on the work of the other subcommittees appear below. Details are also provided of the work of two key working groups which reflect

the commitment of WSCB to promote the wider protection of vulnerable children.

District Council Subcommittee

Strategic Objective: *To ensure the safeguarding children agenda is fully embedded in district and borough councils across Warwickshire.*

As part of the review of the Safeguarding Board's Subcommittee structure, members of this subcommittee have given consideration to the most effective means of continuing to advance the safeguarding agenda in district councils. This has led to the retention of the subcommittee, meeting as appropriate to advance its objectives.

The major tasks identified by the subcommittee for progression over the next year are to:

- Ensure that the Housing Services-Children's Services Protocols for households containing vulnerable children, and assessing and managing the accommodation needs of homeless 16 and 17 year olds set in place last year, are actively followed by each district authority;
- Ensure Independent Contractors engaged by district and borough councils operate in accordance with safeguarding requirements and are monitored for compliance;
- Continue to promote the "Safer Employment" agenda in each council;
- Promote the safeguarding agenda with "Registered Providers" operating within Warwickshire.

Health Subcommittee

Strategic Objective: *To provide the key mechanism through which the Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board can be assured that the appropriate and timely delivery of the Safeguarding Children Agenda is delivered across the Warwickshire Health Economy and Independent Contractors. This includes ensuring that all training, audit and specific work around safeguarding is facilitated, implemented, monitored, evaluated and integrated in the ongoing work of all health professionals.*

Since the last annual report, the Chair of the Health Subcommittee and some members has changed. Membership and Terms of reference have therefore been reviewed and updated accordingly. This development is linked to the major changes that are taking place within the Health Service. Two new Designated Nurses for example, covering the Arden Cluster (NHS Coventry & NHS Warwickshire) have been appointed. Work to involve the new Clinical Commissioning Groups in the work of the subcommittee and more widely in the Safeguarding Board has continued. Actions arising from the WSCB Section 11 audit of 2010 have now been completed.

The subcommittee has focused on the following tasks in its work-plan which will continue to be taken forward in the year ahead:

- Promoting stronger involvement of G.Ps and other independent contractors in safeguarding children, including further opportunities for training in child protection;
- Implementation of the Ofsted/CQC Action Plan as this relates to health services;
- Implementation of health recommendations from the Serious Case Review documented in this annual report;

Performance, Monitoring and Evaluation Subcommittee

Strategic Objective: *To ensure that the Safeguarding Board has in place sound mechanisms for monitoring, evaluating and auditing safeguarding activity by partner agencies, and ensuring that improvements are made to deliver better outcomes for children.*

Among major tasks accomplished by this subcommittee, formerly the Quality and Information Subcommittee, over the last year has been the formulation of a comprehensive Warwickshire Safeguarding Delivery Plan of which our Munro Action Plan and Strategic Priorities are the corner-stone; a review of the WSCB Escalation Process which is to lead to a revised version of this process, and an updated Performance Management Framework for the Board.

In addition, the work arising from the last round of WSCB Interagency District Workshops which took place in response to the death of baby Peter Connolly and which applied a “systems” approach to identifying good practice in localities and areas for development, has been brought to fruition with the local partnerships of the Warwickshire Children’s Trust Executive Board ensuring that safeguarding children is embedded in their work. A document seeking to better define thresholds for intervention has also been presented to the Board on behalf of the subcommittee.

As part of the on-going operation of the escalation process, members of the subcommittee continue to identify cases that appear to be drifting and where necessary conduct a case file audit.

Significant activities for the year ahead will be:

- Development of the Board’s work on promoting the participation of children and young people assessing the impact of child protection processes;
- Assessing the implications for interagency working of the findings of a project taking place within the county by the Dartington Social Research Unit on promoting evidence-based programmes;
- Preparing for a fresh WSCB Section 11 Audit to be undertaken in 2013;
- Advising the Board on its budgetary position and how its financial viability may be maintained.

Schools, Learning and Education Subcommittee

Strategic Objective: *To ensure that specific issues relating to the Education Service are addressed and brought to the attention of the full board and or other sub-committees as appropriate.*

A major piece of work for the subcommittee has been consideration of the implications of the Serious Case Review completed by North Somerset LSCB which examined the abuse of children at an independent school in the West Country. A series of actions were identified to ensure that the prospect of such a situation occurring in Warwickshire was minimised. The subcommittee has also acted on the findings of the Serious Case Review completed in Warwickshire in 2012, which identified some areas for improvement, including consideration of fresh guidance for education providers on the subject of “parental responsibility”. Other significant areas of activity and achievement for the subcommittee have been:

- Ensuring that schools in Warwickshire are represented on WSCB in line with the complex requirements of government guidance;
- Ensuring model policies are updated annually;
- Making safeguarding advice and guidance available across the education sector;
- Developing and sharing good practice;
- Encouraging schools and early year settings to prioritise safeguarding children within their improvement plans;
- Providing training specific to the education sector;
- Scrutinising some of the special risks that affect the most vulnerable children (children and young people with Special Education Needs and disabilities);
- Contributing to government consultation papers as appropriate.

Key challenges in the year ahead include:

- Taking steps to improve still further communication between education providers and the subcommittee including provision of information and support for designated persons in schools;
- Explore the implications for safeguarding of the government’s agenda for schools and disseminate information and good practice accordingly;
- Receive regular reports from the E-Safety Task Group established under the auspices of WSCB to take forward the agreed strategy;
- Inspections of Safeguarding in Schools

The Subcommittee will continue to monitor the specific judgements on the effectiveness of the safeguarding provision in schools arising from Ofsted inspections, and share good practice across Warwickshire.

Special Cases Subcommittee

Strategic Objective: *To ensure that sound processes for conducting Serious Case Reviews are in place in Warwickshire and lessons arising from these and other reviews are disseminated, as appropriate, across the multi-agency network.*

The subcommittee was responsible for completing a Serious Case Review in 2012. This was a major piece of work for members of the subcommittee and colleagues who were co-opted to assist in the process. In line with government guidance the impact of this review on improving services and reducing possible harm to children are included in this report. The review was assessed very positively by Ofsted which was testimony to the skill and commitment of everyone who contributed.

Other pieces of work undertaken by the subcommittee which will continue into the coming year are:

- Ensuring that the learning and improvement processes of Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board, and attendant procedures relating to Serious Case Reviews and other reviews conducted by the Board and its partners, are compliant with the new version of *Working Together to Safeguard Children*;
- Completion of an exercise to pilot the “systems” methodology for Serious Case Reviews pioneered by the *Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE)*;
- Ensuring the implementation of the recommendations of the Serious Case Review completed this year and draw to the attention of WSCB lessons arising from the review process which will have bearing on any future serious case review;
- Consideration of reviews conducted in other parts of the country which may have learning implications for Warwickshire.

Strategy, Communication and Information Subcommittee

Strategic Objective: *To facilitate and advise on the development of co-ordinated approaches across WSCB partner agencies to implement major initiatives and achieve consistent practice improvements.*

This subcommittee, formerly the Strategy and Communication Subcommittee, has continued the task of ensuring that the Board is on a sound strategic footing and that key areas of practice development are advanced. It is to assume an important role in ensuring that that new strategic priorities of WSCB and associated actions are implemented, particularly in ensuring that that Board’s new duty to scrutinise the quality of early help and early help plans in Warwickshire is realised.

Areas of significant activity and achievement over the last year have been:

- Taking forward the implementation of a new, comprehensive Communications Strategy the aim of which is to promote awareness in the Warwickshire media and public at large that safeguarding children is everybody's responsibility. To this end, a highly successful media event took place resulting in wide and encouraging publicity for the Board and professionals involved in safeguarding work;
- Delivery of the 8th WSCB Annual Conference which considered the major developments of 2011-2012 including the completion of the Munro Review of Child Protection in England and the government's response – from this conference emerged the WSCB Strategic Priorities for 2012-2015;
- In respect of children who are trafficked – one of the most vulnerable groups – the subcommittee enabled WSCB to build on its participation in a regional project funded by the European Union, making it possible, in collaboration with the Training Subcommittee and Warwickshire County Council Learning and Development and partner agencies, to train staff on the subject.
- Planning of the 9th Annual WSCB Conference which will explore the implementation of evidence-based programmes in the county to strengthen the provision of early help services and effective safeguarding. Key-note speakers will be provided by the Dartington Social Research Unit which is leading on this development in Warwickshire.
- Further editions of the WSCB News Bulletin were produced.
- Continued expansion of links with Faith Groups and the Voluntary and Community Sectors in Warwickshire with a highly successful dedicated safeguarding event for these groups delivered in May 2012 (See report below);
- Linked with the task and finish group established to take forward in Warwickshire the government action plan on children who are sexually exploited.

Systems, Procedures and Guidelines Subcommittee

Strategic Objective: *To take major responsibility for preparing and updating WSCB Inter-agency Child Protection Procedures and advise on and monitor the development of guidelines and procedures by WSCB partner agencies to safeguard children.*

In line with this strategic objective, this subcommittee, formerly the Procedures and Guidelines Subcommittee, takes the lead in discharging the function of the Board (as defined in government guidance for LSCBs) to assess its child protection and safeguarding systems and procedures, those of partner agencies and others to ensure these are effective in keeping children safe. It is currently working on the implications for the *WSCB Interagency Child Protection Procedures* of the revised version of *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2012*.

Following the final publication of this government guidance, a new “Blue Book” will be published and the focus of the subcommittee’s work-plan will shift to arranging for the production, launch, publicising and implementation of our new interagency procedures. Partner agencies will then be expected to amend their internal child protection procedures in accordance with changes made to the *WSCB Interagency Child Protection Procedures*, and the progress of this work will be monitored by the subcommittee.

Training Subcommittee

Strategic Objective: *To ensure there is effective multi-agency training in place in Warwickshire that promotes a shared understanding of the tasks, processes, principles, roles and responsibilities outlined in national guidance and local arrangements for safeguarding children and promoting their welfare, in order to achieve better outcomes for children and young people in Warwickshire.*

The Training Subcommittee has welcomed Mark Simmonds, the new WSCB Interagency Training Officer, to its ranks. The subcommittee has continued to deliver its training strategy during 2011-2012 and the coming year will see the next phase of this, buttressed by an extensive updating of the content of training and the materials used, while retaining the traditional strengths of these events. A highly significant development during the previous year was the delivery of two events on safeguarding disabled children, led by colleagues in the Warwickshire Integrated Disability Service. The success of these new programmes has encouraged the subcommittee to commission further events and they are likely to become a permanent feature of the training strategy.

WSCB training programmes have continued to be well subscribed and the upward trend in the number of staff being trained is expected to continue. However, the subcommittee will carefully monitor the levels of nomination and attendance to ensure that the challenging financial and organisational climate does not deter agencies from supporting staff to attend training.

The WSCB Training Pools have continued to operate effectively despite the operational demands on its members, ensuring that the capacity of the Board to deliver child protection training can be sustained. It is an enduring strength that the Board is able to draw upon the skill, knowledge and commitment of colleagues in the county to deliver high quality single and interagency training. Recruitment to the pools will be kept under review and appropriate steps taken should the need arise.

Coventry and Warwickshire Safeguarding Children in Faith Groups Forum

An important area of work of the Board, led by the Strategy, Communication and Information Subcommittee, has been the establishment, in collaboration with Coventry LSCB, of this forum, designed to promote and embed the safeguarding children agenda within faith groups. WSCB has traditionally

enjoyed a positive working relationship with child protection leads in religious organisations – the Coventry Diocese, Birmingham Archdiocese and Methodist Churches - and the forum has helped to consolidate this work while making it possible to develop a relationship with inter-faith groups representing a wider range of faiths, based in Coventry, Warwick and the West Midlands. These organisations are provided with places at the WSCB Annual Conference and have been featured in our news bulletin.

The forum has made it possible for individuals involved in the work of the two LSCBs to share details of important developments in the safeguarding agenda with our colleagues in faith groups, and for these colleagues to raise issues of interest and concern to them.

During the last year key developments have been the formation of a link with the *Churches Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS)*, which seeks to provide training and support to a range of faith groups and organisations. The forum has also expanded to include a representative from *Safe Network*, an organisation that aims to train and support staff working in the voluntary and community sectors on safeguarding issues. The manager of *Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Youth Services*, Vic Jones, has energetically supported this expansion, and thanks to Vic, Rebecca Edwards from Safe Network and Claudia Bell from CCPAS, it was possible to hold a highly successful event for colleagues from faith groups and the voluntary and community sectors in 2012. This has enabled us to consolidate and widen the previous events mounted by the forum, extending the links we have with faith groups and now crucially the voluntary and community sectors. Plans are to be made to expand this work still further in the year ahead. *Full details of the forum; its work, and terms of reference can be found on the WSCB Website.*

Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence (FM and HBV) Working Group

Work on this important aspect of safeguarding both adults and children has been undertaken in Warwickshire over the last few years by a number of agencies. However, 2012 has continue to see the significant progress of previous years consolidated with the interagency group established in 2010 by both Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Board, WSCB and partner agencies continuing to take forward this work. Training for professionals with a specialist role in identifying and investigating FM and HBV was delivered as planned and a further event will take place. Participants have included the Police and Social Workers from both adult and children's safeguarding teams. The successful awareness raising package set in place in 2010 continues to be delivered throughout the interagency network with the materials now updated by the WSCB Interagency Training Officer. A county-wide conference which featured this issue (and also included consideration of the plight of trafficked children) was held in late 2011, again as planned. Audits submitted by the working group to a government backed agency, confirm that sound progress is being made in taking forward this issue in Warwickshire.

7. SERIOUS CASE REVIEW

Local Safeguarding Children Boards are required by the government to give details in their annual reports on the impact of Serious Case Reviews on improving services to children and families. It was necessary for WSCB to complete one Serious Case Review in 2011-2012 concerning the death of a child. An independent overview report author and independent review panel chair-person were appointed to manage the process. An interagency review panel was formed. The completed review was submitted within the required time-scale and was subsequently positively evaluated by Ofsted.

Key Findings of the Review:

- The death of the child could not have been predicted or prevented;
- While Serious Case Reviews often identify unhappy, dangerous and tragic circumstances that persistently impact upon the safety and welfare of the child concerned, this was not such a case;
- All the available evidence indicated that the child was a much loved child and the parenting received was good;
- Agencies acted appropriately in response to the information available to them;
- There were never any grounds for compulsory intervention under child protection procedures and the history indicates it is doubtful if the parent caring for the child would have given consent to social work involvement.
- In the absence of clear distress signals from the parent, other family members could have done nothing more to help.

Areas for Development:

In addition to these findings, the Serious Case Review identified six aspects where services could be improved:

- Review of child protection training for staff working in Minor Injuries Units and other unscheduled Care Units to ensure they have the necessary skills and knowledge to detect possible harm to children.
- Ensuring midwives are able to discuss with a mental health professional situations where a pregnant woman has a history of current and/or enduring mental health problems.
- Strengthening child protection training for GPs in Warwickshire.
- Ensuring the suicide prevention strategy in place in Warwickshire makes provision for appropriate risk assessment of lone parents and adolescents.
- Ensuring that local drug services provide information for young people about the potential link between cannabis use and psychotic illness in later life.

- The importance of professionals including in assessments of families information relating to the role of the father and male partners. In respect of this, professionals need to understand fully the composition of families, including the presence or otherwise of fathers and partners in the household and record information relating to this accurately in case records.

Actions Plans to implement these improvements in services have been implemented by WSCB and partner agencies.

Warwickshire Safeguarding Statistics 2011/12 Summary of Key Issues

- There were 606 children subject to an Initial Child Protection Conference held during 2011/12. This represents a 13% increase on last year when 536 children were conferenced.
- There has been a significant increase in the number of children who were made subject to a Child Protection Plan with 520 plans initiated during 2011/12 in comparison to the 459 initiated in 2010/11. Interestingly more plans were initiated than closed this year which is in contrast to last year when more plans were closed than initiated.
- As at 31 March 2012, 534 children were subject to a Child Protection Plan in Warwickshire. This is an 11.7% increase on the 478 children subject to a plan as at 31st March 2011
- As at 31 March 2012, the largest group of children who were subject to a Child Protection Plan were those aged 1-4 years. This was the same at the end of the previous year.
- Out of the five Child Protection Plan categories, children subject to a plan under "Multiple" categories has seen the greatest increase this year, up by 1.6% to 39.9% this year.
- The proportion of children subject to a CP Plan whose ethnicity was Black/Minority Ethnic has increased, up from 7.3% last year to 11.8% at 31st March 2012. In comparison White British children subject to a Plan saw a decrease, down from 89.5% to 85.1%.
- Warwickshire's performance under the former National Indicators (NIs) in relation to child protection during 2011/12 is as follows:

Child Protection Plans lasting 2 years or more (Previously National Indicator 64)

Performance for NI64 is 10.8%, which is a slight increase on last year's figure of 8.4%.

NI65 - Percentage of children becoming subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time

During 2011/12, 16.5% of child protection plans initiated were the second or subsequent plan for a child. This is higher than the previous year (14.4%) and therefore a reduction in performance.

Timeliness of child protection reviews (Previously National Indicator NI67)

Performance for NI67 is 100%. This is an improvement on last year when 99.2% was achieved.

Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board

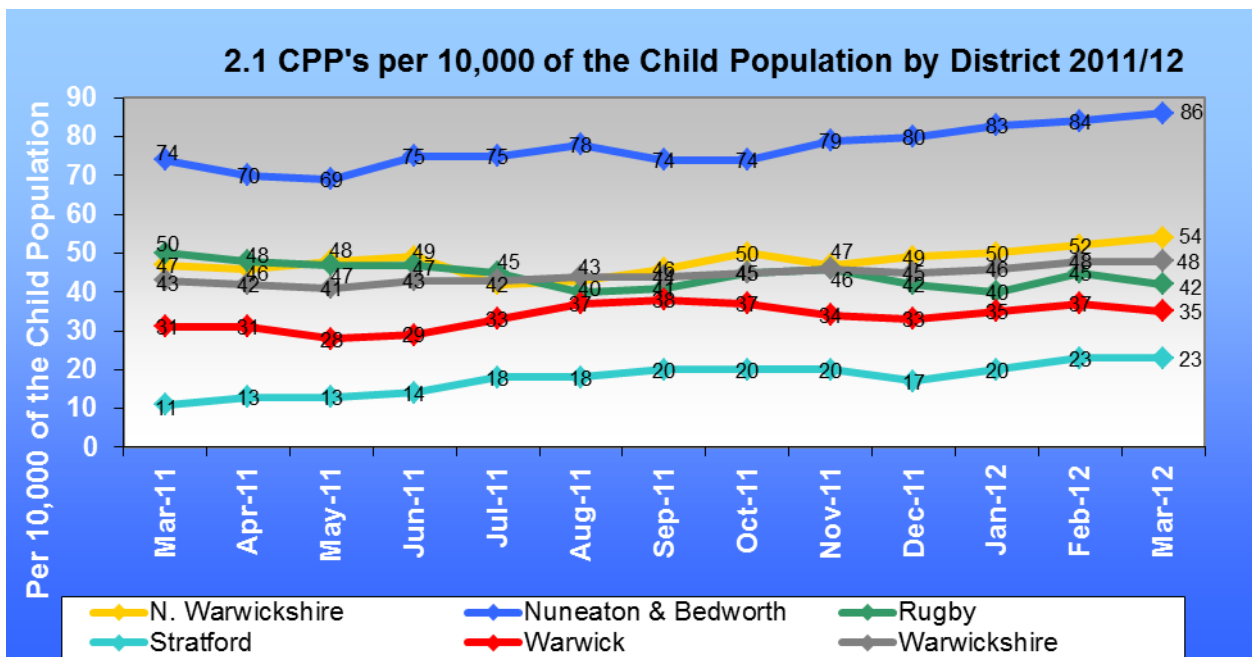
1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report summarises child protection activity in Warwickshire between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2012.

1.2 Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board has agreed the dataset on which this report is based.

2. NUMBER OF CHILDREN SUBJECT TO A CHILD PROTECTION PLAN PER 10,000 OF 0-17 POPULATION

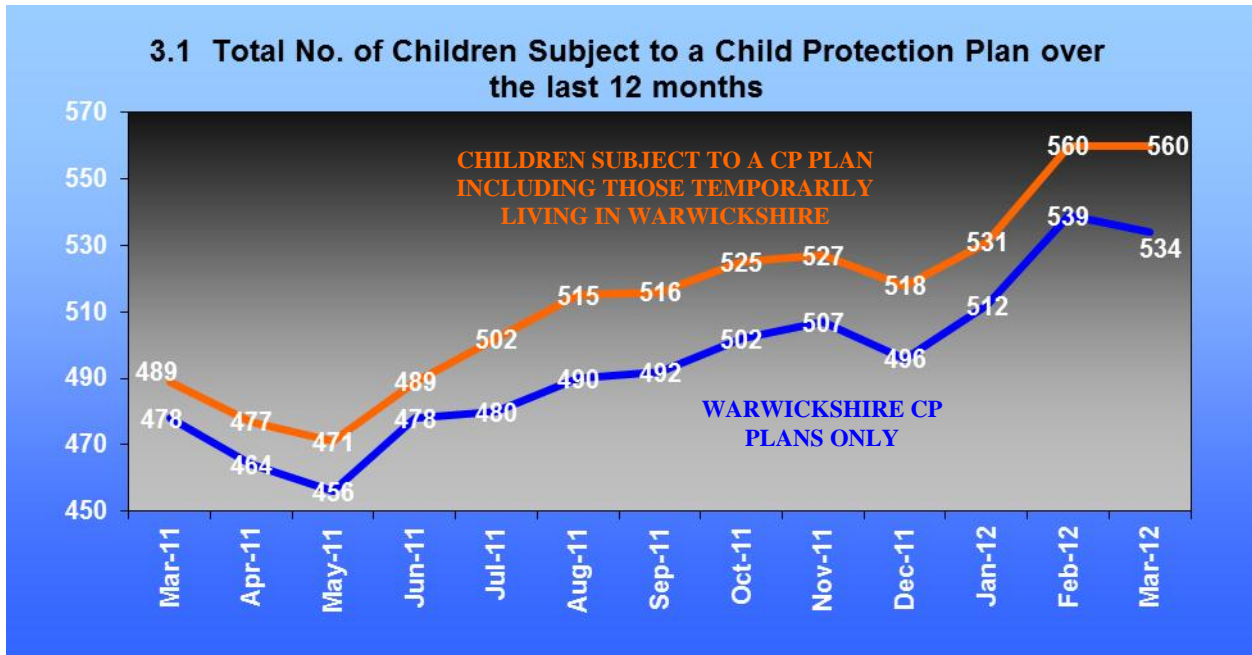
2.1 The county rate per 10,000 has increased from 43 at 31 March 2011 to 48 at 31 March 2012. The majority of districts have seen a rise in their Child Protection cases per 10,000 when compared to the same point last year with the exception of Rugby where there has been a reduction. The chart below shows the district breakdown of children subject to a Child Protection Plan per 10,000 of Warwickshire's 0-17 population over the last 12 months.



3. CHILDREN SUBJECT TO A CHILD PROTECTION PLAN AS AT 31ST MARCH 2012

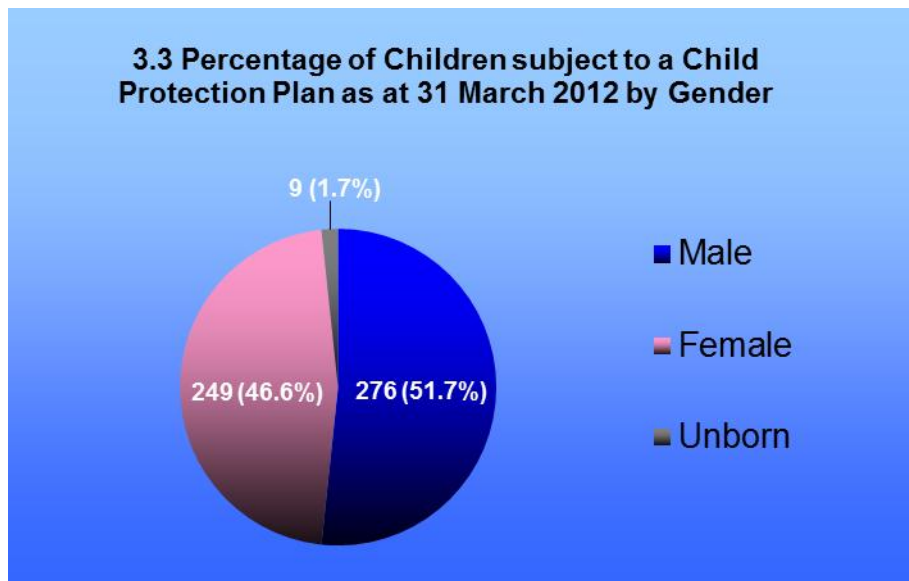
3.1 As at 31 March 2012, 534 children were subject to a Child Protection Plan in Warwickshire. This is an 11.7% increase on the 478 children subject to a plan as at 31st March 2011. Chart 3.1 shows how this number has progressed over the past year.

Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board



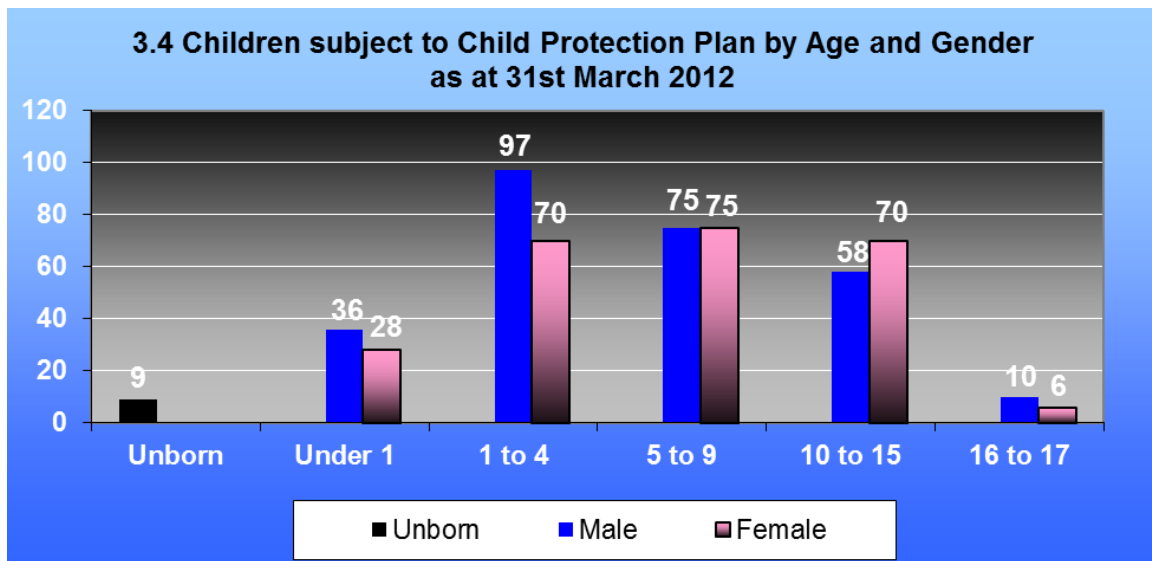
3.2 As at 31st March 2012 there were 26 children subject to a Child Protection Plan, who were temporarily living in Warwickshire. This is an increase of 15 children when compared to the 11 children subject to a CP Plan who were temporarily living in the area at 31 March 2011.

3.3 The gender breakdown of children subject to a Child Protection Plan as at 31st March 2012 is detailed in chart 3.3. 51.7% (276) of children subject to a Child Protection Plan were male as at 31 March 2012 which is an increase on last year's figure of 50.8% (243). However, although the number of females who were subject to a Child Protection Plan increased, up from 224 at 31 March 2011 to 249 at 31 March 2012, proportionately they saw a decrease, down from 47.1% to 46.6%.



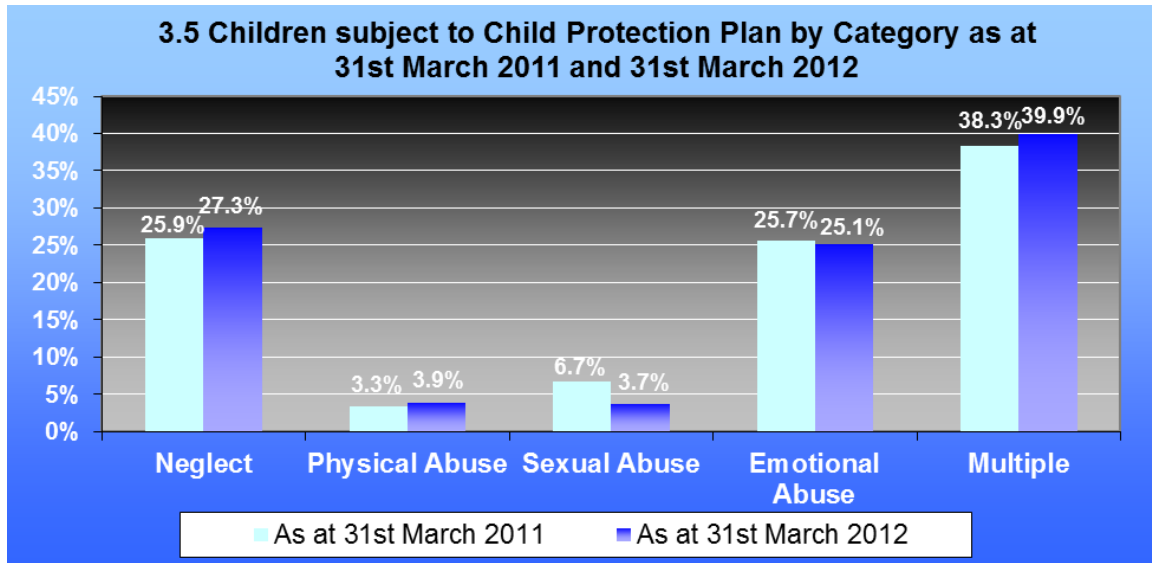
Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board

3.4 The proportion of children subject to a Child Protection Plan who are under the age of five (including unborn children) has decreased slightly to 44.9% (240) this year from 47.9% (229) last year. Therefore as at 31 March 2012 there has been an increase in children subject to a Child Protection Plan aged 5 or over, representing 55.1% of the child protection population. There were 9 unborn children subject to a Child Protection Plan as at 31st March 2012 compared to 12 unborn children at the same point last year.

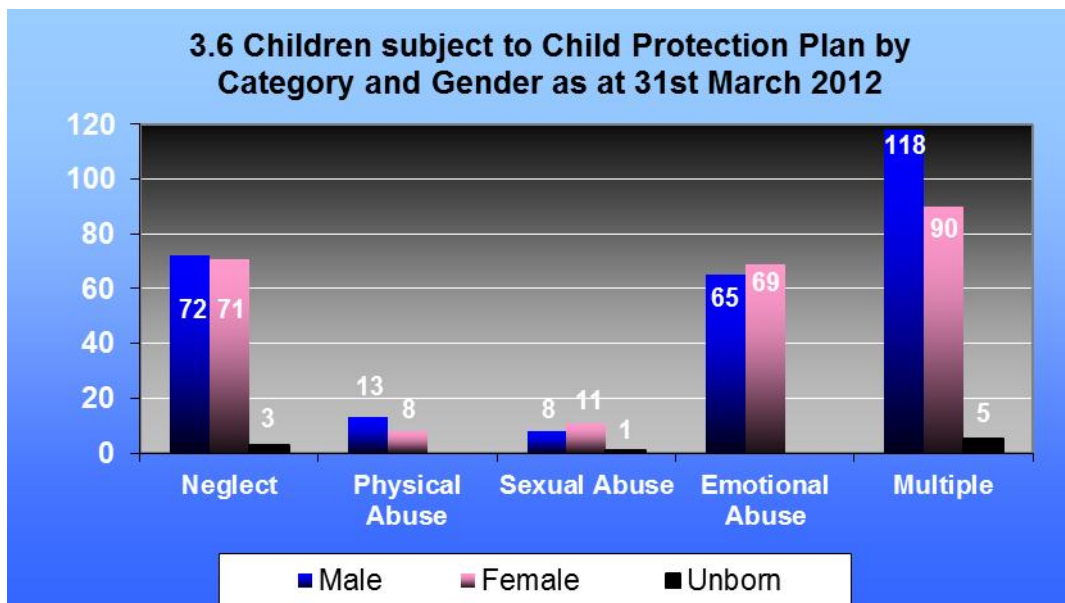


3.5 Chart 3.5 shows the categories under which children were subject to a Child Protection Plan as at 31st March 2012 with the previous year's figure shown for comparison. Increases were seen this year in children under the category of 'Neglect' (up 1.4% to 27.3%), 'Physical Injury' (up 0.6% to 3.9%) and 'Multiple' categories, up 1.6% to 39.9%. However, decreases were seen in children subject to Child Protection plans under 'Emotional Abuse' (down 0.6% to 25.1%) and 'Sexual Abuse' (down 3% to 3.7%)

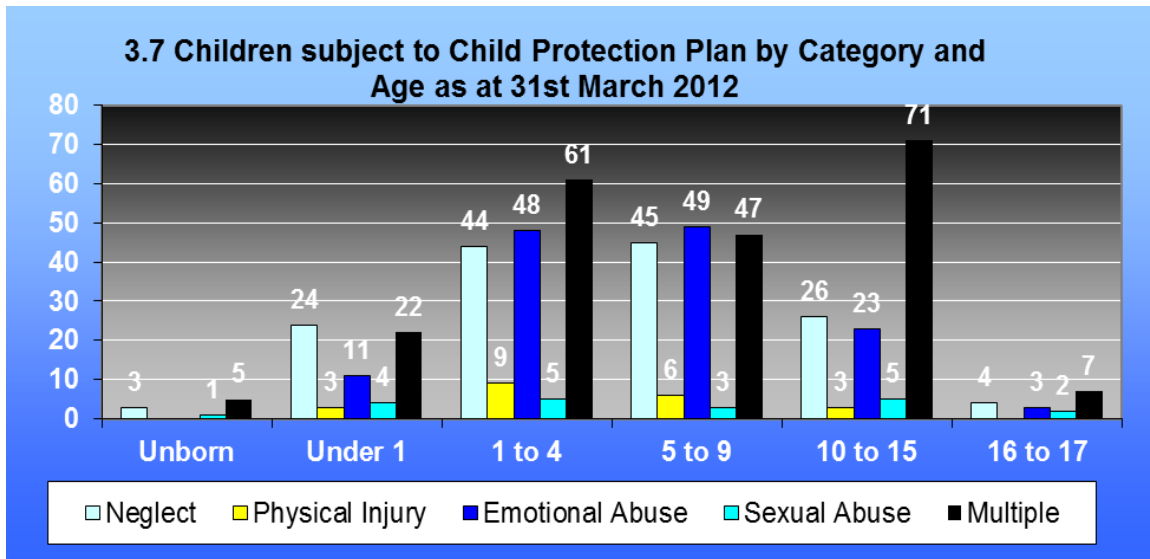
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3.6 Chart 3.6 shows the children subject to a plan at 31 March 2012 by Category and Gender. More females were subject to a Child Protection Plan under the categories of 'sexual abuse' and 'emotional abuse' than males. Whereas, more males were made subject to a Child Protection Plan under the categories of 'Neglect', 'Physical Abuse' and 'Multiple' categories than females.



3.7 Chart 3.7 shows children by category and age range. As at 31 March 2012, the largest number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan were those aged 10 to 15 who had 'multiple' categories. The largest number of children under a single category though were those aged 5 to 9 for 'emotional abuse'.

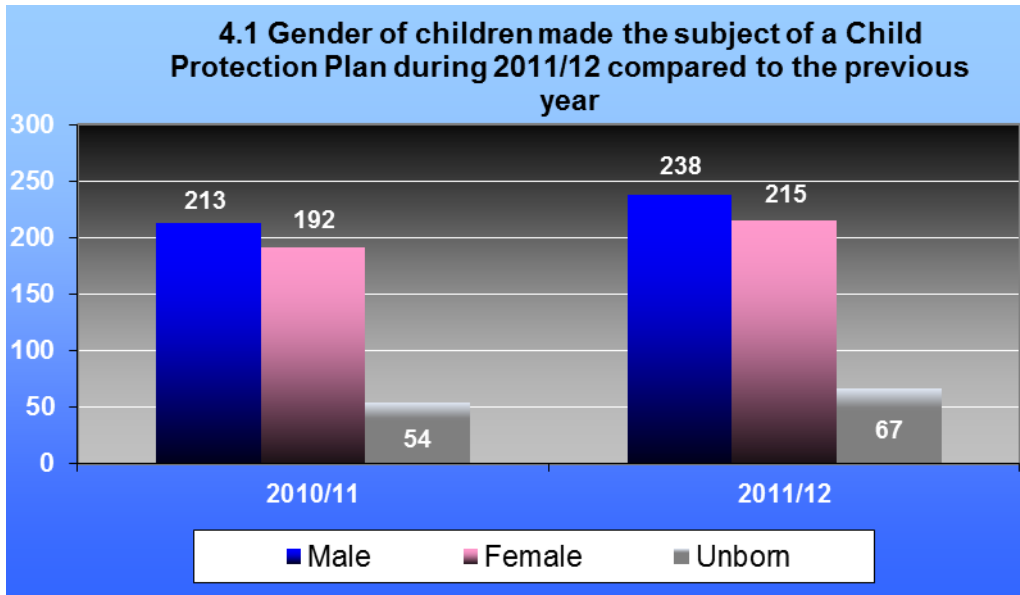


3.8 Excluding the 9 unborn children subject to a Child Protection Plan at 31 March 2012, 85.1% were of White British ethnic origin. This is a decrease on last year when the comparable figure was 89.5%. This year, there were 62 children (11.8%) whose ethnicity was black/minority ethnic which is a 4.5% increase on last year when there were 34 children (7.3%) black/minority ethnic children subject to a Child Protection Plan as at 31 March 2011.

4. CHILD PROTECTION PLANS INITIATED DURING THE YEAR

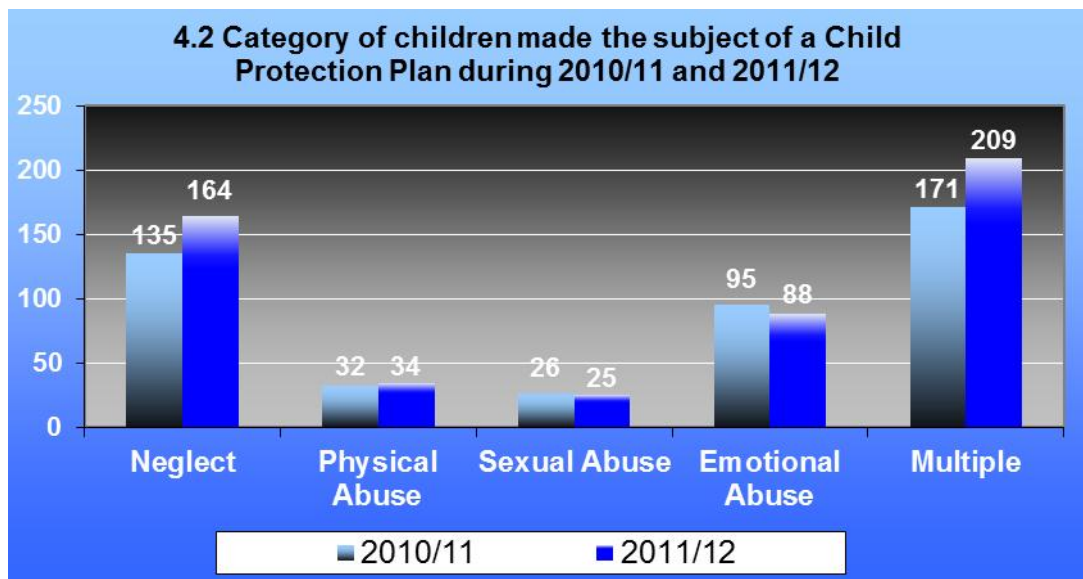
4.1 520 children became subject to a Child Protection Plan during 2011/12, compared to 459 during 2010/11. Of those 520 children, 238 (45.7%) were male, 215 (41.3%) were female and 67 were unborn. The chart below shows the largest number of children becoming subject to a Child Protection Plan during 2011/12 were males which is the same as the previous year.

Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board



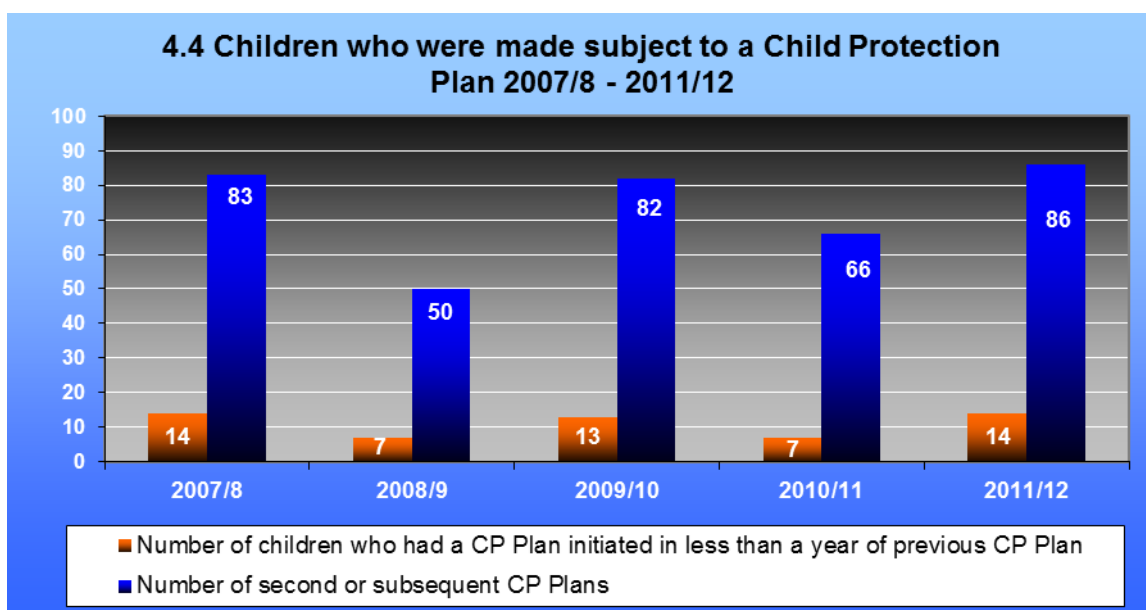
4.2 The majority of the 520 children made subject to a Child Protection Plan during 2011/12 were given the category of 'Multiple'. This was followed by the categories of Neglect and Emotional Abuse. The category that has seen the biggest increase compared to last year was for those with 'multiple' categories whilst the biggest decrease was seen in those who had a plan initiated under the category of 'emotional abuse'. (See Chart 4.2 overleaf).

Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board



4.3 Of the 520 children who became subject to a Child Protection Plan during the year ending 31st March 2012, 434 (83.5%) of these became subject of a Child Protection Plan for the first time compared to 393 (85.6%) last year. A further 86 (16.5%) children became subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time. This is an increase on last year when 66 (14.4%) of the total number (459) of children became subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time.

4.4 Chart 4.4 shows the number of children who became the subject of a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time over the last five years. This chart also identifies those who became subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time within less than a year of their previous plan.



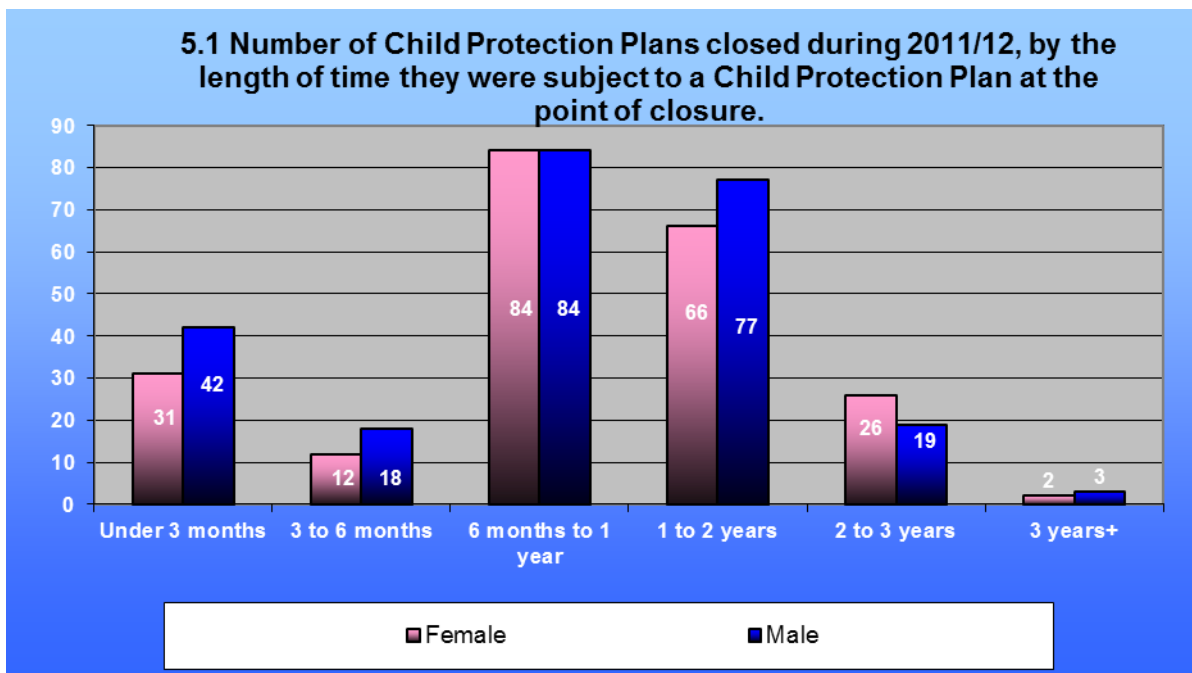
Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board

The number of children who became subject to a plan for a second or subsequent time has increased from 66 last year to 86 this year. The number for whom a second or subsequent plan was initiated within a year of their previous plan had doubled, up from 7 in 2010/11 to 14 in 2011/12.

In 2011/12, Warwickshire reported a figure of 16.5% against former national indicator NI65 (Percentage of children becoming subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time). This is higher than the previous year (14.4%) and therefore a reduction in performance.

5. DURATION OF CHILD PROTECTION PLANS

5.1 464 children had their plans closed during the year ending 31st March 2012. This is a decrease of 22 (4.5%) when compared with the 486 discontinued during the previous year. Chart 5.1 shows the number of children who had their Child Protection Plans closed during 2011/12, by the length of time they were subject to a Child Protection Plan at the point of closure.



5.2 Chart 5.1 shows that for both genders, the majority of plans were closed between 6 months and 1 year and between 1 year and two years which is the same as last year. The numbers of children that fall into the “2 to 3 Years” category increased compared to the previous year whilst the number closed after “3 Years +” saw a slight reduction this year.

Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board

5.3 Table 5.3 shows this year's discontinued plans by the length of time the child was subject to a Plan and compares this with the previous two year's figures.

5.3 Duration of Child Protection Plans Prior to Discontinuation			
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Under 3 months	13.6%	14.4%	15.7%
3 months but under 6 months	11.8%	5.8%	6.5%
6 months but under 1 year	38.5%	37.0%	36.2%
1 year but under 2 years	28.7%	34.4%	30.8%
2 years but under 3 years	6.5%	7.0%	9.7%
3 years and over	1.2%	1.4%	1.1%

5.4 Performance for Child Protection Plans lasting 2 years or more (previously national indicator NI64) was 10.8%, which is an increase on last year's figure of 8.4%.

6. INITIAL CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCES HELD DURING THE YEAR

6.1 During the year ending 31st March 2012 there were 606 children subject to Child Protection Conferences. This represents a 13% increase on last year when 536 Children were subject to a Child Protection Conference. Of the 606 Children subject to a conference held during 2011/12, 520 (85.8%) resulted in the initiation of Child Protection Plans.

7. REVIEWS OF CHILD PROTECTION CASES

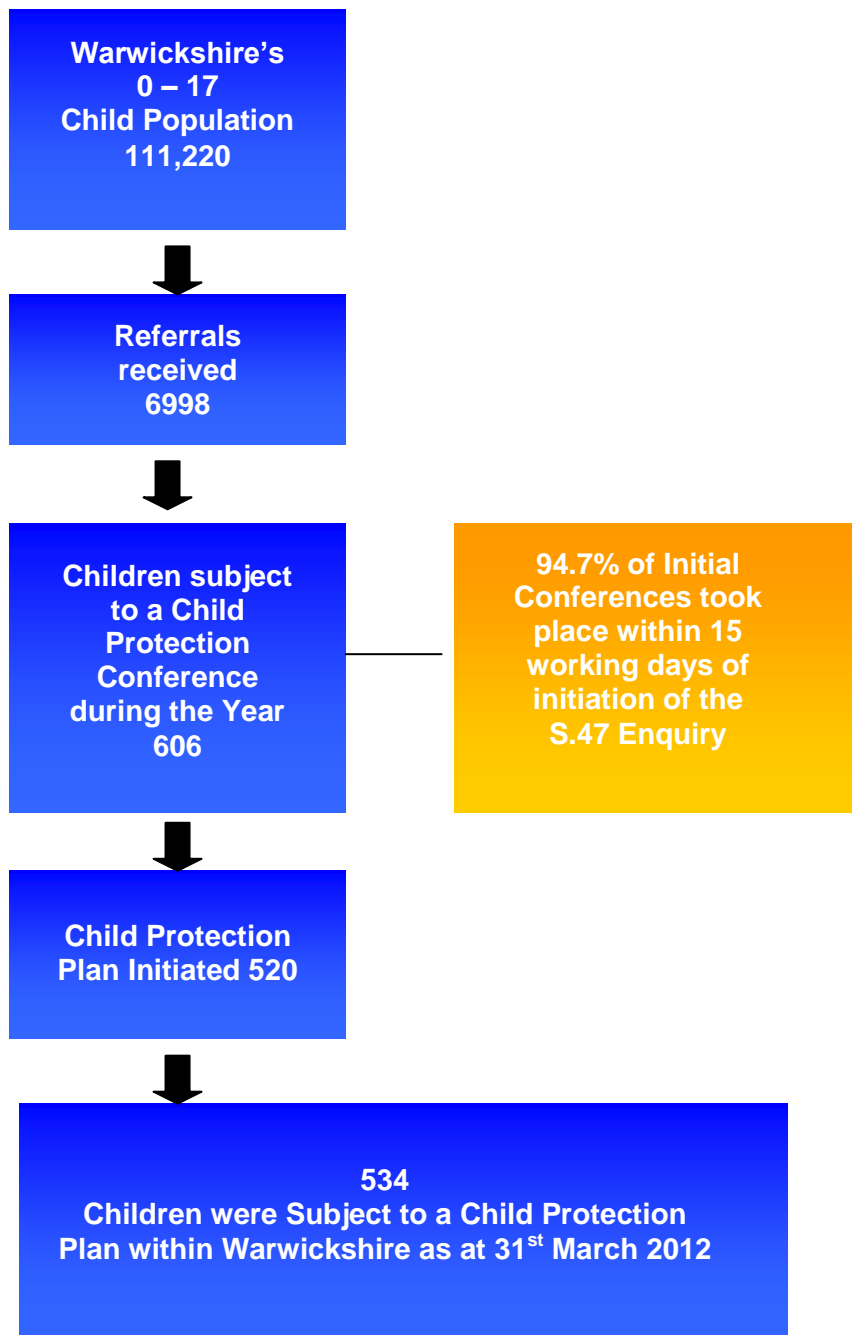
7.1 During the year ending 31st March 2012, 409 children had been subject to a plan continuously for at least three months. Of that 409, all 409 (100%) had been reviewed within timescales. This is an improvement on last year when 99.2% was achieved. This means that our performance under former national indicator NI67 (Timeliness of reviews) would have increased to the top banding under this indicator.

8. POLICE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY PROTECTION ORDERS

8.1 As at 31st March 2012 there were no children accommodated under either Police Protection or Emergency Protection Order. However, during 2011/12 there were a total of 18 children placed on Emergency Protection Orders and 11 subject to Police Protection.

9. SUMMARY OF CHILD PROTECTION ACTIVITY

9.1 Chart 9.1 below summarises some of the activity detailed in Sections 1-8.



10. NUMBER OF PRIVATE FOSTERING ARRANGEMENTS

10.1 A privately fostered child is defined as a child under the age of 16 (18 if disabled) that is cared for by someone other than a close relative (i.e. a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, or step-parent). A child is not privately fostered if the person caring for him or her has done so for fewer than 28 days and does not intend to do so for longer than that. Privately fostered children are not “looked after” children in the terms of section 22 of the Children Act 1989. However, Local Authorities have a responsibility to ensure that the welfare of privately fostered children is promoted, as identified in Part IX of the Children Act 1989, amended by section 44 of the Children Act 2004.

Warwickshire now have to make a statutory return on the number of children privately fostered across the county during the year. Below outlines some of the key data submitted to the DfE for 2011/12.

Number of children under private fostering arrangements as at 31 March 2011	7
The number of notifications of new private fostering arrangements received during 2011/12	9
Number of new arrangements that began during 2011/12	8
Number of private fostering arrangements that ended during 2011/12	10
Number of children under private fostering arrangements as at 31 March 2012	5

11. LEGAL ACTIVITY TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN

The following data confirms the significant upward trend in child protection activity in Warwickshire, this time viewed through the issuing of care proceedings evident over the last four years. Again, this reflects a national trend.

In the year July 2008 – July 2009, 60 new cases were issued

In the year July 2009 - July 2010, 82 new cases were issued.

In the year July 2010 – July 2011, 90 new cases were issued.

In the year July 2011 – July 2012, 118 new cases were issued.

W.C.C Children’s Legal Services are currently holding 120 issued cases in public law care proceedings (not including appeals, discharge of care order and contact applications) compared with 115 last year and 107 in July 2010.

9. FURTHER ASSESSMENTS OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SAFEGUARDING ACTIVITY IN WARWICKSHIRE

This Annual Report has already presented information on the variety of ways in which WSCB, through its strategic priorities, subcommittee structure and work-plans, the completion of Serious Case Reviews when necessary, audits and other initiatives, assesses and contributes to the effectiveness of safeguarding activity in Warwickshire. Our annual data set has provided insight into the *levels* of this activity and how our systems have worked to keep pace with significant year on year increases in demand for child protection services. In addition to this important information, there has been, as was the case last year, regulatory activity that has contributed to the building of a comprehensive picture of safeguarding activity in the County and its quality. Details are presented in this section of the report. (Points made by inspectors in relation to early help and intervention services have been highlighted as indicated in the introduction to this annual report by the WSCB Independent Chair. These aspects will feature more prominently in next year's annual report).

Inspection of safeguarding and looked after children services (Warwickshire)

Conducted in October and November 2011 this inspection evaluated a range of evidence which included discussions with 65 children and young people receiving services, 33 parents and carers, front line staff and managers, senior officers, including the Strategic Director of the Warwickshire County Council People Group, the Independent Chair of WSCB, elected members and a range of staff and managers from Health Organisations and other partner agencies, including Warwickshire Police, the Voluntary and Community sector.

A review of 40 case files for children and young people with a range of need was conducted by the inspectors. This provided a view of services provided over time and the quality of reporting, recording and decision-making undertaken. The outcomes of the most recent annual unannounced inspection of local authority contact, referral and assessment services undertaken in June 2011 and documented in last year's WSCB Annual Report was used in the assessment.

Following this detailed survey, the inspectors concluded that ***the overall effectiveness*** of the county council and its partners in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Warwickshire is ***good***. Among the conclusions reached by inspectors were:

- Strong leadership of elected members and senior managers has contributed to improved safeguarding outcomes for children and young people enabling children's social care services to be protected during a period of severe financial pressure and cuts to other services;
- Strong and effective leadership is provided by the Children's Trust at both county and district levels and by WSCB. The strategic priorities of WSCB link well to those of the Children and Young People's Plan;
- The consideration of the challenges arising from restructuring of services has been thorough and risks appropriately identified;
- A culture of learning through performance management permeates all agencies;
- Children most at risk of harm are appropriately protected and prioritised with robust arrangements between partners to manage and monitor cases;
- *Early intervention is appropriately prioritised and well-resourced with good examples of effective and innovative practice;*

- Workforce development is effective in helping to retain competent and experienced staff. Staff are well supported including those who are newly qualified and have access to good quality training;
- *Improvements to practice are supported through Warwickshire being an early implementer for “Action for Health Visiting”;*
- Service users in council run services are actively involved in individual case planning and increasingly consulted about service planning.

In terms of **capacity for improvement**, inspectors assessed this as **good**, noting the reconfiguration of children’s services as having been well managed but too early to judge the effectiveness of the new structures. In addition:

- *The strong investment by the council in early intervention services is underpinned by well- articulated business planning and research evidence, helping to achieve a long term reduction in the need for costly statutory intervention;*
- *Early intervention services are yielding good outcomes and parents are very positive about the services they receive;*
- *Evaluation of the current raft of services and work carried out with the Dartington Social Research Unit is helping to determine where future investment of resources will have most impact;*
- The council has successfully dealt with most areas for development identified during the unannounced inspection of contact, referral and assessment services carried out in June 2010. Some action is still required on some issues such as the variable quality of initial assessments;
- *The council, health services and partners are providing appropriate challenge for each other and this is helping to ensure the next Joint Strategic Needs Assessment enables deficits in services to be addressed;*
- The WSCB demonstrate its vision and ambition and the implications for service provision very well to the workforce and its business plan clearly shows how regulatory requirements are being met in including the implications of the Munro Review of Child Protection.

In order to improve the quality of provision for safeguarding children and young people in Warwickshire, Ofsted Inspectors stated that the local authority and its partners should take the following action:

- Ensure that health agencies, including GPs, are promptly notified of child protection strategy meetings and conferences to which they are being invited;
- Ensure that notifications of attendance of children from unscheduled care and accident and emergency units are of good quality so that concerns can be followed up effectively;
- Improve the robustness of children’s social care case file audits;
- Ensure that all child protection plans are specific and measurable and have clear time-scales;
- Warwickshire County Council and NHS Warwickshire should ensure that referral thresholds for safeguarding are applied consistently across the county;
- NHS Warwickshire should ensure there are robust systems in place to collect safeguarding training information; assess the impact of training on improving safeguarding health services within each contracted service and ensure this training is sufficient to meet the needs of staff;
- Improve management oversight of the councils’ HR recruitment processes;

- NHS Warwickshire should review the different approaches to identifying domestic violence in respect of pregnant women.

In response to these identified actions a **Warwickshire Integrated Action Plan** was devised by Warwickshire County Council and NHS Warwickshire which was shared with the Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board in January 2012. WSCB has received progress reports on the implementation of this action plan allowing it the opportunity to scrutinise this progress.



For further information regarding this Annual Report and other aspects of the work of the Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board please contact:

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/wscb