



Annual Report 2016-17

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1. Forward by the Independent Chair

I am pleased to introduce the Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) annual report for 2016-2017. The WSCB is required to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in our area including an assessment of local safeguarding arrangements, achievements made and the challenges that remain.

This report sets out the progress and achievements made over the last year.

Our mission remains unchanged and that is:

- To ensure that sound arrangements to protect children are in place in Warwickshire;
- To promote the welfare of children in Warwickshire;
- To achieve these objectives by promoting interagency cooperation and collaboration.

During this last year, building on our strengthened governance procedures and sub-group structure, the Board has grown in the way agencies are able to challenge each other and hold others to account, both at full board and at the sub-group meetings.

The changing and reducing financial landscape continues to be challenging for all agencies and so being able to have frank and strong discussions is vital in keeping our safeguarding system as strong as possible.

The Board agreed and has been working on a limited number of headline priorities for the last year, these are all big subjects to tackle. We have made variable amounts of progress against these priorities and in some cases the pace has not been what I would have wanted it to be.

The Board is really no closer to understanding the disparity we noticed in the data regarding services given to our children with disabilities and children and families from black and minority ethnic communities. We must ensure appropriate services are provided to all of our communities. We recently took some presentations at the Board meeting to “re-set” this priority.

Whilst the lack of progress is a little disappointing, we should not shy away from trying to understand and tackle difficult issues. Child protection and safeguarding in the multi-agency world is complex and so quick fixes are not always available. If we only took easy issues as our priorities I would argue that we were not really driving service improvement and therefore better outcomes for the children and young people of Warwickshire.

Our priority dealing with neglect has had a little more progress you will find more detail in the body of the report.

Our work to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation remains a strength for the Board.

Whilst none of our priorities are ready to be “signed off” as we look ahead we will consider if there are any other important areas of work that need a higher profile and should become part of our business plan.

The report has a lot of rich and detailed data in it, the Board has a responsibility to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by the Local Authority and Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The data helps us understand where improvements can be made and informs the discussions as to what needs to be done to make those improvements.

I thank the members of the WSCB for their professionalism, challenge and rigour and the business team for all their work during the last year.

As in previous years I must conclude by thanking the front line practitioners for their dedicated work in safeguarding our children and young people.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Peplow". The signature is stylized with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David Peplow

Independent Chair

2. Statutory and Legislative Context for Local Safeguarding Children's Boards

Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) were established by the Children Act 2004 which places the responsibility on Local Authorities to co-ordinate an LSCB in their area.

The roles of the Board are to co-ordinate local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, and evaluate the effectiveness of these arrangements. To do this the Board has several functions it must perform, including:



Safeguarding Boards must include senior members of staff from Local Authority children's and adult's services, District / Borough Councils, Police, Health Service, Education, Youth Justice, and Probation, and they should be chaired by someone suitably experienced in safeguarding children who is independent of the partner agencies.

3. Governance and accountability arrangements

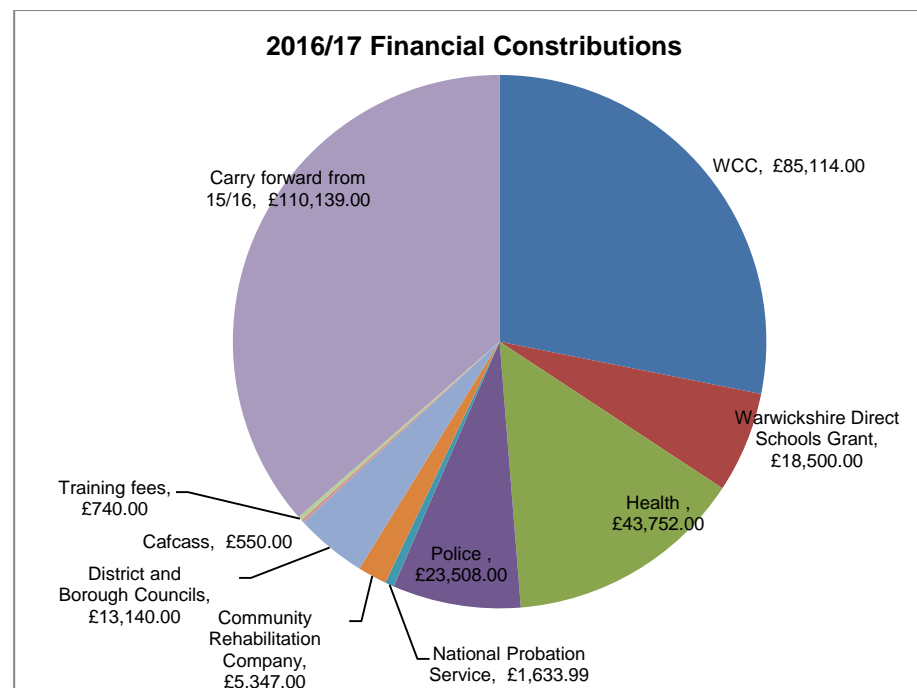
Warwickshire Safeguarding Children’s Board has an independent chair, David Peplow, who has chaired the board since June 2014. In addition to the Chair, the Board directly employs three permanent members of staff, the Development Manager, Learning and Improvement Officer, and a Business Support Officer; these posts are hosted by the County Council and funded by the contributions made by member organisations as set out below. During 2016-17 the board has also had an additional part-time admin post to meet the increased case review activity.

Budget

In the past, an underspend was accumulated by WSCB, and carried forward from year to year. In 2015-6 and 2016-17 however, increased spending on case required the use of some of the carry forward to balance the budget. £110,139 was carried forward into 2016-17, of which £63,096 was spent during the year.

£18,000 of this was additional partnership funding for the ‘Something’s not right’ campaign paid to WSCB in 2015- 16 to be spent in 2016-17, and hence was planned spending, rather than ‘overspend’. A further £40,000 of this was required to balance the planned budget because WCC was not able to make an additional grant from the Learning and Development budget that it has made historically. The rest of the carry forward spend (£5,038) was as a result of the expenditure on case reviews exceeding contributions made for this purpose in the year.

£47,043 is carried forward into 2016-17, and is expected to be spent. It is recognised that agreeing a new funding arrangement for WSCB is of paramount importance for 2018-19.



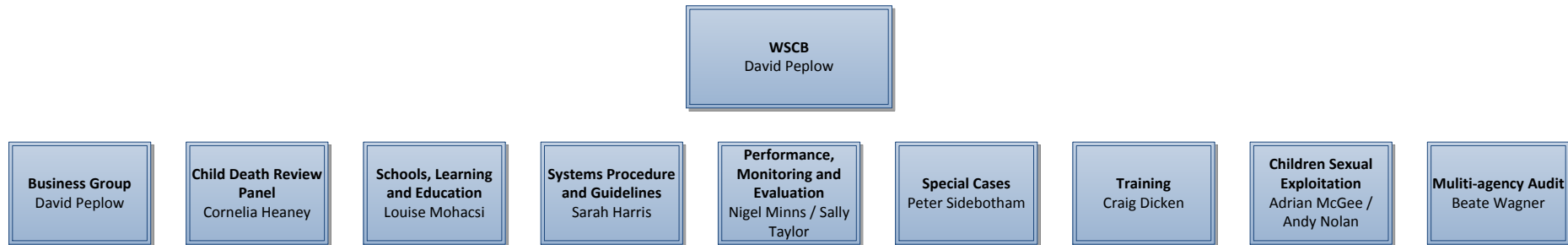
The revision of Working Together in 2013 increased the number of cases meeting the requirements for serious case review. Additional case review funding is provided by partners for a separate review budget, with agreement that this will be topped up as required, in year if necessary. Serious case reviews must be lead by an independent lead reviewer, but where a co-reviewer is required, in 2016/17 this role was taken by the Development Manager, saving an estimated £19,250 (38.5 days @£500/ day)

Child Death Overview Panel

The Child Death Overview functions are managed and supported by a team of two staff, the CDOP Manager and CDOP Officer. This arrangement is made in co-operation with Solihull and Coventry, with the CDOP team working on behalf of all three CDOP panels. The posts are funded jointly by Warwickshire County Council, Coventry City Council and Solihull MBC, in addition to the funding provided by the local authorities directly to the respective Safeguarding Children Boards.

Sub-committees of WSCB

WSCB has several sub-committees which carry out much of the work undertaken by WSCB.



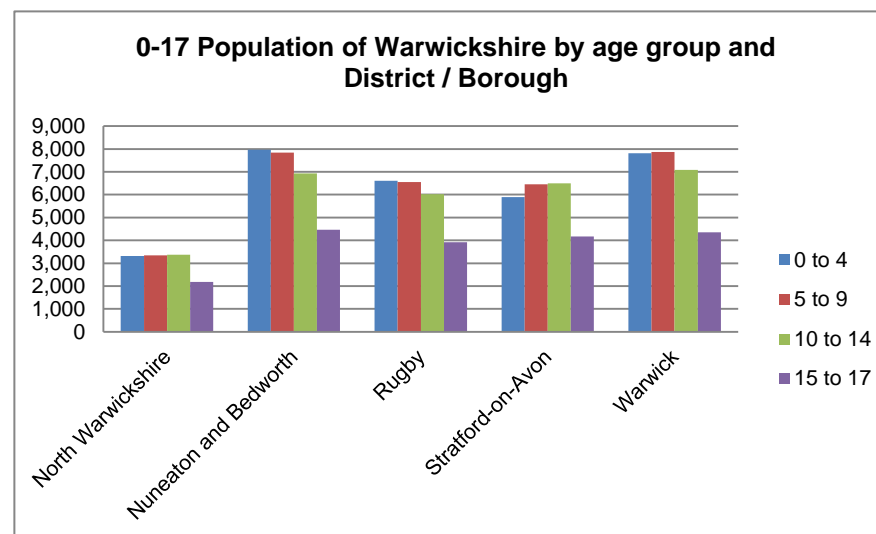
As part of the continuing revision of the Board's governance arrangements, the Multi-agency Audit group was established, and began meeting in January 2017. The terms of reference for existing sub-committees were refreshed.

4. The Warwickshire Context

Warwickshire is a two tier County Council in the West Midlands composed of five District / Borough Councils. The demography of the county varies markedly from District to District, with the south of the county in general being more affluent than the north, which features significant deprivation in parts. The total 0-17 population of Warwickshire is 112,662, with the breakdown by age group and District / Borough shown in the table and graph below. The January 2017 school census found that 19% of school age children (reception to year 11) were from a black or minority ethnic background, compared with 14% in 2014.

	All population	0 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 17
Warwickshire	554,002	31,598	32,075	29,906	19,083
North Warwickshire	62,787	3,319	3,351	3,377	2,185
Nuneaton and Bedworth	126,319	7,964	7,840	6,930	4,469
Rugby	103,443	6,604	6,555	6,014	3,914
Stratford-on-Avon	121,522	5,892	6,460	6,497	4,167
Warwick	139,931	7,819	7,869	7,088	4,348

Source: ONS 2015 Mid year population estimates



Ethnicity of school age population in Warwickshire	
BME	White British
19%	81%

Source: Warwickshire School Census Jan 2017

Socio-economic Picture

Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough has the highest levels of deprivation in Warwickshire with a ranking of 111 out of 326 Local Authority Districts in England, (where 1 is the most deprived authority). Stratford on Avon District is the least deprived District in the County, ranked 272 out of 326 Local Authority Districts. In between, North Warwickshire is ranked 190, Rugby 240 and Warwick District 267.

Local Authority District	IMD - Rank of average score (out of 326)
Nuneaton & Bedworth	111
North Warwickshire	190
Rugby	240
Warwick	267
Stratford-on-Avon	272

The proportion of dependent children under the age of 20 (ie those living with parents and in non-advanced, unpaid, education or training) living in low-income families is a measure based on the number of children living in families in receipt of Child Tax Credits whose reported income is less than 60 per cent of the median income or in receipt of Income Support or (Income-Based) Jobseeker's Allowance, divided by the total number of children in the area (determined by Child Benefit data).

Table 2: Proportion of children in low income households

Nuneaton & Bedworth	19.5%
North Warwickshire	14.8%
Rugby	12.9%
Warwick	10.4%
Stratford on Avon	9.4%
Warwickshire	13.4%
England	19.9%

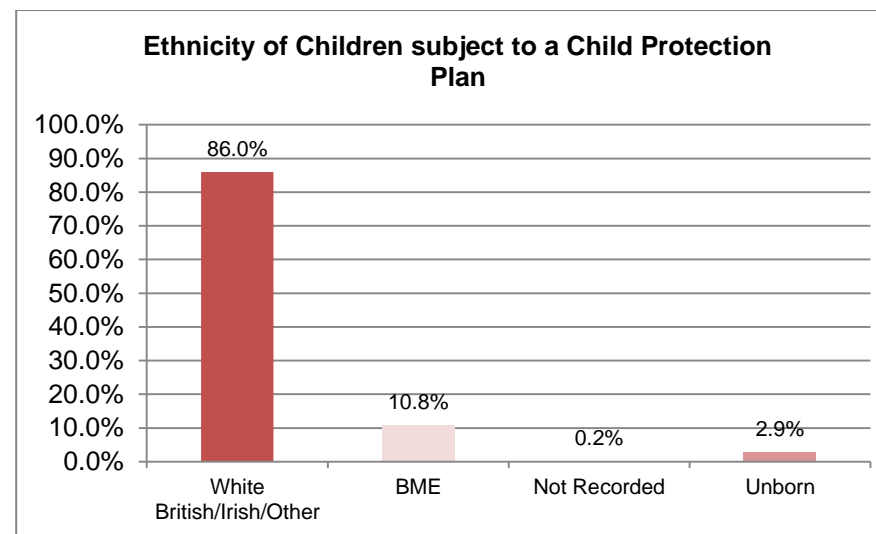
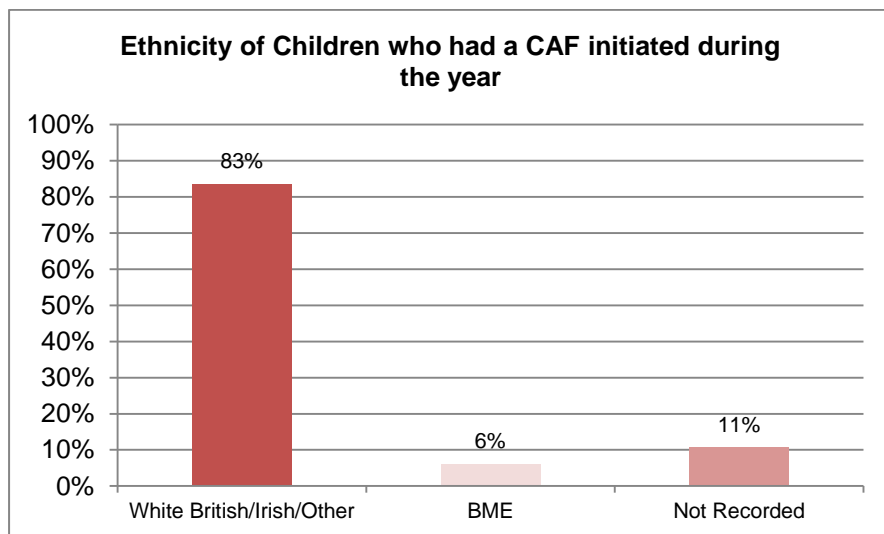
Source: [2017 child poverty profile](#)

5. Key Findings for 2016-17

Diversity and Equality

WSCB is very disappointed to note that the number of early help plans and social care referrals where the diversity characteristics of the child are not recorded has increased each quarter during the year. This data is important to enable us to understand whether all children have equal access to universal and targeted services. An audit of multi-agency referral forms (MARFs) received by the MASH found ethnicity was not provided on 10%, 38% didn't record first language, and 60% didn't record religion. Board members have been asked to explore this area of practice in their own agency, and where relevant, to identify the barriers for their staff in complying.

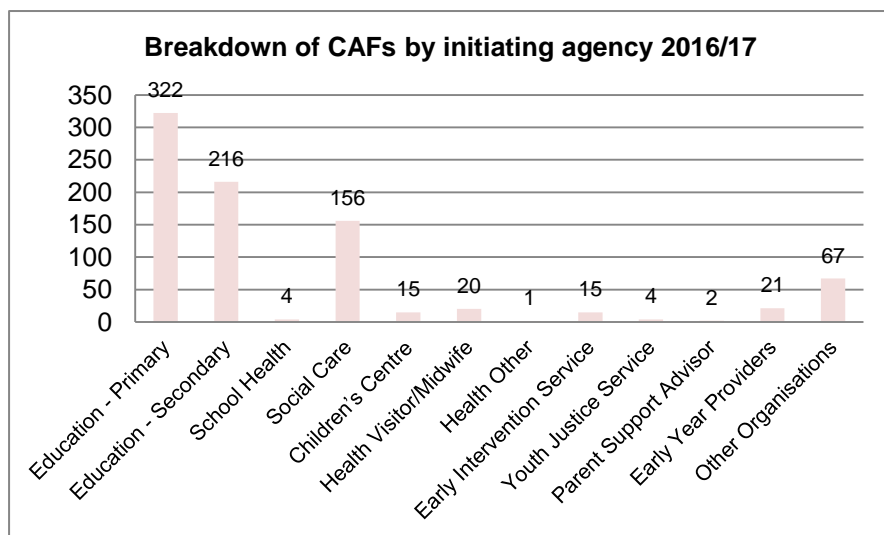
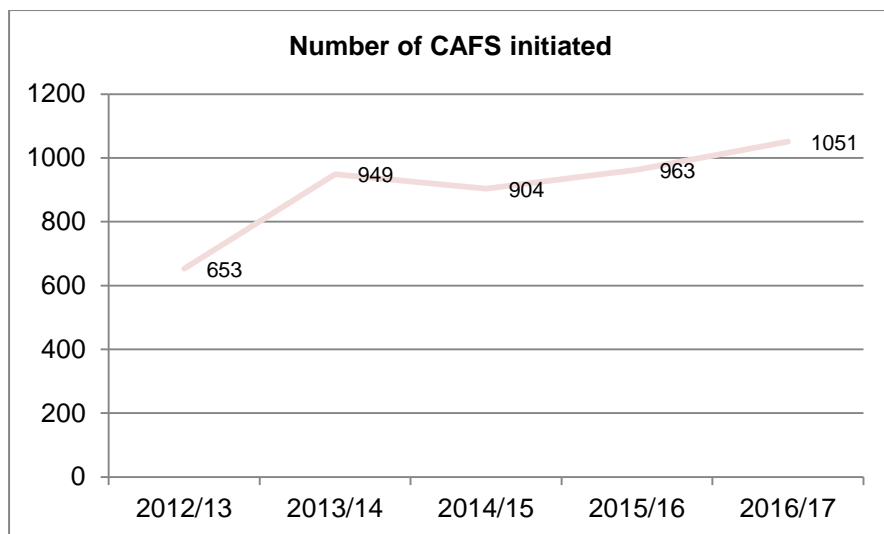
As a result of having incomplete data we have not made progress in understanding whether there is a systemic problem in access to safeguarding for particular groups of children.



Neglect

Multi-agency early help

There has been a small increase compared with the previous year in both the number of multi-agency early help assessments and plans, and in the diversity of agencies initiating these early help single assessments, although schools continue to be the dominant sector in leading multi-agency early help. However there continue to be low numbers of Early Help single assessments (formerly called 'CAFs') initiated by agencies providing services to preschool children, e.g. Children's Centre staff, health visitors and early years settings. Only 7 Early Help assessments were initiated by nurseries and 14 by pre-schools in 2016-17.



Not all 'early help' is provided within the Early Help single assessment (CAF) arrangements, for example we are aware that targeted help can be provided by a single agency such as a school

or health visitor, offered directly to the family without using the formal multi-agency early help structures. For many children this may meet their needs, although in order to ensure this is the case we are encouraging agencies to record what they are worried about, and the help being offered as a result, on a straightforward plan. This can then be used to review the success or otherwise of their interventions. However we need more information to be confident that an informal, single agency approach is appropriate for all the children being helped in this way, and we are going to adopt 'early help' as an additional strategic priority for 2017-18 to be the vehicle for this, and other related work.

The data appears to suggest that there is a strong pattern that the agency which initiates early help by convening the first family support meeting continues to hold the lead professional role for the duration of the intervention. This may mean that it is not always the best placed professional leading the plan, and is another issue that we will seek to understand as part of the Early Help work strand.

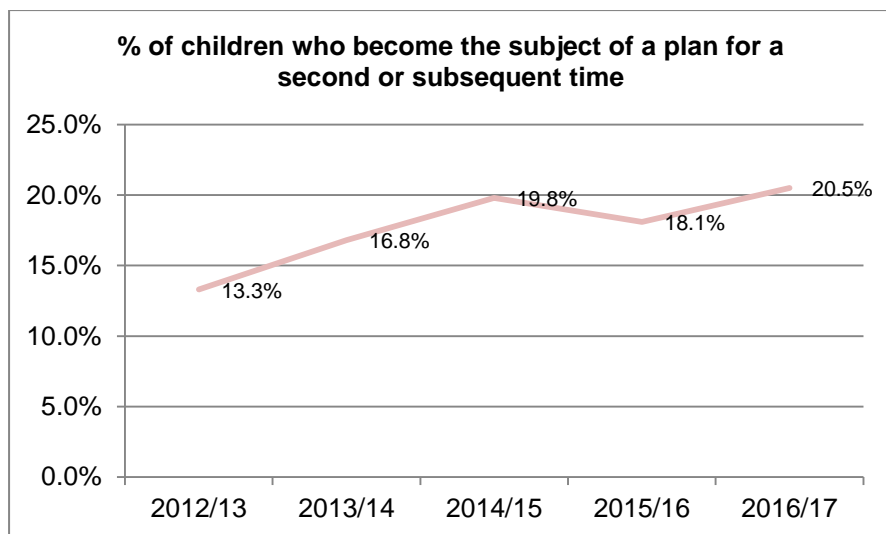
Pattern of re-referrals

The Warwickshire MASH opened in May 2016. During the year there was an increase in referrals. This pattern has been seen elsewhere when a MASH first opens as agencies test the new arrangement. There has also been an increase in re-referrals. A significant number of these cases did not receive early help as suggested by the MASH at the first referral, and WSCB has agreed to sponsor a piece of work by the Local Government Association which will look at this.

Increase in repeat plans

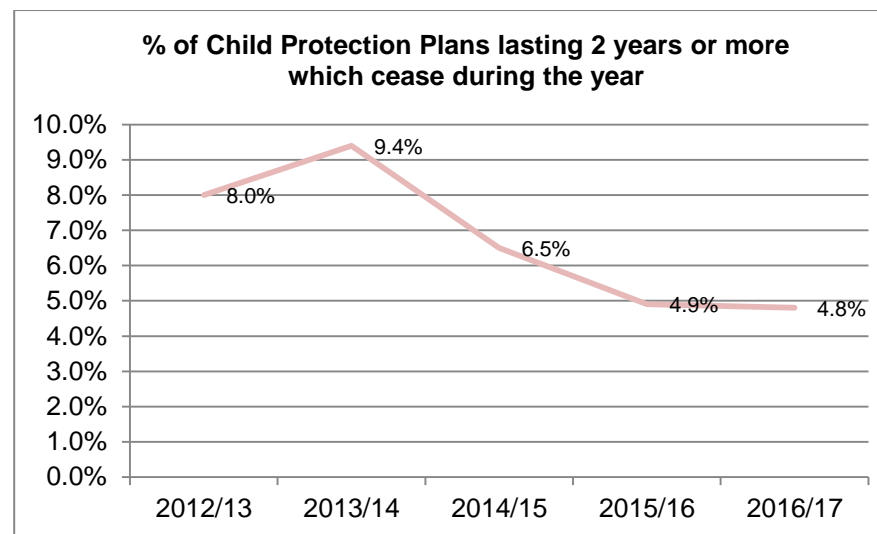
The number of children having a 2nd or 3rd child protection plan has increased during the year. Many of these plans are for neglect or emotional abuse. We have well established arrangements for evaluating the progress of third plans, but we are responding to the overall increase by giving more scrutiny to first and second child

protection plans to see if improvements could be made to the impact of these. The neglect toolkit in development, and revised training offer will be part of this work.



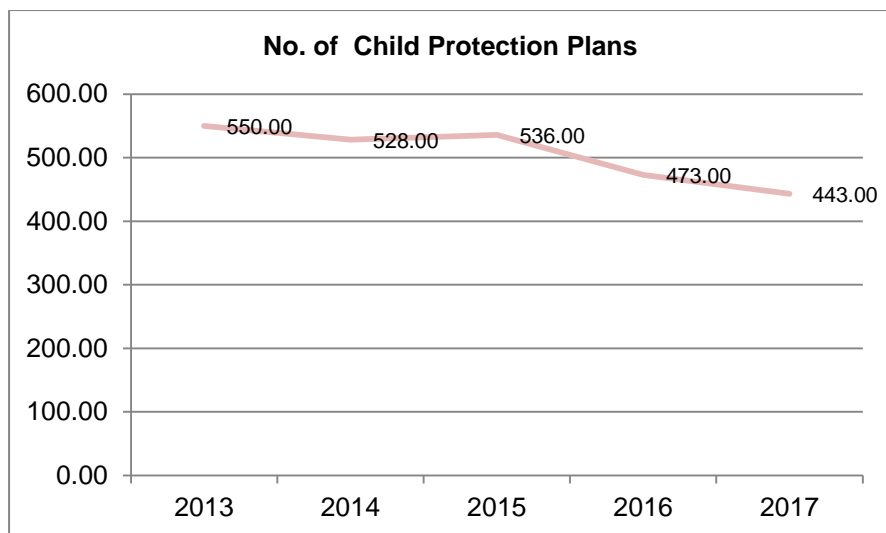
Long CP plans (over 2 years)

After three years of falling year on year, the percentage of plans lasting more than 2 years was 4.8% at the end of the year, very similar to the figure at the end of the previous year which was 4.9%. The criteria for a child having a child protection plan are that it is assessed that they are suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm so it is generally undesirable for a child to have a plan for as long as 2 years, although it may be necessary in a small number of cases. The average figure across the UK in 2015-16 was 3.8% which suggests that the rate in Warwickshire is still a little high.



Decrease in number of Child Protection Plans

There has been a continued reduction in the overall number of child protection plans in Warwickshire. There are a number of reasons for this, including closer scrutiny when initial conferences are requested of whether all reasonable steps have been taken to engage the family in services under a 'child in need' plan, and work to reduce the number of children looked after who are subject to a CP plan.



Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

We now have wide engagement of partners in the CSE agenda, resulting in substantial progress in embedding recognition and tackling of CSE as 'core business' in Warwickshire. An example of this is the requirement for taxi drivers to undertake training as a requirement of their licence, which has been adopted by all the District and Borough councils.

During 2016-17 the police and CPS concluded 23 successful prosecutions against adults sexually exploiting Warwickshire children. The trial judge praised the multi-agency team around these children which safeguarded them and supported the successful conclusion of the trial.

Children reported 'missing'

There was another significant increase this year in the number of children reported missing, and the number of children repeatedly

going missing. This is examined in more detail in the CSE section of the report, but we believe it still reflects an increasing awareness of the implications of a child being 'missing' and correspondingly, an increase in statutory intervention being sought for these children. However the County Council has put significant extra resource into the team that undertakes return home interviews and interventions to missing children, and these staff are located in the CSE team. For the first time since WSCB began scrutinising this area of practice, we are now confident that all children reported missing are proactively offered this service

Use of B and B for homeless young people

For the first time this year WSCB has collected data on the number of 16 and 17 year olds presenting as homeless (on their own, as opposed to with an adult carer) are placed in Bed and Breakfast accommodation. Several, but not all, of the Councils did place some children in B and B, despite the relevant statutory guidance stating this is not acceptable. The reasons are in essence about insufficiency of suitable accommodation for young people for whom foster care is not necessary or desirable.

It is acknowledged by Housing that B and B accommodation is not suitable for homeless 16/17 year olds. However, there may be occasions when B and B is the only accommodation that can be accessed in an emergency – for example as a result of an out of hours homeless approach. In addition, it may also be the case that for particularly vulnerable households, a supported environment in a specific, specially selected B and B may be a better option than an unsupported self contained temporary accommodation unit. In any event, B and B would usually only be used for short time periods until alternative accommodation can be sourced. Options for temporary accommodation are considered on a case by case basis, and also bearing in mind the availability of suitable accommodation units.

6. Core Statutory Functions

6.1 Policies and Procedure to support inter agency children's safeguarding

New Procedures

During 2016-17 WSCB published new policies and procedures including the MASH Operating Protocol, MARF (multi-agency referral form) and MARF guidance and guidance for recognising and responding to concerns about FGM.

The establishment of the MASH in May 2016 allowed for consistency across the county in the arrangements for professionals to have consultation with a social worker, and learning from a case review WSCB contributed to last year, this has included ending the practice of 'no name' consultations.



Also as a result of learning from a case review, WSCB has agreed a position on how the role of 'lead professional' will be carried out while a social work lead single assessment is underway, to support continuation of services already in place. This has been incorporated into the Assessment protocol

Early Help assessments

WSCB has endorsed the WCC move towards one assessment and plan for each child, including the move to use a revised 'early help single assessment' rather than the previously used 'CAF'. A complementary, concise, assessment form has also been published, to record very early, single agency interventions. This is being promoted to enable agencies to communicate clearly with parents about the objective of interventions, which may be quite low level, and to review and record if these are having an impact.

Updates to existing policies and procedures

The revised Joint Housing protocol for homeless 16 and 17 year olds was completed and published, as was a revised Escalation procedure. The new Escalation procedure sets out a requirement for agencies to provide arrangements for escalating internal disagreements about safeguarding decision.

The Judicial Review possibly affecting the WSCB threshold document was concluded, allowing work to progress on reviewing this, with completion expected early in 2016-17. The revisions aims to be clearer and more accessible than the current version.

Web-enabling the WSCB Procedures manual

WSCB decided not to take part in the West Midlands regional procedures project because the model that was chosen was unsuitable for our resourcing arrangements. However we have instead agreed to collaborate with Coventry Safeguarding Children Board, who also felt the regional model was unsuitable for them, and we will be jointly commissioning an external provider to supply and update procedures. The new procedures will go live in September 2017, and it is expected they will be accessed through the new website. This is an important development which will provide easier navigation of the material for users, and consistency in the provision of updates. It will also begin the processing of increasingly aligning our respective safeguarding arrangements which will assist schools and health providers who care for children living in both Coventry and Warwickshire

6.2 Monitoring and Evaluating the effectiveness of children's safeguarding arrangements in Warwickshire

In addition to undertaking serious and local case reviews (detailed in section 6.4 below) WSCB evaluates the effectiveness of safeguarding practice through the use of a performance data set, a multi-agency audit programme, and single agency performance reports taken at the Performance, Monitoring and Evaluation subcommittee.

Performance Data

The performance data set has been developed over several years and draws on data from across the partnership. It is reported quarterly and looked at both by the Performance subcommittee and also the full board. Comparison of data from year to year has enabled partners to see changes in activity and seek to understand these. The full dataset for 2016-17 can be found here.

During 2016-17 this has been given a higher profile and more scrutiny in full WSCB meetings.

Multi-agency Audits

During this year we established a multi-agency audit programme. The themes of the audits will be selected to examine core aspects of safeguarding processes, and strategic priorities. Audits held so far looked at decision making at the point of referral into the MASH, decision making at the conclusion of a social work lead single assessment, and work carried out after a referral to the MASH results in recommendation of early help.

As a result of the audits undertaken so far, feedback has been provided to MASH about some cases where the request to undertake early help was not made to the best placed professional, a reminder to health visiting to use 'was not brought' to record

children's non-attendance at appointments, and feedback to social care about making use of the pathway plan to structure support to young parents.

A pattern was observed about assessment of parenting capacity being weak in assessments undertaken by schools, and this will be fed into the Early Help strategic priority.

Single agency performance reports

The Performance Monitoring and Evaluation subcommittee takes single agency performance reports, including most of those the LSCB is required to consider, such as the annual reports on Private Fostering, the LADO service (Local Authority Designated Officer) and the Review Unit. The analysis of return home interviews is taken by the CSE, Missing and Trafficking subcommittee.

In addition to the routine reports listed above, the subcommittee takes reports to examine services to particular vulnerable groups, or to test the impact of other learning and improvement activity.

Children missing education and electively home educated.

As a result of weaknesses in the system identified partly by an SCR WSCB contributed to in 2015-16, WCC brought a report on strengthened arrangements to safeguard children missing education. This includes transfer of responsibility for electively home educated children to the Attendance, Compliance and Enforcement team, to strengthen the safeguarding component.

Safe sleeping assessments

Work undertaken on behalf of CDOP to reduce sudden infant deaths resulted in 'safe sleeping assessments' being adopted in Warwickshire. The three trusts providing midwifery to Warwickshire families provided audits of compliance with the new requirement to undertake these, which found near 100% compliance overall. A

further audit will be requested in 2016-17 to evaluate the quality of the assessment.

Safeguarding of young carers

A report was requested from WCC commissioning and the commissioned provider to evaluate the effectiveness of arrangements to safeguard young carers. The subcommittee was concerned that assessment model used only addressed 2 of the 3 domains of the framework for assessment, the element being omitted being parenting capacity. A request was made for this to be looked at, and an update to the subcommittee reported that it had been agreed that the Young Carers service would use the same early help single assessment format as other targeted services

Schools safeguarding audit

A specific audit tool has been developed by the Schools and Learning subcommittee to audit schools' compliance with their statutory safeguarding responsibilities. This was used for the first time in the summer of 2016, with fewer than 10 schools failing to submit an audit. A WSCB action plan to address thematic findings has been progressed; this included measures to raise the profile of WSCB with schools and to promote the CSE training offer. There were criticisms about technical aspects of completing the audit which have been addressed in this year's version, but there was also feedback from many designated safeguarding leads on the value of taking a rigorous and structured look at all aspects of safeguarding in their own organisation.

All the responses were reviewed by the Education Safeguarding Manager, who undertook visits to individual schools as indicated by one or more of their responses, (or failure to respond) to give support to their improvement plan.

Inspection reports

WSCB takes reports on external inspection of partner agencies. In 2016-17 this included HMIC PEEL inspections and a CQC inspection of safeguarding and looked after children. The CQC action plan is being monitored by the Performance, Monitoring and Evaluation subcommittee.

6.3 Communication, Learning and Development

WSCB completed and published a revised [communications strategy](#), which makes arrangements for proactive communication of key messages, as well as responding to safeguarding issues as they arise, and managing the publication of case reviews.

Sharing Learning from reviews and audits

During the year we have produced newsletters and practitioner briefing notes which are published on our News page, and sent out to key staff in partner agencies for disseminating in their organisations.



New Website

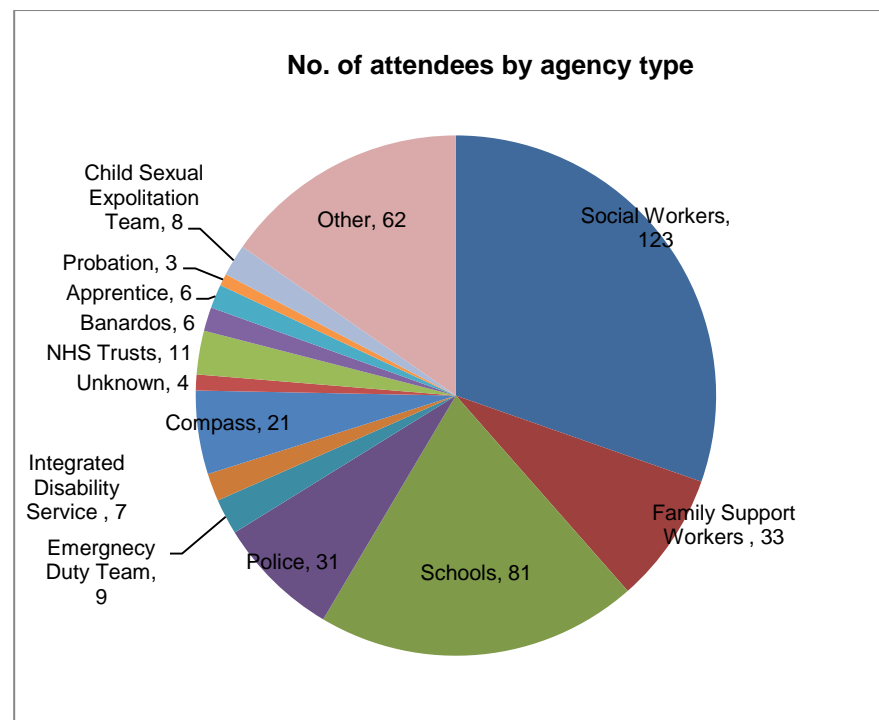
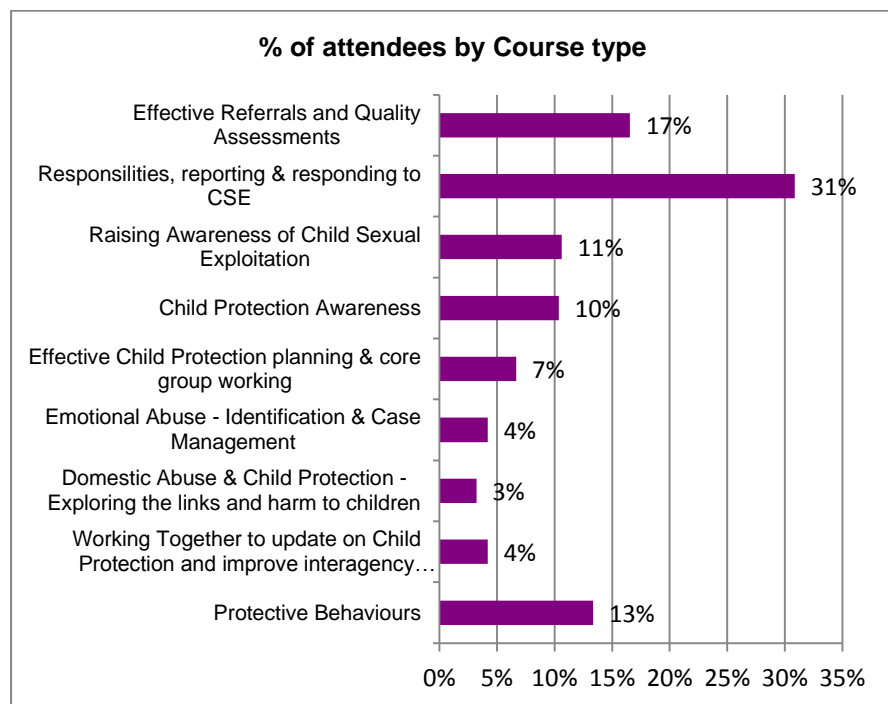
We are collaborating with the Safeguarding Adults board to develop a new Safeguarding website which will provide a more attractive and flexible place to host news, procedures, case reviews and training information. This will go live in the autumn of 2017.

Multi-agency training

WSCB continued to provide a core suite of learning and development packages for all multi-agency staff; informed by the training strategy, learning and improvement framework and quality assurance activity, such as reviews, research and inspection.

Multi-agency training provided additional learning opportunities for delegates; increasing understanding of different of the different roles and agencies engaged working children and young people in Warwickshire.


Across the year 26 training events were delivered to 405 multi-agency staff, from a programme of 9 courses. Social care were the largest agency representation accessing training.




CSE Awareness raising

Partners provided funding to continue the '[Something's not right](#)' campaign to raise awareness in the community about what CSE is, how to recognise it and who to tell. The steady increase in referrals and disclosures of CSE and related issues suggests that this activity is making a difference.

Actions for 2017/18:

 Refresh the Training Strategy to ensure that the content and style of our training offer is responsive to the changing safeguarding practice context

 Undertake communications activity to promote new Procedures manual and new website

6.4 Serious and local case reviews

There has been an increased awareness in the partnership of the requirement to consider an SCR for cases where children have been 'seriously harmed', supported by a formalisation of the arrangements for such cases to be referred.

During 2016-17 5 cases were referred to Special Cases, all required multi-agency scoping for consideration of a local or serious case review. The decision to hold an SCR was made for two of these. One of them focused narrowly on the effectiveness of core group working, and has progressed swiftly using a lean, practitioner informed methodology. This will be presented to WSCB and published early in 2017-18. The second is a more complicated case involving several LSCB areas, and careful scoping and planning are underway to ensure the learning is focussed and useful.

Scoping is still in progress for a further two cases, and Special Cases is currently monitoring the fifth case because the facts of the case as decided in care proceedings have been subject to an appeal.

A further cases was referred for consideration of a review, this concerned a member of staff in a local authority school being

convicted of sexual offences against children. This case did not meet the criteria for a serious case review, but the County Council was asked to commission an independent review of safeguarding practice in the school. This will be reported to Special Cases early in 2017-18.

Two serious case reviews were completed. The 'Child T' SCR was started in 2013, but progress was stalled as a result of a criminal investigation and trial which potentially involved members of staff, restricting their participation for a time in the review process. This review concerned the killing of a Warwickshire looked after child by a local authority foster carer living out of county.

There was significant learning for the County Council in relation to the operation of the Fostering Service, and the sharing of information between this service and other council services. Although completion of the review was held up by the trial, emerging learning was acted on and there has been a re-design of the fostering service. The review drew attention to weaknesses in the LADO (local authority designated officer) arrangements for responding to allegations against people in a position of trust, some caused by differences in practice between the East and West Midlands areas, which are being addressed through the national LADO network.

Learning for all professionals includes the need to maintain professional curiosity and respectful uncertainty including in relation to professional colleagues.

The full SCR and WSCB response can be found on the WSCB [SCR page](#). WSCB has also published two briefing notes for practitioners, which can be found on the WSCB [News page](#).

A second SCR was completed during 2016-17, but publication was delayed until the completion of criminal proceedings. This review looked at the reasons why the multi-agency network was unable

over several years to make an effective response to a sibling group who experienced serious neglect and emotional abuse, physical abuse and suspected sexual abuse for several years.

The review found that single agency early help is not always recorded on a plan, which makes it difficult to review whether or not it is having the required impact. This is being addressed as part of the work to re-design support for early help, including publication of a simple tool for recording single agency targeted interventions. Agencies also underestimated the seriousness of the parents' harmful care because of a narrow view of what underpins neglect, and a failure to recognise the significance of the children being blamed for deficiencies in their care. The Systems and Procedures subcommittee is going to publish tools and guidance to better support assessment of neglect, and these messages will be incorporated into training.

The review identified, significantly, that agencies are not clear how to undertake investigation of sexual abuse when professionals have a 'reasonable suspicion' but the child concerned has not made a disclosure. A working group is looking at what can be learned from agencies that provide 'pre-trial' counselling for victims of sexual assaults, to develop techniques for opening non-leading conversations with children about whom there are sexual abuse concerns. We will be exploring some of these challenges in our 2017 Conference, which has the theme 'Hear my voice'.


A local case review is underway looking at practice in relation to recruitment, supervision and investigation of concerns in relation to staff in early years settings.

Learning from Children's Home review

Last year's annual report included learning from a review of inter-agency safeguarding of children at risk of CSE placed in

Warwickshire by other local authorities. An extensive action plan has now been completed, addressing issues such as the arrangements for WCC to receive and respond to notifications that young people have been placed in the County, the links between Warwickshire's CSE team and Children's Homes, and ensuring that the learning from the review informs the way Warwickshire liaises with other LAs in respect of their children looked after placed out of County. WSCB has requested some performance reports for 2017-18 to test the effectiveness of new arrangements.

Actions for 2017/18:

-  Develop our approach to involving children and young people in case reviews

6.5 Participation in the planning of services for children in the area of the authority.

The Warwickshire Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) opened in May 2016. WSCB took an active role in the planning for this, taking updates at all the board meetings, and helping to shape the new multi-agency referral form, '(MARF)' and MASH operating protocol in the Procedures subcommittee. In the first year of operation, WSCB has taken reports on MASH internal quality assurance arrangements to enable the partnership to understand how the MASH is working, and where changes to policy and practice are needed.

WSCB is disappointed that despite much multi-agency discussion and challenge, funding for a health decision maker to sit in the MASH has not been agreed. The impact of this, evidenced in multi-agency audits, is that triage takes place without always having

information from all health providers, which undermines the objective of a multi-agency assessment.

Strategic Partnership Working



Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board

The [Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board](#) is a multi-agency body whose aim is to reduce crime and disorder and promote safety in Warwickshire. In spring 2017, the

Board approved a new Community Safety Agreement, aligned to the Warwickshire Police and Crime Plan, and with a new focus on vulnerability and harm. New priorities were set with tackling violence and abuse, including child sexual exploitation, a top issue for the Board.

Preventing Radicalisation

Warwickshire has a partnership action plan in place to deliver the Government's Prevent Strategy and ensure statutory agencies are meeting their responsibilities under the Prevent Duty. WSCB endorsed this plan in January 2016, having contributed to its development. During 2016/17, a new Prevent Officer was appointed to support delivery of the actions, including training of frontline staff and community groups in the identification of children and adults that may be vulnerable to radicalisation. A project called Our Families, Our Future, was also delivered which engaged the community in Prevent and other safeguarding subjects such as child sexual exploitation and domestic abuse. Warwickshire's Channel Panel met monthly during 2016/17 and saw an increase in referrals for this multi-agency support. Work continues going into 2017/18 with increased focus on training and community engagement.

Violence against Women and Girls Board (VAWG)

WSCB engages with the VAWG board through membership of the independent chair on the board, and the Learning and Improvement Officer sits on the Harmful Practices sub-group. During the year, this group completed work on a Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) procedure and screening tool.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)

The purpose of the Joint Strategic Needs assessment (JSNA) JSNA is to analyse the current and future health and well-being needs of the local population, to inform the commissioning of health, wellbeing and social care services. The JSNA aims to establish a shared, evidence based consensus on the key local priorities across health and social care and is used to develop Warwickshire's Health and Wellbeing Strategy along with Commissioning Plans for the County Council, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and partners. Working Together requires that LSCBs 'inform and draw on the JSNA'.



The JSNA work is led by the Insight Service at the County Council but is dependent on contributions from all partner agencies to ensure it provides a holistic assessment of the needs of Warwickshire's residents.

The WSCB Development Manager liaises with officers leading the JSNA programme to identify areas for collaboration and influence. In 2016-17 this included the CAMHS needs assessment, and the move towards place based assessment, which provides an opportunity to address geographical inequality recognised in the WSCB's Diversity and Equality priority.

However some needs assessments which have a children's safeguarding element, such as the substance misuse and carers' needs assessments, took place without input from WSCB. This



identifies that further work is required to develop the relationship between the two partnerships. WSCB is seeking to do this by agreeing a 'memorandum of understanding' with the health and Wellbeing Board.

Published Needs Assessments can be found on the [JSNA webpages](#).

Domestic Homicide Reviews

WSCB Special Cases sub-committee has taken updates on the progress of three Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) involving households with children. This enables learning with implications for children's safeguarding to be included in our learning and improvement activity. It also supports a strong emphasis on ensuring that the process considers the ongoing needs of these children, including in relation to publication.

Actions for 2017/18:

-  Complete the process of agreeing the Memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the health and Wellbeing Board
-  Engage with the VAWG to promote the newly developed FGM material

6.6 Child Death Review Panel

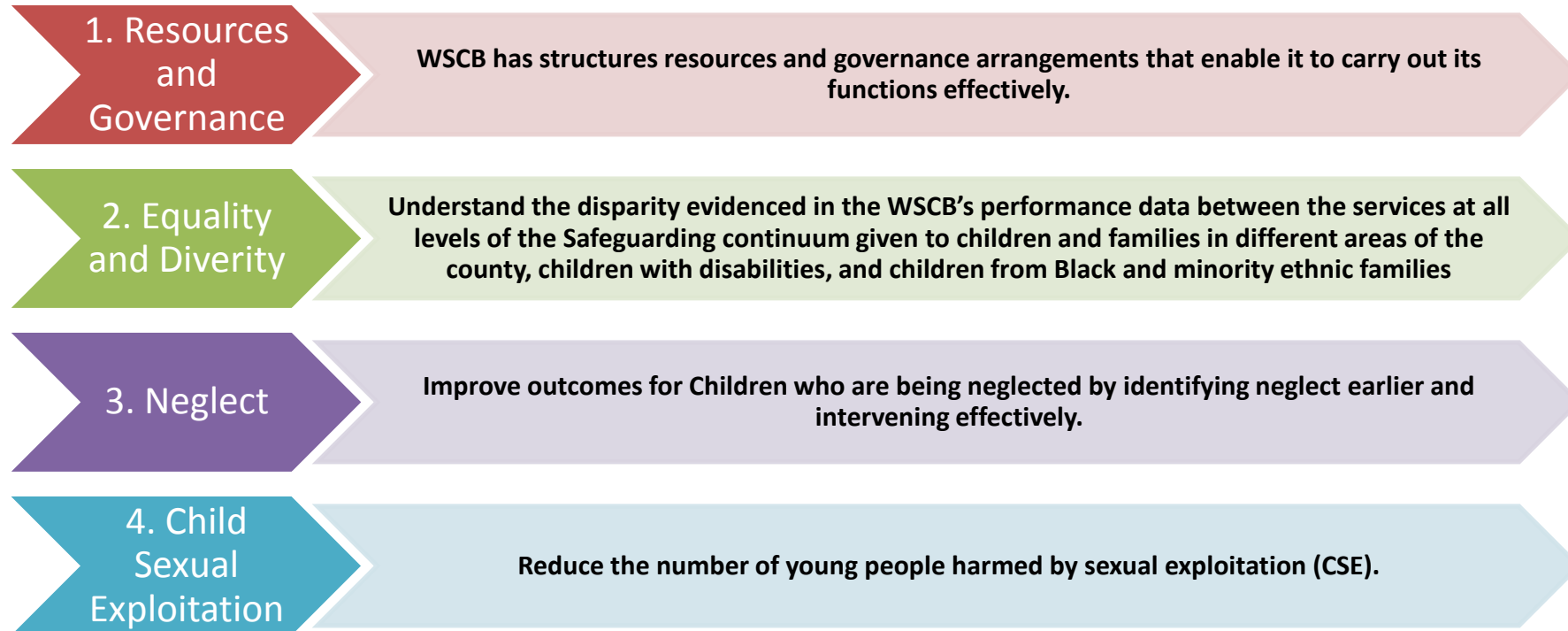
The purpose of Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) is to review all child deaths and identify any modifiable factors in the circumstances of each death with a view to addressing these. A separate CDOP report is published which details the work undertaken by all three panels in our sub-regional arrangements with Solihull and Coventry. The majority of learning identified at Warwickshire Child Death Overview Panel has come from internal reviews conducted by NHS Trusts i.e. Root Cause Analysis or Serious Untoward Incident investigations in relation to neonatal deaths. Reduced fetal movements in the later stages of pregnancy featured in a number of neonatal deaths reviewed and actions were identified by the Trust concerned to raise awareness of the risks of reduced fetal movements with both expectant mothers and health professionals. Failure to detect a pathological CTG (which records the fetal heartbeat and uterine contractions) was also a feature in some neonatal deaths as was the failure to follow management plans.

The need to develop a palliative care pathway for neonates diagnosed antenatally with a condition incompatible with life was also identified and raised at the Coventry and Warwickshire Perinatal Network.

In relation to older children, raising awareness of rider safety with schools was identified as an action.

7. Progress against Strategic Objectives

In addition to its core functions, WSCB has four strategic priorities:



1. Resources and Governance

The context in which LSCB operate has moved on considerably since WSCB was established, we need to ensure that WSCB has structures fit for current purpose, and that all organisations and services which should be involved in safeguarding children are engaged in WSCB's work

What we did:

Sub-committee arrangements.

The Terms of reference of all the sub-committees have been reviewed, and the membership revised in some cases to ensure that all relevant agencies are making a contribution.

A new subcommittee was established with responsibility for undertaking multi-agency audits. Although it only met twice during 2016-17 the benefits of this approach to auditing were observed, with a number of findings that wouldn't have come to light looking at files one at a time. The participants have also fed back how much they learned from the round table discussion. In 2017-18 we plan to consolidate the methodology to ensure we develop rigorous methods of ensuring practitioner input, and dissemination of systems learning.

Governance review

Following on from the review of the WSCB constitution last year, a new Membership agreement was agreed and sent to agencies for signatures. The agreement combines a commitment to membership of the board from the organisation, signed by the Chief Exec, and a separate commitment from the nominated board member for the agency. Some agencies took the opportunity to review which role in the organisation represented them as the board member.

WSCB agreed the text of a Memorandum of Understanding with other partnerships, including the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Family Justice Board, to be offered to these board for their endorsement. The process of obtaining agreement about a form of words that is satisfactory to both sides is continuing.

Review of the financial contribution board partners make to the board

WSCB began the year planning to agree a new distribution of financial contributions to the budget. A series of papers were considered at each meeting, the first suggesting that the distribution should be proportionate to the number of families served by the organisation. This would mean the bulk of contribution would be shared by Health, Police and Local authority, with much smaller contributions made by Probation and Cafcass who come into contact with very few families in the County. A further paper set out how this might look for each organisation, based on the current overall level of contribution to the board. This model was chosen because it was in keeping with the spirit of the Children and Social Work Bill (now law) which was at the time making its passage through parliament.




Several meetings were held by leads for the key agencies, but these did not result in proposals for revised arrangements, and so at the end of the year it was agreed that contributions for 2017-18 would be made in the same amounts they have previously; including the payment of additional contributions for the ring-fenced Review budget.

Undertake review of the function and make up of the WSCB business team.

This has not been undertaken in the way originally conceived, because it was not clear how quickly new arrangements for children's safeguarding partnerships would be made, and what changes might be introduced. However the independent chair and board manager have had a series of discussions with their adult counterparts to consider what scope there could be for collaborative working.

Both teams are very lean, and it was felt there was no scope for rationalising roles. However resilience could be improved by working more closely and collaborating over some support functions. In a similar vein, there may be scope for extending sub-regional collaboration with Solihull and Coventry business teams. Further work will be undertaken in 2017-18 to identify specific proposals for these opportunities.

Actions for 2017/18:

-  Develop multi-agency audit methodology to ensure good quality practitioner input, and dissemination of systems learning.
-  Agree new arrangements for funding the board.
-  Seek to develop specific areas of collaboration for the WSCB business team with the adult safeguarding board team in Warwickshire, and the children safeguarding board teams in the sub-region.

2. Equality and Diversity

Statutory Board Partners have a duty under the Equality Act to “advance equality of opportunity to people who share a relevant protected characteristic and people who do not share it”. Preliminary analysis suggests the variation is not explained solely by socio-economic factors, and that interventions may be required to ensure all children in Warwickshire are safeguarded equally.

What we did:

In order to be able to examine this question, WSCB needs reliable data about the profiles of children in receipt of services. Very disappointingly, agency recording of diversity information deteriorated throughout the year. We therefore do not have good enough data about the diversity characteristics of children referred to the MASH or in receipt of multi-agency early help to make any progress with understanding if there is a problem.

The ethnicity, first language and religion of children referred to the MASH is too often not recorded on the referral form.

Partner agencies are being asked to undertake some work in their own agency to establish why the information isn't provided. Specifically, WSCB would like to understand whether it reflects discomfort in establishing the information in the first instance, or whether the information is held by the agency but not regarded as important, and omitted from the referral.




The diversity of the school age population in Warwickshire is increasing much faster than the population as a whole, and so it would be expected that this pattern should be seen in service provision as well. However if children from some cultural or ethnic groups have less access to universal services then they are less likely to be offered targeted services when they are required. For this reason it is important that organisations know that the population accessing their services mirrors the population of their catchment area.

‘Smart Start’ and access to services for disadvantaged groups.

The Smart Start strategy is a Public Health lead project to improve school readiness. It is underpinned by a foundation project including extensive engagement with 0-5 families and practitioners working with 0-5 families, ethnographic research with “hard to reach” 0-5 families and the 0-5 Strategic Needs Assessment were undertaken to assess the needs of the 0-5 population in Warwickshire.

The strategy sets out a vision of an integrated system of 0-5 universal and early help provision and a direction to address service access inequities. The work to redesign 0-5 services, which takes into account access for BME and other disadvantaged groups has commenced. Additionally, projects have been piloted to improve access to services for all families and support non-English speaking families: Making it REAL in Warwickshire, Closing the Gap in Early Years, Re-imagining our Children’s Centres, Family Information Service for 0-5 families, Chatter Matters Ambassadors and Bilingual Chatter Matters, Are you sitting comfortably?

Actions for 2017/18:

-  Take a report at WSCB on agency findings about the barriers to recording diversity characteristics.
-  Undertake an audit of safeguarding cases where child has disabilities
-  Monitor the impact of the JSNA ‘place based’ needs assessment model on access to services across the county

3. Neglect

Our case reviews have found that agencies in Warwickshire are replicating what has been found nationally in responding to neglect: Children are too frequently left in neglectful situations for long periods of time, and commonly concern crystallises around incidents of physical or sexual abuse rather than the neglect itself. Neglected Children are at increased risk of other sources of harms such as sexual exploitation and mental ill-health, and are more likely to develop behaviours which cause problems for others such as offending and antisocial behaviour

What we did?

Development of Neglect toolkit

A draft toolkit is now ready to be shared for consultation. This brings together tools already in use by some agencies, and new approaches/ assessment tools which are being implemented by social care.

The next stage is to map the intervention approaches against the different types of neglect to embed the learning from (unpublished) Family G SCR

Contribution of 'Smart Start' to tackling emerging neglect.

The [0-5 Strategic Needs Assessment](#) was undertaken to assess the deficits in school readiness among children in Warwickshire, and provide recommendations to tackle these. The report sets out the links between poor school readiness and poverty, abuse and neglect, and being in a black or minority ethnic family.

The Smart Start Strategy sets out what needs to be delivered to address school readiness for all children, in particular those from the vulnerable groups. The strategy places a significant emphasis on developing appropriate support to parents who experience emotional and/ or mental health issues, including a development of a dyadic support. The strategy also proposes to develop a range of appropriate parental supports and guidance, including safeguarding education, parenting programmes, support for SEND and hard to reach families.

A number of projects have been piloted: Inspiring Futures Programme (Malachi), HY2 (Valley House), Delaying Pregnancy (WCC), Family Group Conferencing for 0-5 families (WCC).

Think Family protocol

The 'Think Family' Protocol, originally agreed by both WSCB and WSAB in 2013, has been refreshed, and will be tabled at the Procedures subcommittee of each board in 2017-18. The purpose of the protocol is to prompt services working with parents or carers to consider the impact of the adult's needs on dependent children, and to take action if required to initiate assessment of the children.

Effectiveness of early help offered to cases which MASH decides have not met the threshold for social work lead assessment.

Two audits have looked at the services offered to families following a referral to the MASH which resulted in a recommendation to offer early help.

A substantial sample of cases re-referred to the MASH was audited to understand more about the causes of re-referral. Warwickshire's re-referral rate has been higher than statistical neighbours since 2012, but it increased further during the last year. The audit found that some of the re-referrals should have been recorded as 'contacts' as they were requests for consultation or received in respect of open cases.

However there was a pattern of some cases featuring domestic abuse or emerging neglect where the cases were re-referred by the same person, apparently because of concern that there was no change. In some of these cases, the original referrer had been asked to initiate early help but it did not appear that this had happened.






The multi-agency audit subcommittee looked in detail at a small sample of cases where the MASH recommended early help. Whilst not statistically significant, the sample illustrated the range of outcomes in this scenario. This included the referrer doing an early help assessment (CAF) as requested, continuing to offer early help without a new assessment, and no early help being offered. In two cases it was not clear which professional would be best placed to initiate early help, and in another the school was asked rather than referring health professional and this was not successful because they didn't have all the information.

Further work to address gaps in Early Help provision

It is clear that further work is required to understand and address barriers to universal services offering early help when it is suggested by the MASH, and WSCB has been pleased to take up the offer of some work by the LGA to help with this.

WSCB has also decided that 'early help' needs to be a strategic priority in its own right, as the issues identified here are not solely related to management of Neglect.

Actions for 2017/18:

-  Complete and promote the Neglect toolkit
-  Deliver training to support use of the toolkit.
-  Sign off and promote the revised 'Think Family' protocol
-  Undertake multi-agency audit of children's cases where adults are in receipt of mental health or substance misuse services.
-  Adopt 'early help' as a new strategic priority

4. Child Sexual Exploitation

Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board agreed its first CSE strategy in May 2013. Good progress has been made against many of its objectives, but not all are sufficiently well embedded for this area of work to be regarded as "business as usual".

What we did?

Governance and Partnership Working

A key activity over the last half of the year has been to review the governance and partnership working. WSCB leads strategy and an action plan which supports and influences work across Warwickshire to safeguard children who are victims or at risk of child sexual exploitation, children missing from home, school and care and child trafficking. The terms of reference of the subcommittee have been revised, bringing together the interlinked areas of CSE, missing children and trafficking.

WSCB Child Sexual Exploitation, Missing & Trafficking Operational Group

This group was established in December 2016 and coordinates operational responses to high risk cases. The group ensures the service delivery, seeks to obtain and provide intelligence to identify patterns and trends. The group considers those children at highest risk of repeat missing episodes and children at risk or who have experienced child trafficking. The Operational group reports to the CSE, Trafficking and Missing subcommittee.

Operational partnership working

The partnership between Warwickshire Police, Warwickshire Children's Social care and Barnardos has been renewed, and this is a considerable strength of service delivery for children experiencing sexual exploitation in Warwickshire.

The CSE Multi-Agency Team are co-located. Roles and responsibilities have been reviewed and the team work well with one another. Efficiencies have been identified and addressed such as reducing the number of professionals attending Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) meetings and improved information sharing systems between the agencies has also been implemented.

Practice Approach

The CSE Team have worked on developing an approach to practice based on listening to young people and building enduring relationships, to enable them to build trust with professionals. Practitioners are trained and supported to see young people as individuals, to be transparent, recognise strengths and work in partnership with parents and other agencies.

Revision of Procedures

We have made substantial progress in our understanding of CSE, its causes, and the multiple and interconnected vulnerabilities of the children affected. To ensure we have a suitable framework to support practitioners, a task & finish group reporting to the CSE, Missing and Trafficking subcommittee has been reviewing the relevant procedures. These are in draft form and will be agreed and launched by September 2017.

The next step is to move from the quality of process and systems to the quality of outcomes for children and young people.

Awareness raising activity

Back in 2015 with support from Ed Sheeran (who agreed to us using his music to our video for free) we launched our Warwickshire 'Something's Not Right' Campaign. Our website www.warwickshirecse.co.uk and Social Media campaign are valuable resources to highlight child sexual exploitation.

The Something's Not Right campaign stand is taken to a wide range of events in Warwickshire. We have reached a wide range of professionals, volunteers and the public raising awareness of CSE in Warwickshire and giving information, advice and support.



Use of social media



Facebook and Twitter have been successfully used as engagement tools in 2016/17 with numbers of followers doubling and the reach of the campaign increasing due to this. In 2016-2017 Twitter had over 181,000 impressions, which equates to 2,000 a day. Our most popular tweet took place when we linked in with See Me – Hear Me West Midlands to support the Public Transport Hubs campaign across the whole of the Midlands. Warwickshire joined CSE teams from all across the region to raise awareness of CSE in train and bus stations giving out information to young people, parents and the public during at Leamington, Nuneaton and Rugby train stations. This one tweet reached 13,405 people. In total over 20,000 people viewed our twitter page that week. <https://twitter.com/WarksCSE/status/835172774528303105>

Training & Development

More than 2,500 professionals have received free CSE training provided by WSCB across Warwickshire to date. In 2016-17 35 people attended half day CSE Awareness Training. The demand for this is now falling as would be expected given the success in reaching a wide range of staff. 141 people attended full day Specialist or Targeted Training. There is still strong demand for this course.

Crashing Workshop

In 2016-2017 the WSCB also ran a CSE Workshop for professionals called Crashing. This drama production highlighted how sexual exploitation of boys and young men. 142 professionals from around the county attended the workshops. The feedback was really positive. The production is hard hitting but really highlights the importance of highlighting CSE can happen to boys and young men too. It is planned to run this again in the autumn of 2017, as the number of boys being referred for services is very low compared with girls, and probably reflects boys' experience of CSE being under recognised.

Youth Conference

The conference was a collaboration with Warwickshire Police, Warwickshire County Council, Barnardo's, Warwickshire Youth Justice Service, Public Health and the Respect Yourself Youth Panel. 15 schools attended with 120 young people and more than 30 staff and professionals on the day. This year's theme was 'One Thing Always Leads To Another' and was taken from the [Women and Equalities Report on Sexual Harassment in Schools \(Sept 2016\)](#)

Licensing and role in CSE prevention and Disruption

1400 taxi drivers across the county have taken part in training and awareness sessions and it is now mandatory for *all* drivers to attend CSE Training in order to gain a licence. Only Rotherham and a few other counties nationwide have achieved this level of engagement and support with taxi drivers. There is excellent support from licensing, within borough and district councils for this work. This has had a direct impact upon young people and led to referrals.

Children receiving a CSE Service

- From April 2016 – October 2016 56 children were subject to a Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation Meeting (MASE).
- From November 2016 - March 2017 132 children were subject to a MASE Meeting.
- 30 children were subject to review MASE meetings.
- Since the integrated approach to CSE has been undertaken where separate meeting are not required, there has been increased recording of MASE Meetings
- On 31st March 2017 there were 65 children open to the Child Sexual Exploitation Team. 35% where children looked after.

Local CSE profile

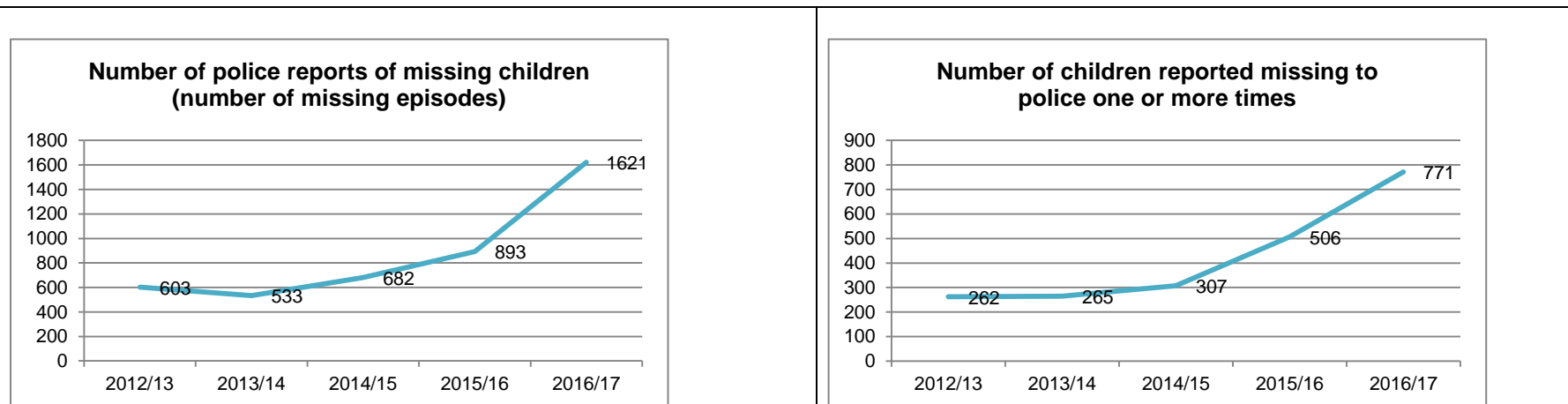
Work is underway to expand the multi-agency data set. Additional funding from the PCC has allowed employment of CSE analyst which has helped the police gather intelligence and information and enable us to understand the local profile and highlight “hotspots” or areas of particular vulnerability.

In brief the local profile indicates:

- More than half of CSE incidents Child Sexual Exploitation involve young people who had either been reported missing from home or care.
- Most incidents of child sexual exploitation involve perpetrators who were known by their victims.
- Suspects and known perpetrators mainly ranged in age 25-29 years. All are male.
- There were 113 CSE related crime incidents and 250 criminal investigations.
- This led to 23 CSE related prosecutions and 4 other cautions with CSE related crimes.
- Two prosecutions were not successful due to the named suspect being identified but the victim or key witness is deceased or unable to give evidence.

Children reported Missing - numbers and trends

There was another significant increase this year in the number of children reported missing, and the number of children repeatedly going missing. We believe this is increasing reporting as a result of awareness of the implications of a child being 'missing'.



Responding to missing children










The County Council has put significant extra resource into the team that undertakes return home interviews and interventions to missing children, and these staff are located in the CSE team. We are now confident that all children reported missing are proactively offered this service and that when children remain missing for more than 24 hours a multi-agency response to locate children is implemented.

The Missing protocol is being reviewed, and we are revising the trafficking strategy to ensure that the interlinked nature of the issues is addressed.

The CSE operational group established this year reviews children who are missing, including those who go missing and are not found. These are unaccompanied children from overseas who are found in Warwickshire but go missing very quickly.

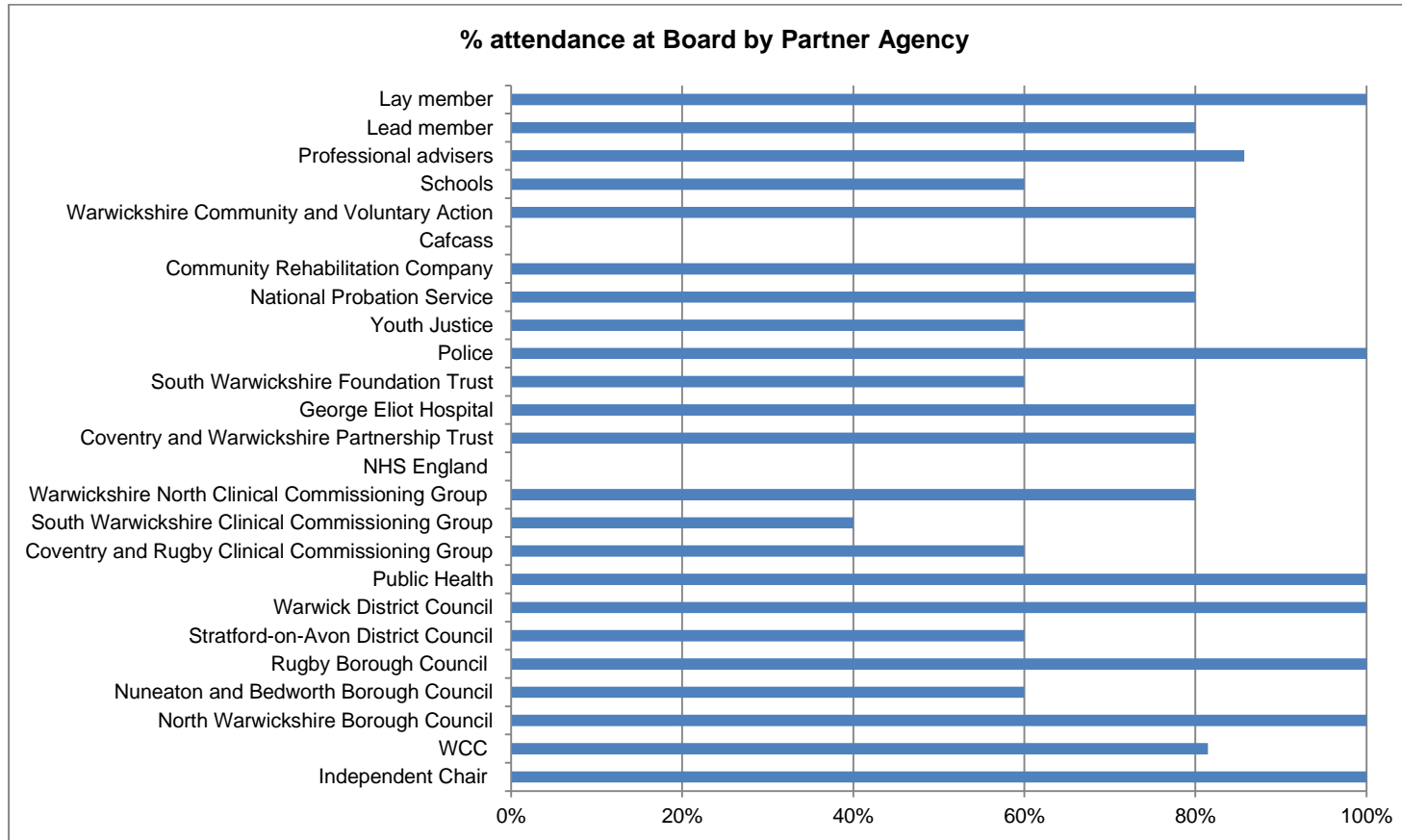
We have set a target to reduce the number of children going missing by 40% by 2020. This is an ambitious target but one we are committed to delivering through relationship based work with those who are most vulnerable and have repeat missing episodes.

Actions for 2017/18:

-  Review and update CSE, Missing and Trafficking Strategy & Procedures.
-  Establish a long term funding plan which includes funding for a CSE Co-ordinator.
-  Strengthen our local intelligence and mapping, to continually understand the local profile of CSE, Missing and Trafficking. This will be supported by a multi-agency performance data set.
-  Strengthen support for parents and carers (particularly foster carers) around CSE and Missing.
-  Strengthen links with health, particularly a staff contribution from health to the CSE Team.
-  Establish training for professionals about Missing and Trafficking.
-  Strengthen training and awareness of CSE within the “night-time economy” e.g hotels, pubs, night clubs, fast food venues and within town centres.
-  Strengthen and widen our use of CSE Champions across agencies not just within Social Care
-  Strengthen our links with neighbouring local authorities and resolve cross border issues.

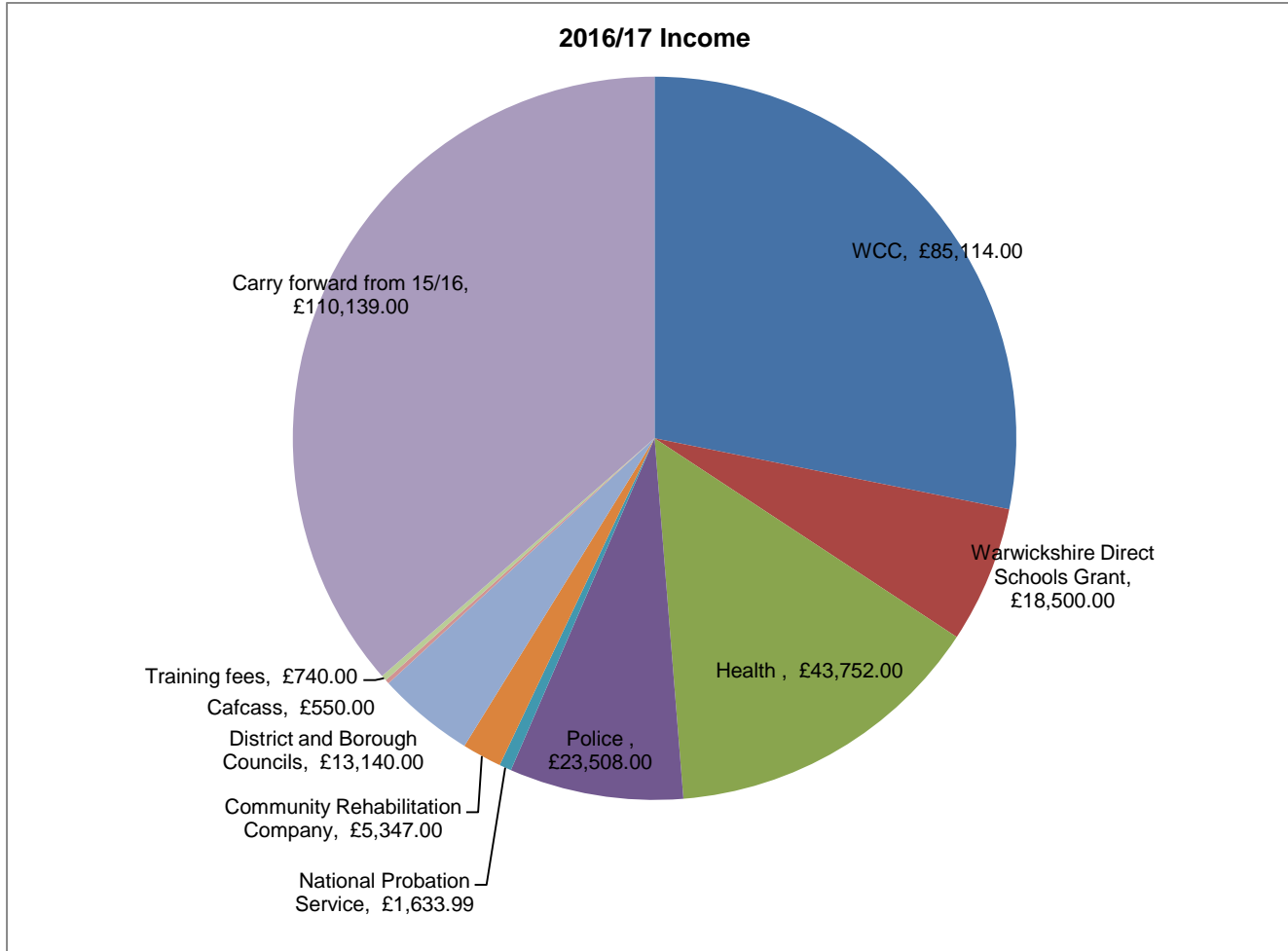


Appendix 1 Recorded attendance at WSCB meetings.

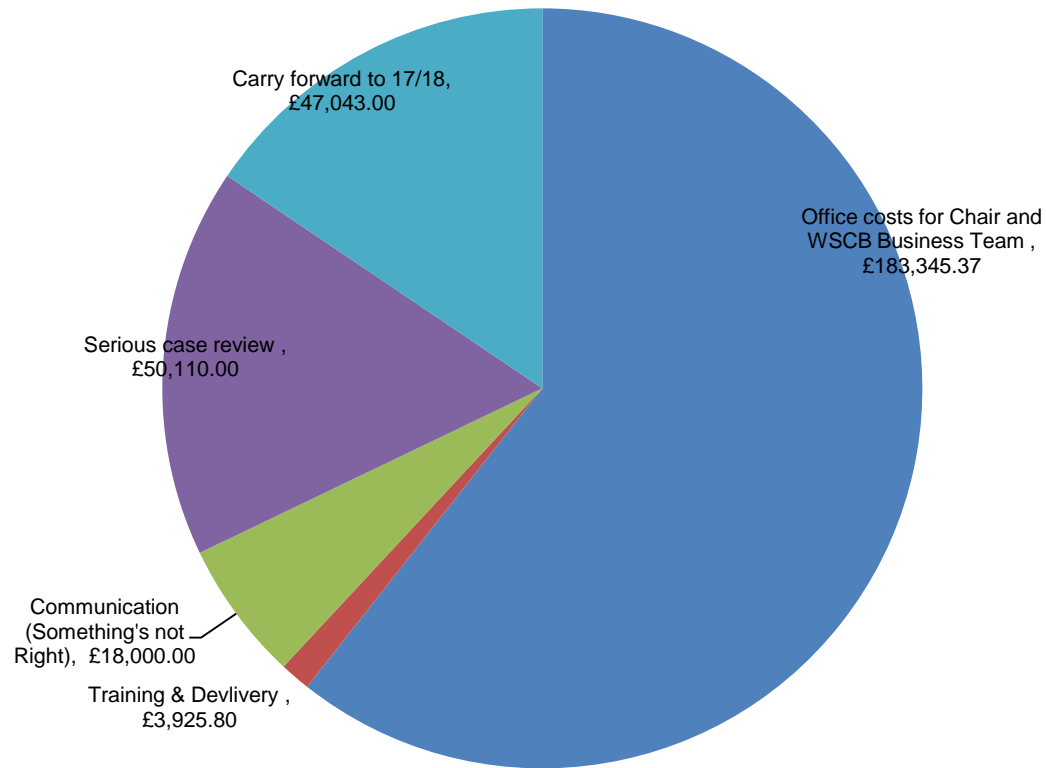




Appendix 2 Financial Management



2016/17 Financial Expenditure



Office costs include: Salaries and associated staffing costs, desk charges, phones and IT, central establishment charges



Appendix 3 Partner Reports

[Warwickshire North, South Warwickshire and Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning groups](#)

[George Eliot Hospital Trust](#)

[Coventry Warwickshire Partnership Trust](#)

[Warwickshire County Council](#)

[Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council](#)

[North Warwickshire Borough Council](#)

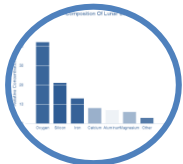
[Warwickshire Public Health](#)

[Warwickshire Youth Justice Service](#)

[Warwickshire Police](#)

[National Probation Service](#)

[Community Rehabilitation Company](#)



Appendix 4 [Year end Performance dataset](#)