

Safeguarding Matters

Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board Newsletter
January 2019



Changes to Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA)

Nationally the system of monitoring, co-ordinating and learning from the child protection system is under-going a fundamental process of change. Practitioners in Worcestershire will start to see some changes over the coming months.

The Background: why change?

In 2015 the Government asked Alan Wood, a former Director of Children's Services, to undertake a review of the role of Local Safeguarding Children Boards. The Wood Report was published in May 2016 alongside the Government response, which accepted all his proposals for change in full. In summary the Wood Report suggested that:

- Local Safeguarding Children Boards should be replaced with new flexible local safeguarding arrangements led by three safeguarding partners (represented by the Chief Officers of local authorities, police, and clinical commissioning groups). These partners will have a duty to make arrangements to work together and with any relevant agencies for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in their area
- Safeguarding partners will have to identify and arrange for the review of serious child safeguarding cases which they think raise issues of importance in relation to their area
- A national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel has been established. The Panel will commission and publish reviews of child safeguarding cases which it thinks raise issues that are complex or of national importance
- Clinical commissioning groups and local authorities will have joint responsibility for more general child death reviews, with a potentially wider geographical area for these partnerships allowing them to gain a better understanding of the causes of child deaths

Implementation of the change process

Following the acceptance of the Wood Report, the timetable for the subsequent reform process is as follows:

- The Wood Report findings were embedded in the Children and Social Work Act, 2017
- 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' was published in July, 2018
- The National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel became fully operational from 29th June, 2018, under the leadership of Edward Timpson
- New safeguarding arrangements for each locality are to be published and submitted to Government by 29th June, 2019 at the latest
- New safeguarding arrangements are to be implemented by 29th September, 2019 at the latest
- There are 17 areas who are 'early adopters' and have been funded by Government to pilot



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elements of the change process. The early adoption process is being supported and evaluated by the National Children's Bureau.

What will the new system look like?

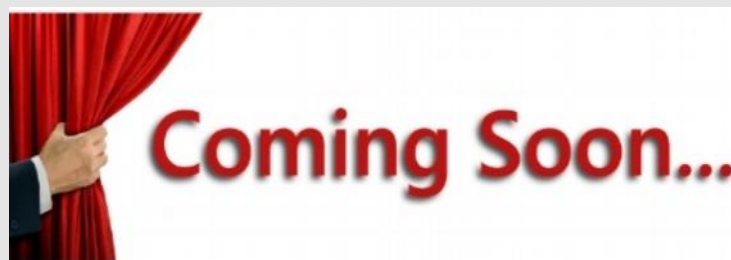
By October 2019 every local authority area in England will have a new child safeguarding architecture in place to replace its Local Safeguarding Children Board. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 is not as prescriptive as the previous version (2015) and it is up to the three safeguarding partners in each local authority area to propose how they wish to implement the new arrangements in their local area, becoming known as Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASAs). The MASA will be published to explain how they will work in each area.

The new framework must be overseen by someone who will provide 'independent scrutiny' – this has evolved from the previous role of the 'independent chair' of a LSCB. The three safeguarding partners must publish an annual report which will be independently scrutinised to ensure the system is transparent and open to a form of public accountability.

The three safeguarding partners must identify the 'relevant agencies' they wish to work within safeguarding children and young people. Again the exact list will vary from locality to locality but will include a wide-range of agencies who work with children and young people. Such organisations are listed in Chapter Two of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 and includes prisons, probation, early years and childcare and the third sector amongst many others. The three safeguarding partners will set out how they will work together with the 'relevant agencies' in their local area in the published arrangements.

Discussions are currently taking place in Worcestershire about the proposed multi-agency safeguarding arrangements (MASA) which will be in place no later than October 2019. Over the next few months the framework for the new arrangements will be published on the WSCB website. In addition, work has commenced on the development of a new joint safeguarding website (to be shared with the Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board) which will cover issues such as procedures, policy, training and learning from reviews.

For more information about the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in Worcestershire contact Sue Haddon, WSCB Business Manager, by emailing shaddon@worcestershire.gov.uk.



New Neglect Guidance Documents

WSCB is in the process of developing a new Neglect Strategy and toolkit. We will be rolling the toolkit out in the Spring. Watch out for an update in the April newsletter.



Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day

18th March 2019

The National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day aims to highlight the issues surrounding CSE; encouraging everyone to **think, spot and speak out against abuse** and adopt a zero tolerance to adults developing inappropriate relationships with children or children developing inappropriate relationships with other children.

Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board will be circulating a communications briefing during February which will provide partners with resources and links to useful information about CSE Awareness Day and how to get involved. The information will also be placed on the WSCB website (on the CSE information for professionals page). You can visit www.stop-cse.org for more information.

PCC launches new project aimed at protecting young people from CSE

A new project dedicated to preventing children and young people from being sexually exploited is launching in Worcestershire and Herefordshire.

Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion is pleased to announce that the West Mercia Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (WMRSASC) has been chosen as the new child sexual exploitation (CSE) support service provider for Worcestershire and Herefordshire.

On top of the existing work being carried out around CSE prevention, 'The Branch Project' will provide education, intervention and support to children and young people who are at risk, or have been a victim, of CSE (see article on next page).

PCC John Campion said: "It is so important that young people are receiving all the support and education they can get. A key part of this project is to identify those at risk of CSE and educate them on the signs before it's too late. However, it's also about giving victims the support to help them cope and recover.

"A key reason WMRSASC was chosen to deliver this important work is because, as the specialist sexual violence organisation in Herefordshire and Worcestershire, they already have a vast amount of experience of delivering education and training within schools, as well as training for professionals. I look forward to working with them and other partners to continue the work in protecting the children and young people in our communities."

Jocelyn Anderson, CEO for WMRSASC, said: "Child sexual exploitation is one form of child sexual abuse. We are pleased that the Police and Crime Commissioner continues to invest in the provision of specialist services for survivors.

"The Branch Project will provide children and young people, who have been targeted for sexual exploitation, with a safe place to talk and access information and support as well as funding the continued provision of the preventative work we are doing in schools and colleges."



THE BRANCH PROJECT

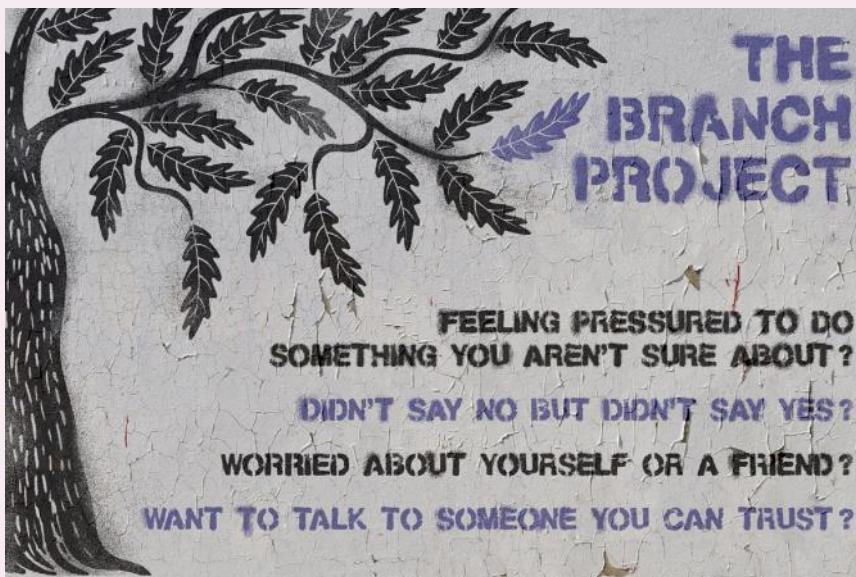
The Branch Project works with children and young people who have experienced Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) or are worried about it. CSE is a type of child abuse that happens when a young person is encouraged, or forced, to take part in sexual activity in exchange for something. The reward might be presents, money, alcohol, or simply the promise of love and affection.

The Branch Project will run throughout Worcestershire and Herefordshire. Branch Project Workers are trained CSE support workers. They will provide education, intervention and one-to-one support to children and young people (CYP) who are at risk of or have been a victim of CSE.

Support is always delivered with the consent of the CYP, is tailored to their needs and wishes and is comprised of three interlinked pathways:

- **Prevention** –Education will be provided in schools and outreach settings to CYP as well as CSE specific one-to-one interventions to CYP who have been identified as being at risk of CSE.
- **Cope**- Where a disclosure of CSE has been made, one-to-one practical and emotional support will be delivered to CYP to help support a CYP throughout the Criminal Justice System (CJS).
- **Recover**- For those who have experienced CSE, one-to-one psychosocial support interventions will be delivered to CYP including those whose involvement with CJS finished or where no CJS process is being pursued.

New guidance for professionals, *Appropriate Language In Relation To Child Sexual and/or Criminal Exploitation*, is now available and can be located on the [WSCB website](#) (CSE page). The guidance is a collaborative venture involving the National Police Chiefs' Council, Victim Support and The Children's Society. They suggest that the document be read at the beginning of strategy meetings, multi-agency meetings, or other settings where professionals might be discussing children and young people who are at risk of exploitation.



For more information contact
West Mercia Rape & Sexual
Abuse Support Centre

Call: 01905 611655 (Worcs)

01432 266551 (Herefs)

Email:

branch@wmrsasc.org.uk



Safer Internet Day 2019

Safer Internet Day 2019 will be celebrated globally on Tuesday 5th February with the slogan: 'Together for a better Internet'.



Internet Safety For Professionals

Many teachers and professionals use social media sites, such as Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp, in order to stay in touch with friends and family, to share ideas and get information. Childnet International have produced a guide designed to help professionals use social media safely, keeping you, the young people you work with, and your job safe.

During 2017 the UK Safer Internet Centre saw a 30% increase in the number of professional reputation abuse cases. The nature of these cases was also becoming increasingly complex, and required a greater degree of case management. This included more instances of reputational damage, which have required police intervention in order to resolve them.

The Professionals [Online Safety Helpline](#) provides free support to members of the children's workforce in the UK with an online safety concern.

Top tips for protecting your professional reputation online:

1. The best way to find out your online reputation is to search for yourself regularly on a search engine. Use your name and location first then check variations of your name and even nicknames.
2. Always think before you post. Is that photo appropriate? Could that joke be seen as offensive? Be mindful when sharing pictures or posts or liking content online which could bring your reputation into disrepute.
3. Use privacy settings and safety features which are provided by social media sites to help you manage who can contact you and see the things you share online. The UK Safer Internet Centre provides more [detailed information on putting privacy settings in place](#).

Contact the UK Safer Internet Centre's helpline for tailored advice and support.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/professionals-online-safety-helpline>

Call us: 0344 381 4772 email: helpline@saferinternet.org.uk





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You Have The Right To Choose

**Forced Marriage
free e-learning and
campaign materials**



The Government has initiated a new campaign which aims to educate people about what constitutes a forced marriage and to highlight that it is illegal. All campaign advertising signposts victims, potential victims and concerned parties to contact the Forced Marriage Unit's Helpline (020 7008 0151) for help and support. There is also a new campaign page forcedmarriage.campaign.gov.uk (or #righttochoose) which has more information about forced marriage, the Forced Marriage Unit and several national organisations that offer support. The campaign has a whole range of useful resources including film clips, posters and social media tools which we recommend you check out.

The Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) has created multi-agency [practice guidelines](#): for handling cases of forced marriage and multi-agency [statutory guidance](#) for dealing with forced marriage. Also there is **free** forced marriage [e-learning](#) available for professionals. The module will enable professionals to recognise the warning signs and ensure that appropriate action is taken to help protect and support all those at risk. Please email fm@fco.gov.uk if you have problems registering.

Have You Recently Undertaken WSCB e-learning?

Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board recently made the decision that from April 2019 WSCB will no longer be providing access to the Virtual Academy portfolio of e-learning. You will be able to purchase e-learning directly from Virtual Academy and guidance on how to do this will be made available on the WSCB website. You can also use other e-learning providers should you so wish. You must ensure that all e-learning courses have been completed by 31st March, 2019.

All certificates must be downloaded prior to 31st March as they will cease to exist after this date. If you have any queries in relation to this change please contact Angela Eason (aeason@worcestershire.gov.uk).



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International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, 6 February 2019

Key Facts:

- FGM is mostly carried out on young girls sometime between infancy and age 15.
- FGM cause severe bleeding and health issues including cysts, infections, infertility as well as complications in childbirth increased risk of newborn deaths.
- FGM is a violation of the human rights of girls and women.
- Globally, it is estimated that at least 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone some form of FGM.
- The NHS annual statistical publication shows 5,391 newly recorded cases of FGM during 2016-17.
- The data also showed that there were 9,179 total attendances in the same period where FGM was identified or a medical procedure for FGM was undertaken.
- Women and girls born in Somalia account for more than one third (35 per cent or 875 cases) of newly recorded cases of FGM with a known country of birth (2,504).
- Of the newly recorded cases, 112 involved women and girls who were born in the United Kingdom.



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International Day of
**ZERO
TOLERANCE**
for
**FEMALE
GENITAL
MUTILATION**

#EndFGM

"With the dignity, health and well-being of millions of girls at stake, there is no time to waste. Together, we can and must end this harmful practice."
— UN Secretary-General António Guterres

[Recognising and preventing FGM training](#) is available for professionals with safeguarding responsibilities from the Home Office website. It gives an introduction to Female Genital Mutilation and the action you must take to protect girls who may be at risk.

Balancing the rights of young people and their parents/carers in issues of Consent and Confidentiality

A new Learning and Improvement Briefing has been published as a result of work undertaken following a Case Review involving an adolescent where there were complex issues regarding consent and confidentiality due to her age. It addresses some of the key principles when working with older teenagers and their families in a range of different circumstances.

Learning and Improvement Briefing 12 is located at: http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/downloads/file/10534/learning_improvement_briefing_12_consent_and_confidentiality

Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board

▲ Independent Chair: Derek Benson ▲ Board Business Manager: Sue Haddon

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