

# Safeguarding Matters

Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board Newsletter  
May 2019



## NEW Safeguarding Website in Worcestershire Launches 20th May 2019

As previously reported in Safeguarding Matters, Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board and Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board have joined forces to commission a joint safeguarding website. Work has been taking place to develop the site and is now nearing completion. The new website will provide access to safeguarding information for local practitioners, agencies and members of the public. The Inter-agency Child Protection Procedures are unaltered and will remain available through the existing [West Midlands Procedures](#) site. They will also be easy to access from the new website.

**The go live date for the site is May 20th 2019** the web address of the new site will be [www.safeguardingworcestershire.org.uk](http://www.safeguardingworcestershire.org.uk).

## WSCB Transition to Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership

As reported in the January newsletter work is now in progress to transition from Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) to Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership (WSCP).

The new arrangements will be published by 29<sup>th</sup> June and full transition will be implemented by 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2019. WSCP has been developed to comply with the statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018'.

The principles of this design are as follows:

- Maintain independence of the partnership board chair to bring cross partnership scrutiny and challenge to the way we work together
- Streamlining of sub groups and functions to reduce bureaucracy and focus on priority issues
- Maintain fullest possible membership of partners outside the three named safeguarding partners (Local Authority, Clinical Commissioning Groups & Police)
- Deliver a coordinated Quality Assurance and Learning & Development programme

The purpose of the new partnership approach is to evaluate the effectiveness of safeguarding children and young people through:

- Agency collaborations to share and co-own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children
- Challenge appropriately and hold one another to account for the effectiveness of early identification and multi-agency response to safeguarding
- Commitment to deliver and evaluate the Quality Assurance and Learning and Development programmes to promote and embed best practice in the way local services for children and families are delivered
- Review and evaluate effectiveness of front line multi agency practice in relation to high quality and timely decision making, assessment and planning to protect children from harm



The final edition of Safeguarding Matters (WSCB newsletter) to be produced in July 2019 will contain further information about the new safeguarding partnership arrangements, including how safeguarding issues will be communicated to frontline practitioners going forward.

## \*\*\* Multi agency training – changes from September, 2019 \*\*\*

WSCP will develop a programme of multi-agency events which focus on how agencies work collaboratively to produce the best outcomes for children and young people. The details of new multi-agency learning events will be available in due course. In order to create the capacity to deliver a new Learning & Development programme the new Safeguarding Partnership will not be delivering the current multi agency core safeguarding training courses (Target 1, 2 and T2 refresher) after July 2019.

Any questions regarding training should be directed to your safeguarding training team/lead.

## Important message about WSCB e-learning

The Safeguarding Board have made the decision that from April 2019 WSCB will no longer be providing access to the Virtual Academy portfolio of e-learning. The link to Virtual College where you can buy courses from directly is: <https://www.virtual-college.co.uk/courses/safeguarding-courses?page=1>

You can purchase e-learning from any other provider should you so wish. There are a number of free courses available including Prevent, Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage and the links for these are below:

### Free e-learning courses provided by other organisations

**Introduction To Prevent** (Home Office e-Learning package)

This e-Learning module can be accessed at via the [Home Office website](#)

**Keep Them Safe** (Protecting Children From Child Sexual Exploitation) a joint production by Safeguarding e-Academy, PACE and Virtual College. This course can be accessed at the [PACE website](#) by typing 'Keep Them Safe' into the search box at the top of the page.

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



## Worcestershire Children First

In September 2017, following a report from the Worcestershire Children's Commissioner, the Department for Education directed that Worcestershire County Council should move the operational delivery of Social Care Services for Children to an Alternative Delivery Model.

This meant the Council would no longer have the responsibility of operationally delivering the services it currently provides and would voluntarily move to an alternative way of delivering these services.

Worcestershire County Council had completed a review earlier in 2017 with the aim of introducing a new way of delivering Children's Social Care services; to help accelerate and sustain improvements in Children's Social Care.

The alternative way of delivering these services would allow more focus on improving services and keeping children and young people safe from harm.

Alongside the commitment and determination to improve the lives of children and young people in Worcestershire, this approach supported opportunities to make services better, more secure and effective in the future.

Worcestershire County Council's Cabinet met on 29 March 2018 and approved recommendations for the development of a Wholly Owned Council Company as the alternative delivery model to deliver Children's Social Care.

The new company, called Worcestershire Children First, would be a 'not for profit' company and 100% owned by Worcestershire County Council. It will be operationally independent and have a single focus on children and young people; however strategic objectives and significant decisions will remain with the Council.

On 14 March 2019, Cabinet approved the size and scope of the company meaning that Worcestershire Children First would also be responsible for delivering education and early help services. Also approved was the recommendation not to extend the contract with Babcock Prime beyond October 2020. The Director of Children's Services has been authorised to work with Babcock Prime and the education sector to initiate the exit planning and transfer arrangements for services to transfer into Worcestershire Children First at the earliest opportunity.

One of the key benefits of the Company having a broader scope of services is that it will strengthen the focus on improving outcomes for all children and young people in Worcestershire. It will also have the opportunity to redesign services and integrate more closely to achieve its priorities. This will enable children, young people and families to feel valued, heard, and ensure staff are responsive to their needs across a variety of services within the system.

Worcestershire Children First will be operationally independent and governed by its own Board however, as a wholly owned council company, a number of strategic objectives and significant decisions (reserved matters) will remain with the Council.

Continued overleaf



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[www.worcestershiresafeguarding.org.uk](http://www.worcestershiresafeguarding.org.uk)

4

WORCESTERSHIRE  
**CHILDREN FIRST**



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**CHILDREN FIRST**



The Worcestershire Children First Board will comprise of 11 Board Members including a Chair (appointed by the Department for Education whilst the Council remains in intervention), four Executive Directors including the Chief Executive; three Council appointed Members (two Councillors, one Officer) and three independently appointed non-executive directors.

The Company has now entered its phased shadow period. During this period the Company Board will begin to work together in preparation of the official launch on 1 October. It also gives an opportunity to 'test and learn' ways of working and day-to-day operations and allow time to review amended roles and responsibilities and monitor and maintain business-as-usual as much as possible.

For more information on Worcestershire Children First visit [www.worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](http://www.worcschildrenfirst.org.uk) or follow them on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), just search @WorcsChildren.

Worcestershire Children First are committed and determined to improve the lives of children and young people.

## Signs of Safety Update



In October 2017 Worcestershire County Council began training Children's Social Care staff in the Signs of Safety Practice Model. Since that time they have trained 600 practitioners and team managers in the approach. In October 2018 they launched a specific set of 1-day training events for partners and have trained just over 200 safeguarding leads in the approach. The feedback from partners who attended the training revealed:

- 98% knowledge increase in the Signs of Safety Approach
- 93% confidence increase in the Signs of Safety Approach

Feedback from professionals and families has been positive in respect of the approach which enables families to understand why agencies are concerned about their children, the family's strengths and what the family need to do to keep their children safe.

If you have any questions about Signs of Safety in Worcestershire or the training, please contact WCC Principal Social Worker, Dan Adams, on [dadams@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:dadams@worcestershire.gov.uk)

**For further information on Signs of Safety please;**

Visit the National Signs of Safety Website; <http://www.signsofsafety.net/>

Visit the Worcestershire Website; [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/signsofsafety](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/signsofsafety)



## Forthcoming WSCB Events, Hold The Dates ...

### WSCB Neglect Strategy and Toolkit Launch 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2019

We are pleased to announce that Emeritus Professor Jan Horwath will be the key note speaker at this event. The event is for those professionals who are nominated by their organisation to disseminate the information and support the embedding of the neglect toolkit across the workforce.

### Learning from Serious Case Reviews 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2019

WSCB have commissioned Geese Theatre Company to present key learning themes from Serious Case Reviews recently completed in Worcestershire. This event is aimed at frontline managers and practitioners, so please do come along. Tickets are available from [Eventbrite](#) and there is no cost (but please note that we charge for non-attendance).



## Neglect Strategy and Toolkit

Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board has approved its Neglect Strategy and over the next few weeks we will be launching a toolkit for practitioners to use with families where there are concerns about possible neglect. A launch event on 21 June will be targeted at people within organisations who are able to support the embedding of the toolkit across their workforce. We will be asking strategic leads from within each agency to identify who should be nominated for this event. Look out for more information about the toolkit in the summer edition of the WSCB newsletter.



The Victim Advice Line (VAL) is a free and confidential service that is available to anyone who has been impacted by crime. VAL is made up of a team of professional, dedicated victim care coordinators whose roles are to assess victim needs and agree a tailored support plan specific to that individual.

People can refer themselves, be referred by the police or by a third party. The Victim Advice Line (VAL) is going live on 1st April 2019

Contact Information:

**Professionals:** (not for public) – 01905 331415 Email: [VictimAdviceLine@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:VictimAdviceLine@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

**Public:** Freephone - 0800 952 3000 Website: [www.victimadviceline.org.uk](http://www.victimadviceline.org.uk)

Email: [info@victimadviceline.org.uk](mailto:info@victimadviceline.org.uk)

**Opening Hours:** 8am - 8pm Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm Saturdays





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6

## Changes to GCSX secure email in County Council

From 31 March 2019 Worcestershire Council staff will not be using GCSX to send secure emails. Instead staff will be using their standard @worcestershire.gov.uk account. The Council's IT team have ensured that all WCC generic emails are secure and therefore after 31 March @worcestershire.gcsx.gov.uk email addresses will no longer work and emails will not be forwarded. If you have been sending information through to County Council staff using GCSX please contact them to confirm new arrangements.

## Changes To Contact Details For Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

All organisations providing services to children and young people must ensure that their staff and volunteers are safe to do so. Most adults who work with children and young people act professionally and provide a safe environment for the children and young people in their care, however, it must be recognised that there are adults who will deliberately seek out, create or exploit opportunities to abuse children.

**The allegations' process is managed by Worcestershire's Local Authority Designated Officers (LADO) as part of the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service.**

From April 2019 the LADO secure email will be through [LADO@Worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:LADO@Worcestershire.gov.uk).

## Saying Goodbye and Thank You To A Valued Colleague

Martin Lakeman has recently left his post as Senior Public Health Practitioner at WCC after six years. Martin played a significant role in Worcestershire driving forward the organisational and partnership approach to tackling domestic abuse and raising the profile of this very challenging issue.

Both at WCC and in his former senior role at West Mercia Police, Martin provided a high level of expertise to the Safeguarding Children Board, its sub groups and other key partnership groups and the Board would like to thank him for his commitment and contribution and we wish him well in the next stage of his career.



**And a quick final word from Martin ...**

With this being my penultimate day I wanted to remind people what to do if they wish to add/alter/amend or update anything on the domestic abuse website or the important Overview of Services document. If you require anything please contact Sam Roberts in Public Health at [SRoberts2@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:SRoberts2@worcestershire.gov.uk).

The website can be accessed via [http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20379/domestic\\_abuse\\_and\\_sexual\\_violence](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20379/domestic_abuse_and_sexual_violence) and the overview of services at [http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/downloads/file/9936/overview\\_of\\_the\\_services\\_in\\_domestic\\_abuse\\_and\\_sexual\\_violence](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/downloads/file/9936/overview_of_the_services_in_domestic_abuse_and_sexual_violence)

## Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board

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

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