

Safeguarding Matters

Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board Newsletter

July 2019



Changes to Worcestershire Safeguarding Partnership Arrangements

Welcome to the final newsletter from the Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board. On 1 September 2019 it will be replaced by the new Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership (WSCP). For further details of the WSCP please look at the plan located at: <https://www.safeguardingworcestershire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Worcestershire-Safeguarding-Children-Partnership-Plan-FINAL.pdf>

The main changes are as follows:

- The delivery of robust multi-agency safeguarding children arrangements is now the responsibility of the three named Safeguarding Partners: Local Authority, Police and Clinical Commissioning Groups
- There are now three sub-groups: Safeguarding Practice Review Group, the Quality Assurance Practice and Procedures Group and the GET SAFE (Exploitation) Partnership Group
- Other relevant partner agencies (current WSCB membership) will meet together with the named Safeguarding Partners for a full partnership meeting twice a year
- The WSCP has retained Derek Benson (WSCB Independent Chair) to provide independent scrutiny of the new local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements

Information about multi-agency safeguarding arrangements can be found on the new joint Worcestershire safeguarding website shared with the Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board (WSAB) located at: www.safeguardingworcestershire.org.uk If you have not already done so, please spend a few minutes familiarising yourself with the new website which contains lots of useful information.

The last of the WSCB core training courses were held in July and we extend our sincere thanks Jill Acton, Jenny Harris and others who have supported the successful delivery of the training programme over recent years. Information about a new Learning and Development Programme will be posted on the training pages of the website, so keep an eye out for this.

There are a number of staff changes behind the scenes in the Business Unit: Sue Haddon, Business Manager; Angela Eason, Training and Development Advisor; Lyn Marie Chapman, Communications and Development Officer; and Sarah Berry, Administrator, are all leaving and would like to thank everyone who has supported the work of the Board.

A Partnership Co-ordinator and an Administrator will be recruited to support the work of the new WSCP. If you need to make contact in the interim please email wscp@worcestershire.gov.uk but do bear in mind that this email address will only be monitored periodically and should not be used for urgent issues.



Policy and Procedure Updates

Worcestershire shares its inter-agency safeguarding children procedures with eight other local areas across the West Midlands. Please familiarise yourself with the procedures located at: <http://westmidlands.procedures.org.uk/> and make sure you select Worcestershire from the drop-down list of options on the home page.

The following updates have been recently made to the Worcestershire section:

- Section 3.7: Worcestershire Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Pathway and tools (new)**
- Section 3.6: Worcestershire Escalation Policy: Resolution of Professional Disagreements (reviewed)**
- Section 3.20: Worcestershire Suicide Prevention Policy (reviewed)**
- Section 3.21: Worcestershire Levels of Need (Thresholds) Guidance (new Early Help Pathway)**
- Section 3.10: Worcestershire Child in Need Guidance (new)**
- Section 3.13: Worcestershire Neglect Pathway and Toolkit (new)**

Serious Case Reviews (SCRs)

The learning from two Serious Case Reviews has recently been published by WSCB and is located at: <https://www.safeguardingworcestershire.org.uk/serious-case-reviews-library/>
The learning from these SCR's and another case review has been summarized into WSCB Learning and Improvement Briefings which are located at: <https://www.safeguardingworcestershire.org.uk/learning-development/training-c/learning-improvement-briefings/>

Please take a look and ensure you are familiar with the key messages, discuss with your colleagues and consider whether there are any changes you can make to your practice in light of this learning.

Final word from the WSCB Independent Chair ...

“As we make the transition from the WSCB to the newly constituted Partnership I would like to thank the team in the Business Unit for their dedication, commitment and support they have given me and the partners over the years. I wish them every success in the future.”

The new Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership will build upon the strength of the existing arrangements to work with all the agencies and organisations involved in safeguarding to deliver the best possible outcomes for the children and young people of Worcestershire “.

Derek Benson
