



WOLVERHAMPTON SAFEGUARDING TOGETHER

Annual Report 2021 / 2022

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL



NHS
Black Country and
West Birmingham
Clinical Commissioning Group

Contents

Foreword – Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together – Executive Group Chair	03
Report a Safeguarding Issue	04
WST Partnerships	04
WST Leadership and Governance	05
Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together (WST) Strategic Plan 2022-2024	09
Key Achievements – 2021 – 2022 – WST	12
Key Achievement of WST Sub Groups 2021 – 2022	13
Protect - Children and Young Adults (1 - 3) – Safeguarding in numbers	14
Protect - Adult Social Care - Assurance Data (1 - 3)	16
Child and Adult Protection - Learning from Reviews and Data	21
Safeguarding Training	25
Appendix A – Partner Statements	26
Appendix B – Glossary of Terms	57

Foreword



Covid has continued to impact the work of the partnership over the past twelve months, in particular at the start of the year, yet despite this the partnership has continued, through its collaborative approach to keep our citizens in Wolverhampton safe.

This year has been particularly busy, with the publication of national reports, the partnership has reviewed, reflected, adapted and learnt from this work and also through our joint work has been able to provide assurance on areas that were highlighted nationally as potential areas for further review, in particular the work undertaken on our MASH and 'front door' activity has provided assurance on the multi-agency working arrangements across the City.

Our safeguarding training has been reviewed and we now provide a more vibrant and resilient high quality training offer to our partners. We continue to embed the Think family approach and through shared learning we are able to adapt and develop the approach in the right way for our Wolverhampton citizens, in particular those most vulnerable.

As an Executive Board, we have continued to listen and learn from our staff, citizens and independent scrutineer. It's also important that we learn from multi agency events that have required focused interventions from us all, the feedback is vital as we continue to develop and implement new learning and recommendations.

My tenure as the chair of WST has now come to an end and I will continue as a strategic partner of WST, as I hand over the baton to Chief Superintendent Richard Fisher, I would like to personally thank my other executive colleagues, as well as the safeguarding business unit colleagues and in particular the administrators who have supported the business functions of WST, ensuring we keep to task with regards the important business of safeguarding. The fantastic work of our teams and stakeholders continues to deliver and the contribution of all sub group committees and chairs is truly recognised by the executive – Thank you!

Sally Roberts

Chair, Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together (WST) Executive Group

No excuse for abuse of children, young people or adults.

Report it!

All agencies in Wolverhampton work together to protect Children, Young People and Adults at risk from abuse. If you want to tell somebody else that you trust, like a GP, nurse, police officer or care worker then they will pass on your concerns to us.

To report abuse or neglect, please contact:

For safeguarding concerns about children and young people:

Monday to Thursday, 8:30am - 5pm - Fridays, 4:30pm 01902 555392

Out of hours 01902 552999

For safeguarding concerns about Adults (over 18 yrs)

Monday to Thursday, 8:30am - 5pm - Fridays, 4:30pm 01902 551199

Out of hours 01902 552999

There is also helpful information on the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together (WST) website.

Go to: www.wolverhamptonsafeguarding.org.uk

In an emergency always call 999

Partner Organisations

NHS Black Country Integrated Care Board
West Midlands Fire Service
West Midlands Police
The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust
National Probation Service
Healthwatch Wolverhampton / Evolving Communities CIC
Black Country Healthcare NHS FT (MH / LD)
City of Wolverhampton Council, Adult Social Care

City of Wolverhampton Council, Children Services
Wolverhampton's Voluntary and Community Sector (represented by Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council)
Wolverhampton Homes
West Midlands Ambulance Service University NHS FT
City of Wolverhampton Council, Education Services



Leadership and Governance

Ensuring that children, young people and adults are safeguarded from abuse and neglect is everyone's responsibility. In Wolverhampton this is achieved through a co-ordinated approach to safeguarding. As a result of agencies working collaboratively across both the children's and adult's workforce, professionals are better able to recognise and fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities.

This document sets out the Wolverhampton children's and adults multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. The arrangements accentuate the need for agencies to work collaboratively and collectively to ensure that children and adults are safeguarded and remain at the heart of the multi-agency safeguarding processes.

Legislative Context

Our report covers the period 1 April 2021 until 31 March 2022.

Health and Care Act 2022

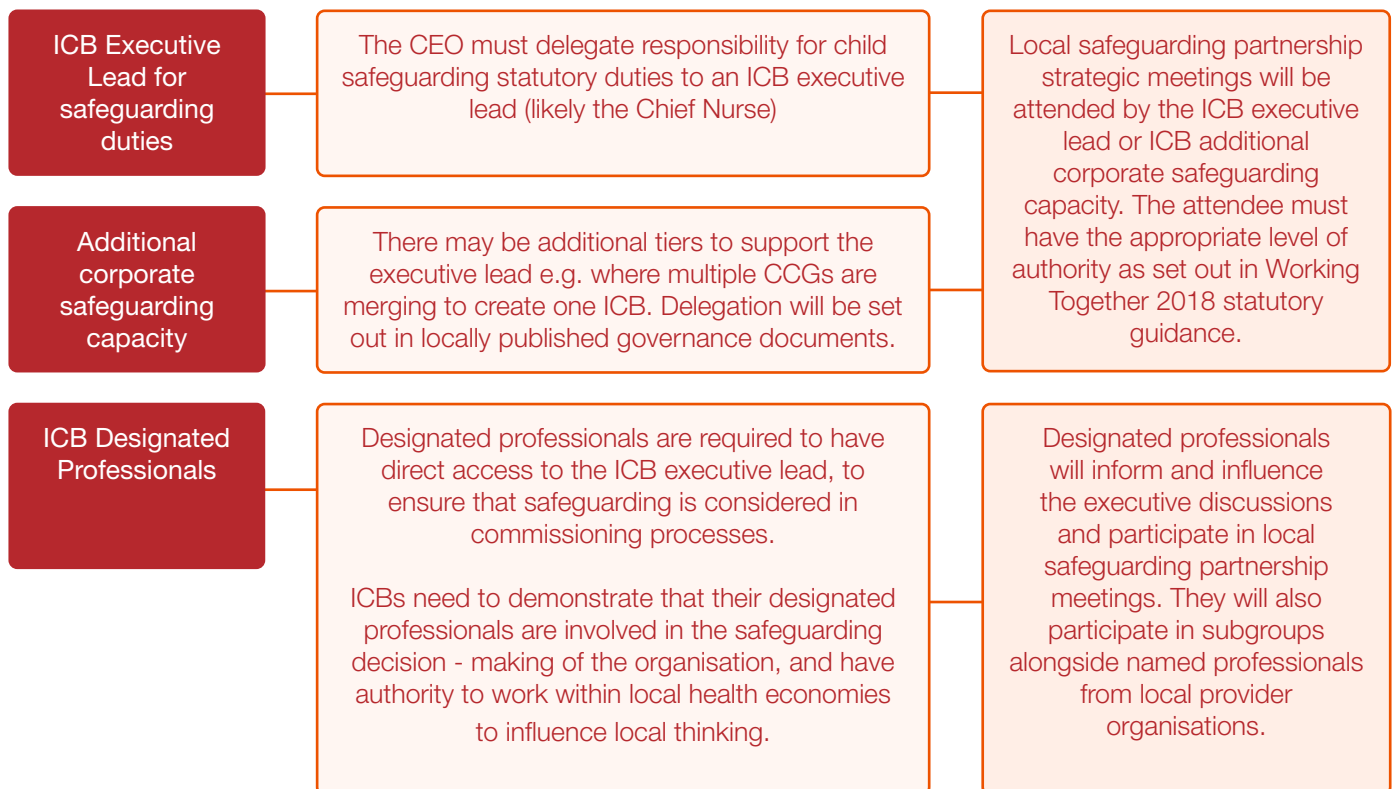
The Health and Care Act 2022 has established a legislative framework that supports collaboration and partnership-working to integrate services for patients. Among a wide range of other measures, the Act also includes targeted changes to public health, social care and the oversight of quality and safety.

At the heart of the changes brought about by the Act is the formalisation of integrated care systems (ICS) and the abolition of Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG); Clinical Commissioning Groups, which were one of the three statutory partners within the WST as per the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.

Each ICS is now made up of two parts: an integrated care board (ICB) and an integrated care partnership (ICP). In the Black Country this will cover the population of 1.26million residing in the Local Authority areas of Walsall, Wolverhampton, Sandwell and Dudley and is now part of NHS Black Country Integrated Care Board, following the abolition of Black Country and West Birmingham CCG

Importantly, the ICB will retain all of the statutory safeguarding functions previously held by the CCG and will be required to lead the 'health' safeguarding response across the system. Joint safeguarding responsibility still sits within WST.

The graphic over the page highlights the ICB duties.



Despite the changes highlighted above, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 confirms that the three statutory safeguarding partners in relation to a local authority area are still defined in the Children and Social Work Act 2017 as the:

- Local Authority
- Clinical Commissioning Group (Superseded by NHS Black Country Integrated Care Board)
- Chief Officer of Police

The three statutory partners have a shared and equal duty to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 has provided partners in Wolverhampton with a unique opportunity to develop new partnership safeguarding arrangements.

The move to abolish Local Safeguarding Children Boards arising from this Act, changing structures and working arrangements in partner agencies and the ongoing demands on resources, made it essential to look at the Local Safeguarding Governance arrangements across Wolverhampton.

The Care Act 2014 established the need to have Safeguarding Adult Boards in each local authority Area. This Act also confirmed that the three statutory safeguarding partners should be:

- Local Authority
- Clinical Commissioning Group
- Chief Officer of Police

Leadership and Governance – Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together

The Local Safeguarding Children Board and the Safeguarding Adults Board were merged in April 2019.

This arrangement allows us to adopt and embed the 'Think Family' concept in the work of all our safeguarding partners and in our multi-agency working and also seek to produce accessible learning for both practitioners and senior managers from the themes and trends arising from increased quality assurance activity. This arrangement also brings together the three statutory safeguarding partners (Health (CCG – now superseded by the NHS Black Country Integrated Care Board), Police and Local Authority to form an Executive Group – Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together (WST).

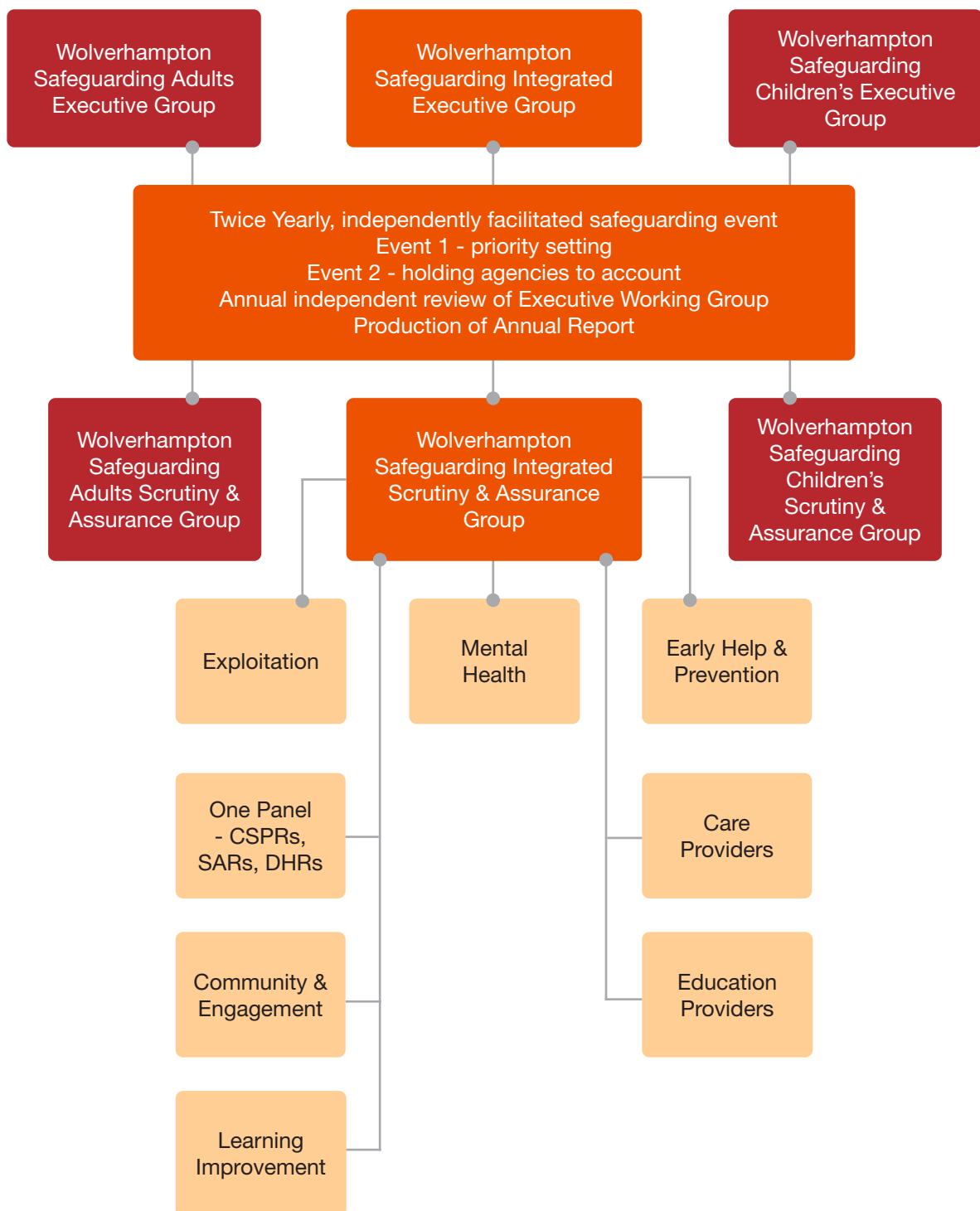
Membership of the Executive Group consists of senior officers from the three statutory partners plus Education and look at both adults and children's safeguarding. The WST Executive Group is the overarching strategic governance board for both the safeguarding children and safeguarding adults agendas. It is a high level strategic board that has a primary focus on safeguarding systems, performance and resourcing. It has statutory accountability for safeguarding the Wolverhampton local authority area.

Bringing together adults and children's safeguarding has ensured that safeguarding issues are looked at holistically in a 'Think Family' approach and also provides a forum for transitional arrangements to be discussed and agreed.

The Scrutiny and Assurance Co-ordination Group sits below the Executive Group and is responsible for progressing the Executive Group's business priorities through the strategic plan. Under the Care Act 2014, this is WST's statutory Adult Safeguarding Board. This group authorises the policy, process, strategy and guidance required to support the Executive Group's priorities and achieve effective safeguarding.

The Scrutiny and Assurance Co-ordination group has wider partner membership and includes health providers, education, voluntary and community sector (including links to faith communities), housing and probation services. Supporting the Executive Group and the Scrutiny and Assurance Co-ordination Group are sub groups and task and finish group(s). These groups are responsible for a range of areas, including policies, training, public engagement, co-production and quality assurance.

To be at its most effective, this process also requires input from children/young people, those adults in need of help and protection and frontline practitioners. These views are gathered via a range of activities including surveys, consultation with focus groups and invitation(s) to sub groups.



Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together (WST) Strategic Plan 2022-2024

The strategic plan for 2022-2024, sets out WST's Executive Board's strategic vision, ambition, purpose, principles, and safeguarding priorities for the following two years.

The Strategic priorities for 2022-2024 have been agreed in response to national requirements, regional developments, and local need. They have taken account of the outcomes from the annual events in June 2021 and November 2021 as well as learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Safeguarding Adult Reviews.

This document is an overarching framework to the Scrutiny and Assurance Co-ordination Group and priority work-streams. These plans will be monitored through scrutiny and challenge

of the Executive Working Group. This plan and the work of the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together is further complimented by the Scrutiny and Assurance Group.

The Scrutiny and Assurance Co-ordination Group will take responsibility for monitoring delivery of this Strategic Plan and will formally report to the Executive Working Group quarterly, with the understanding that any issues that could impact on the delivery of the plan will be escalated to the Chair of the Executive Working Group immediately. Each of the Priority Groups, Learning and improvement group and the Communities Engagement Groups will have a delivery/work plan which will underpin the delivery of these priorities. The Priorities are as follows:

Priority	Aim	Activity
Priority 1: Exploitation	To improve the effectiveness of multi-agency practice in response to the exploitation of vulnerable people, including: Criminal Exploitation: County lines. Child Sexual Exploitation: children affected by gangs and youth violence, modern slavery and trafficking.	Scrutinise and challenge partner's multi-agency practice.
Priority 2: Early Help and Prevention	To improve the effectiveness of multi-agency Early Help and Prevention work for both children and adults whose needs do not warrant a statutory social care intervention.	Evaluate multi-agency practice, and promote best practice.
Priority 3: Mental Health	To explore mental health services offer, and improve the safeguarding of children and adults living with poor mental health, or those who live in a family where mental ill health is a feature.	Develop rigorous approaches to monitoring and evaluating the provision and delivery of mental health services and multi-agency practice where poor mental health is a feature. Introduce timely and robust methods to learn from audits and case reviews and disseminate the lessons learned.

Priority	What do we need to do?	How are we going to do it?
Priority 1: Exploitation WST will provide scrutiny and challenge to partners to evaluate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The effectiveness of pathways that are in place. • The level of understanding re the impact of childhood trauma on the lives of young people / adult at risk of exploitation. • The effectiveness of transition from exploited child to exploited adult. • The access to support services available. 	<p>Identify whether current pathways are understood and effective.</p> <p>Look at and review current pathways in place to identify whether they are effective.</p> <p>Create a space for children / adult social workers to share information in readiness for transition to adulthood.</p> <p>Look at transition pathways for children and young people.</p>	<p>Create a space for children / adult social workers to be able to share information on children transitioning to adulthood.</p> <p>Create and implement a transition pathway for children turning 18 years to ensure support continues and develop a pathway for adult MACE.</p> <p>Gather feedback and engage children and families regarding the exploitation process and support.</p> <p>Create young person/child and parent/ carers consultations and feedback forms for families with a MACE plan. This will promote participation and influence service delivery.</p> <p>Identify exploitation intervention services across Wolverhampton for adult social care to signpost those who do not have care and support needs and are deemed low risk.</p>
Priority 2: Early Help and Prevention Provide scrutiny and challenge to partners to evaluate effectiveness of multi-agency practice in response to Early Help and Prevention in both children and adult services, for those whose needs to do not warrant a statutory social care intervention	<p>Understand how widely embed the Early help and prevention offer is embed across the workforce</p> <p>Assure WST that the correct threshold is consistently met</p> <p>Assure WST of the impact and quality of the work being undertaken to prevent escalating risk to children, young people and adults with care and support needs Agencies to provide presentation at WST event to obtain assurance of early help being embedded within their service.</p> <p>Obtaining data for an understanding of the current position of the use of the WeCAN tool</p>	<p>All agencies to adhere to the Thresholds Document.</p> <p>Monitoring through local audit (S11 / Care Act / JTAI) and the MASH deep dive audits.</p> <p>Promotion via the partnership website Obtain update in terms of progress for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family front door project / website / social media • Adult's redesign (EH&P) <p>Short event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What early help means to the agency? • Aims / objectives • How they've achieved embedding EH • Case studies • Plan for next 12 months • Data • Feedback <p>Data to be presented via the early help and prevention dashboard to the group.</p> <p>Assurance from agencies that the WeCAN tool is embed into practice.</p> <p>Neglect forms / concern meetings / hoarding to be considered as part of the adult redesign</p>
Priority 3: Mental Health How effective and equitable is early access to mental health provision across Wolverhampton?	<p>We need to scope the mental health offer in Wolverhampton within a safeguarding and multi-agency context.</p> <p>Establish current services offered around early access to Mental Health Services and identify any gaps.</p> <p>Mapping Report – Identify what is already in place, what the route to support is, how support is accessed and by who.</p> <p>Service User Engagement</p>	<p>Scope of the Mental Health offer in Wolverhampton within a safeguarding and multi-agency context.</p> <p>Establish current services offered around early access to Mental Health services across Wolverhampton. This will allow the partnership to identify any gaps in services</p> <p>Is this transition effectively managed – appropriate and effectiveness of the transition between services</p> <p>A further qualitative review of multi-agency safeguarding practice; specifically, what do single agencies already do well to ensure inclusive safeguarding and what might be improved? This could include review of multi or single agency training and content relevant to Inclusive Safeguarding and or equalities.</p>



Key Achievements For WST Safeguarding Partnership April 2021 - March 2022

- WST Partnership has supported the implementation of the ICON message. A Task and finish group was established in order to coordinate the partnerships response to promoting and embedding key messages within individual agencies through an action plan. WST have also hosted a number of briefing sessions to raise awareness and the profile across the City.
- The ICON campaign has been supported by the Black Country ICB with allocated funds to purchase resources to help embed the ICON message.
- Following the publication of the DFE paper into Sexual abuse in schools, WST established a Task and Finish group to ensure that education providers across the City are aware of support and resources available to tackle this issue and to provide assurance to the DFE and partnership that this workstream is being addressed. An education resources page has been developed and is available on the WST website.
- The Multi Agency Exploitation Hub has developed the 0-25 exploitation screening tool and pathway in order to support children and young people transitioning between child and adult services to ensure that the support does not stop at the point they turn 18.
- Embedding 'Think Family' in all areas of work across the partnership
- Established the Safeguarding Care Providers Group in order to engage and share key messages with care providers across the City. This is an opportunity for them to share best practice and highlight any barriers.
- Reformation of the Campaigns Group to ensure safeguarding messages are shared within the partnership, front line practitioners and members of the public.

Key Achievements of WST Sub Groups

April 2021 - March 2022

Mental Health Priority Group

- Completion of surveys across the multi-agency workforce
- Think Family – Video & Training offer
- Identified Impact Measures

Learning and Improvement Group

- Full review and refresh of the WST Training and Learning Offer
- Consultation with all partners about gaps in WST learning
- Procurement of new training within budget
- Increased/improved Adult Safeguarding Training and Learning offer now available
- Whole Family approach to all learning being delivered
- Quality of Learning Framework in place
- Training e-Bulletin to all WST partners and subscribers, to promote partnership training and learning offer

Exploitation Priority Group

- A virtual Partnership Exploitation and Missing Hub went live on 22nd February 2021. bringing together a range of organisations to share information, develop joint action and co-ordinate both the strategic and operational exploitation work in the city for both adults and children
- 0-25 and adult screening tools and pathways for exploitation and modern-day slavery launched
- Exploitation champions identified in partner organisations
- Number of multi-agency audits undertaken, learning shared within WST Partnership

Community and Engagement Group

- Communication and Engagement Strategy refreshed and stakeholder matrix developed
- 3 awareness raising campaigns delivered each year – although engagement activity much reduced during the pandemic
- Experts By Experience Approach agreed and Toolkit developed
- Experts by Experience work with refugee and migrant students at City of Wolverhampton College commenced

One Panel Group

- Appropriate and compliant learning reviews completed on time, to a high standard and shared accordingly
- Clear referral pathways and criteria with a consistent approach to communication for all reviews
- Development of guidance for lead reviewers and review group members
- An approach to evidencing 'positive impact' on vulnerable people because of learning review recommendations
- Regional learning feedback reported regularly
- Excellent partner engagement and commitment to One Panel

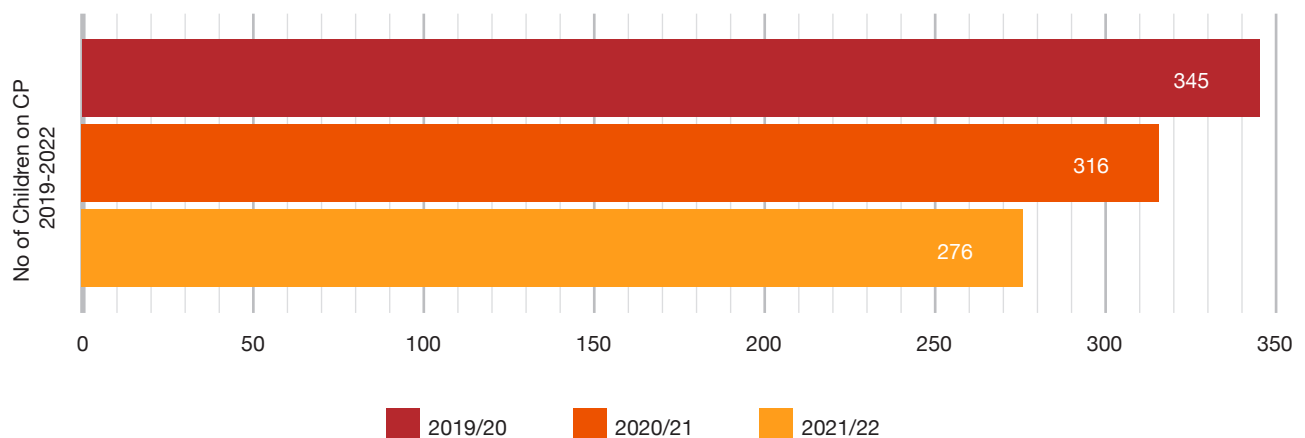
Protect Children and Young Adults (1)

Safeguarding in numbers

No. of children on Child Protection Plans

Comparison over three year period between 2019/2022 and 2021/2022

Between 2019/2020 and 2021/2022, there has been a very positive 20% (69 case) reduction in the number of children on Child Protection Plans as outlined in the graphic below.

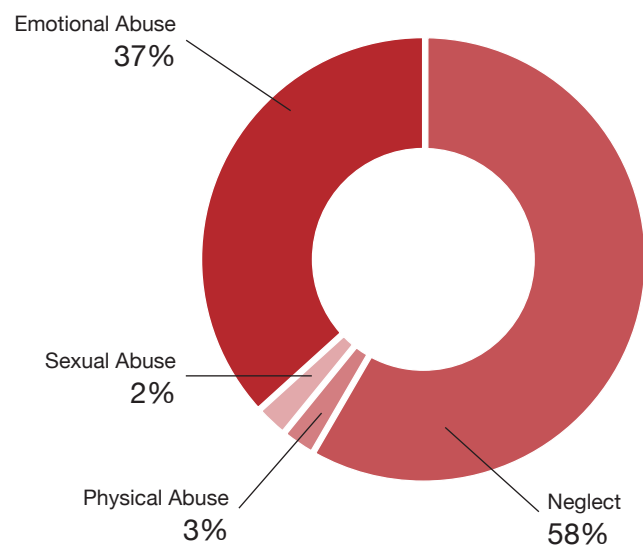


Child Protection plans by category of abuse

April 2021 – March 2022

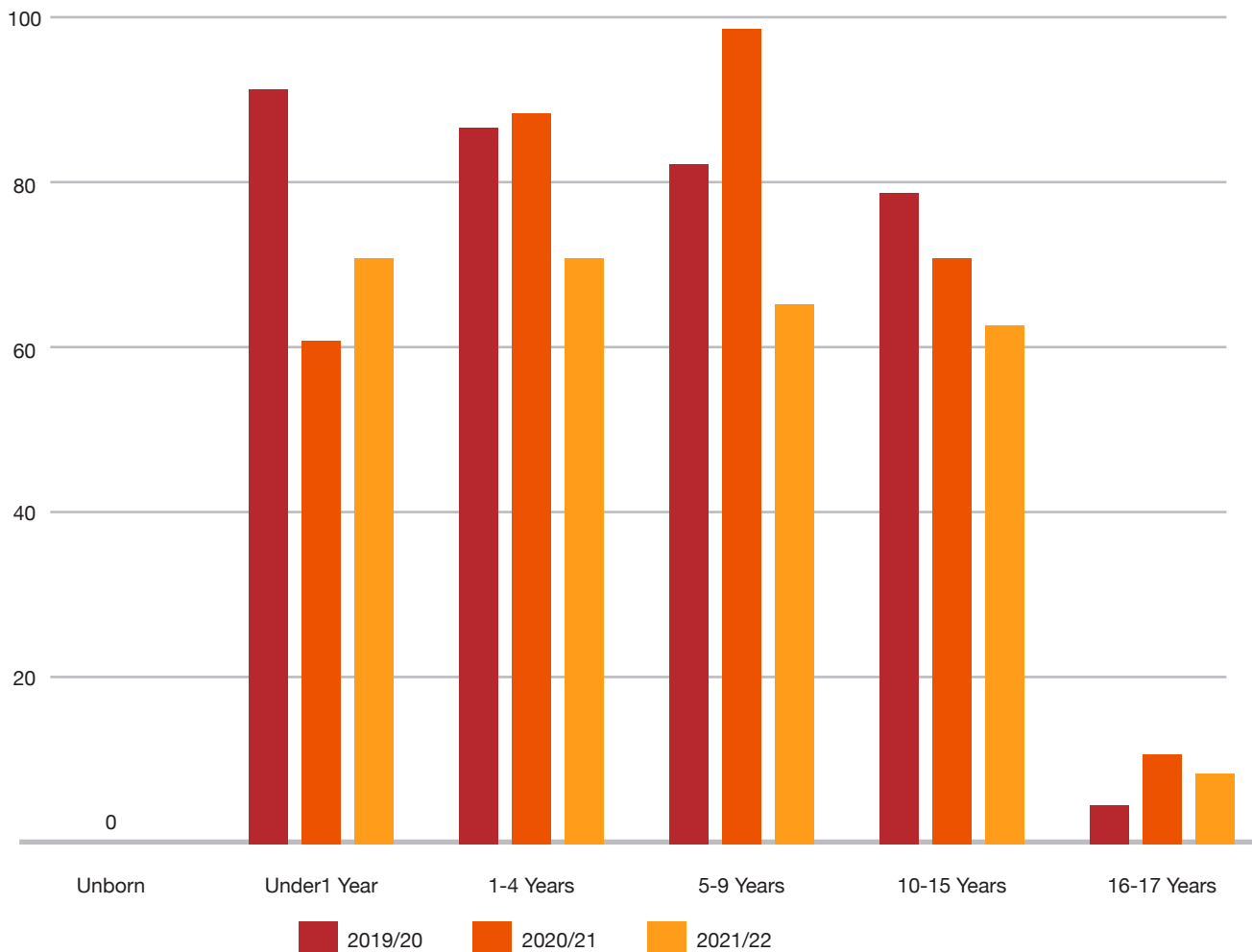
The table and chart outlined below identifies child protection plans by the type of abuse, highlighting neglect as the largest percentage of abuse cases being 161 or 58% of the total cohort. Whereas neglect made up over 71% in the year 2020 / 2021.

Type of abuse	2021 - 2022 Number of cases	% Total
Neglect	161	58
Physical abuse	7	3
Sexual abuse	6	2
Emotional abuse	102	37
Multiple	0	0



Protect Children and Young Adults (2) Safeguarding in numbers

Age of Child re Protection Plan by the following bandings



Protect - Adult Social Care - Assurance Data (1)

The core to all our activities within adult safeguarding as the Six key principles:

Empowerment – people being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and give informed consent.

Prevention – it is better to take action before harm occurs.

Proportionality – the least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.

Protection – support and representation for those in greatest need.

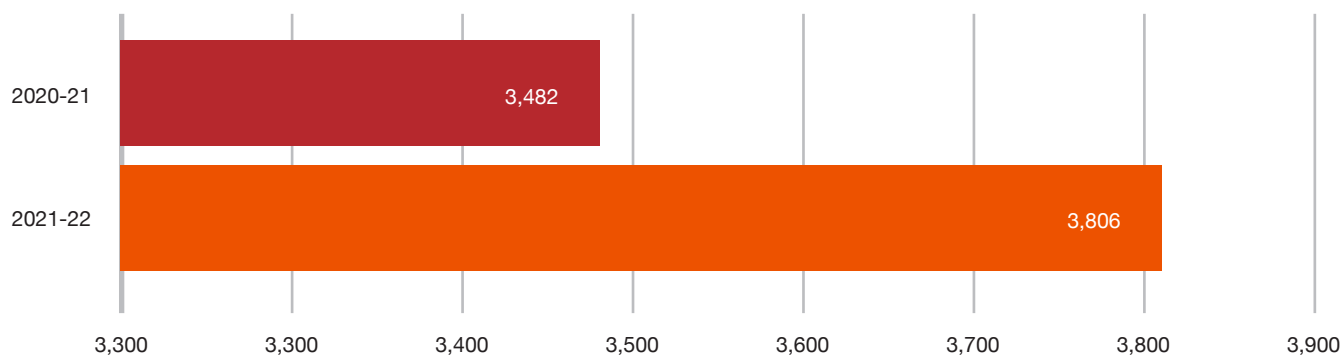
Partnership – local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse.

Accountability – accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

During the year under review, there was a x in concerns registered with CWC Adult Social Care v's 2020 / 2021.

Total number of Safeguarding Concerns 2021 - 2022 v's 2020 - 2021

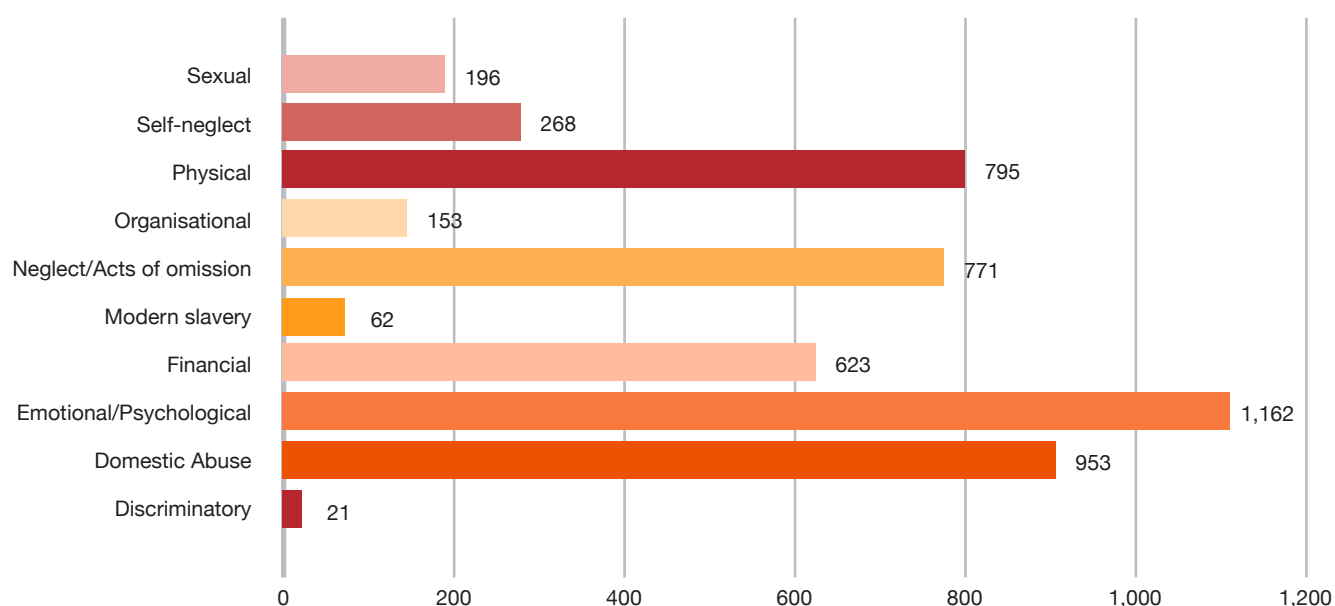
Within Wolverhampton, there were 3,806 safeguarding concerns reported during the period under review, equivalent to an increase of approximately 9.3% year on year.



Types of Abuse

Of these concerns, the most frequent reported were emotional / psychological safeguarding concerns.

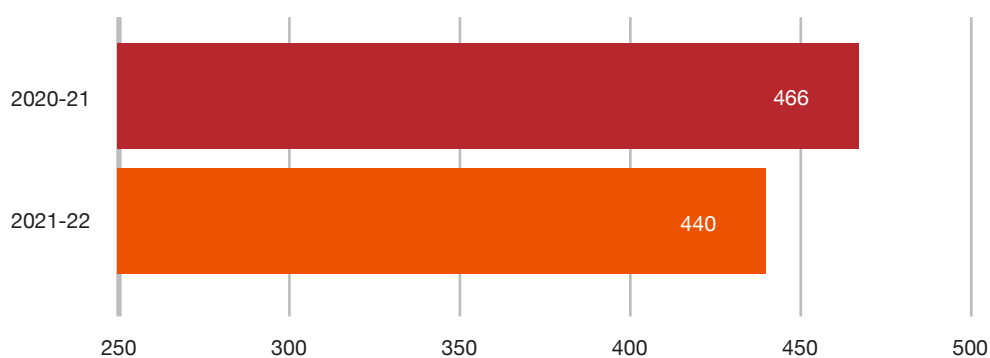
Type of Safeguarding Concern



s42 Enquiries

Of the 3,806 concerns reported during 2021 - 2022, some 440 cases led to s42 enquiries (or 11.5% of total concerns reported). During the period under review, there was a reduction of 5.58% v's 2020 / 2021.

Concerns to s42 Enquiries April 21 - March 22

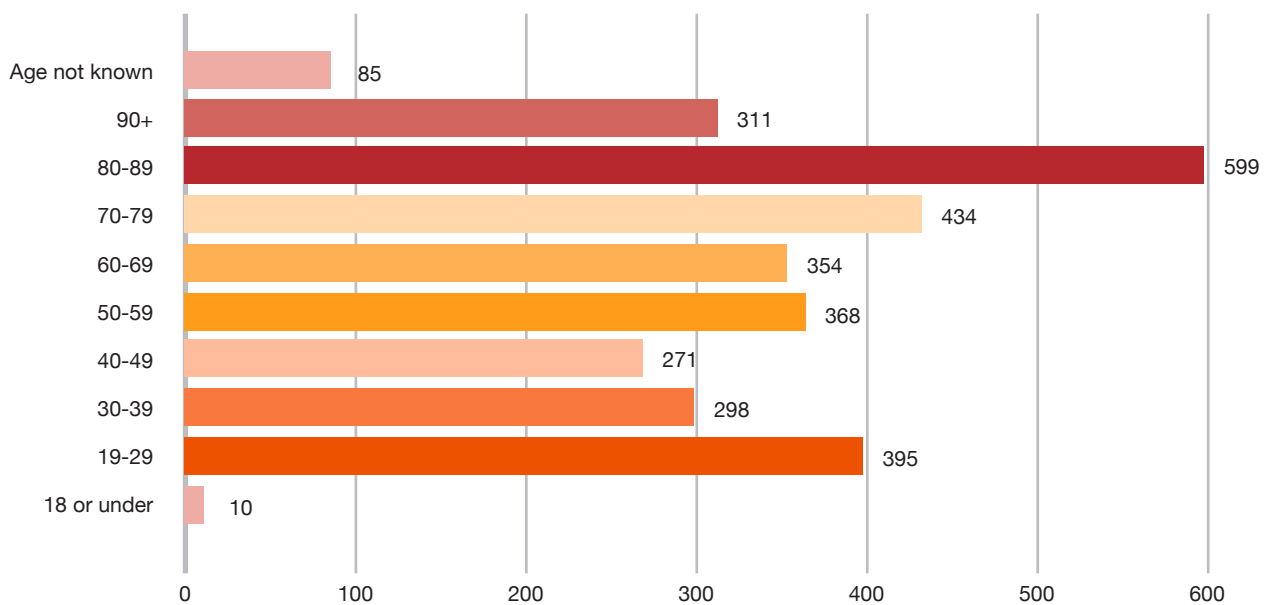


Protect - Adult Social Care - Assurance Data (2)

The age range bandings re concerns

The highest number of concerns reported within age bandings during the period under review were within the banding 80 – 89 years of age – 599.

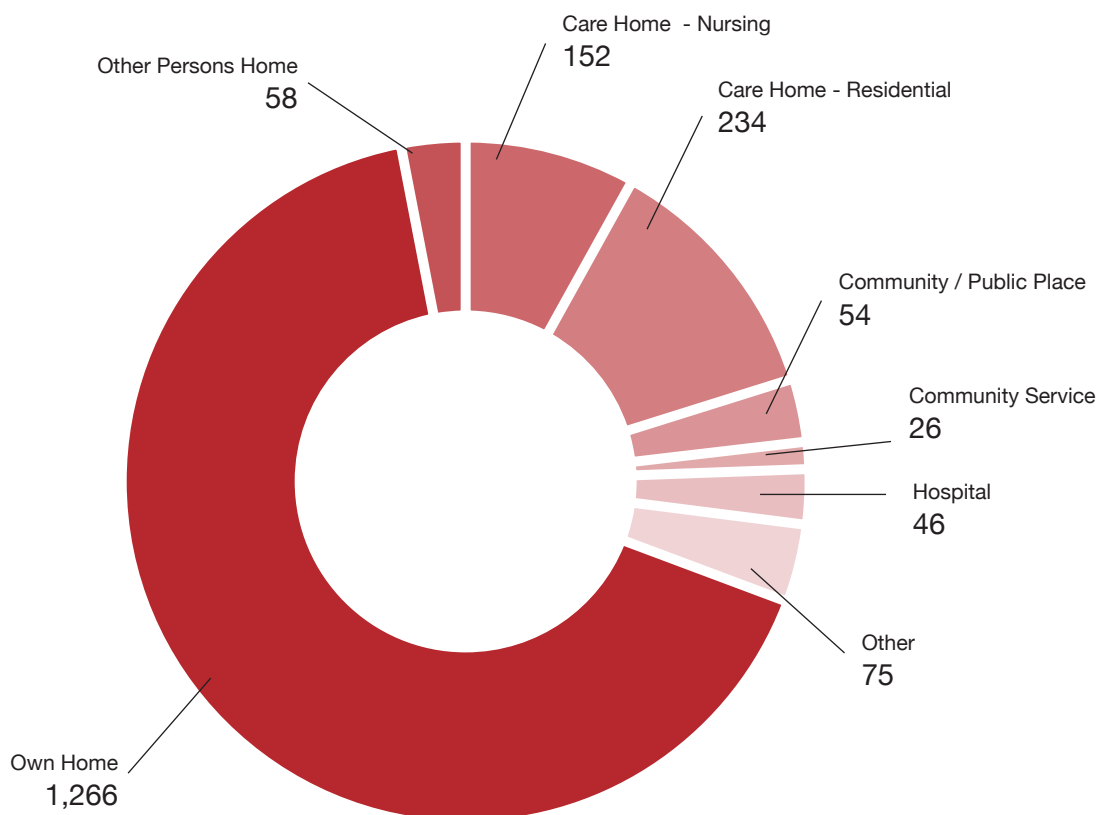
Number of Concerns by Age Banding 2021 - 2022



Protect - Adult Social Care - Assurance Data (3)

Location of Safeguarding concern

Type of abuse	2021 - 2022 Number of cases	Type of abuse	2021 - 2022 Number of cases
Care Home - Nursing	152	Own Home	1,266
Care Home - Residential	234	Other Persons Home	58
Community / Public Place	54	Community Service	26
Hospital	46	Other	75





Child and Adult Protection

Learning from Reviews and Data

Practice reviews

Children

The responsibility for how the system learns lessons from serious child safeguarding incidents lies at a national level with the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and at a local level with the safeguarding partners. Serious child safeguarding cases are those in which:

- a.** Abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected.
- b.** The child has died or been seriously injured.
- c.** That partner organisations are working effectively together

Adults

The Care Act 2014 statutory guidance describes when a safeguarding adult review should be undertaken:

- a.** When an adult in its area dies as a result of abuse or neglect, whether known or suspected, and there is concern that partner agencies could have worked more effectively to protect the adult.
- b.** if an adult in its area has not died, but the Scrutiny and Assurance Co-ordination Group knows or suspects that the adult has experienced serious abuse or neglect.

Overview

During the reporting period under review (1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022), there was 1 Serious Adult Review - P and no Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.

P

P was a 79-year-old woman who lived with her adult son. Due to P's physical disabilities, she had been cared for by her partner K, until he died in 2019. Following K's death, P was then cared for by her son and received daily support from a care agency. Following Keith's death, P experienced domestic abuse perpetrated by her son. The Care Agency raised three separate safeguarding referrals due to concerns the carers had about the behaviour of P's son, including unexplained bruising seen on P's body. The table below outlines the findings and the consequent recommendations.

Findings No	Finding	Recommendation
1	Develop a Domestic Abuse, Adult at Risk Pathway with a Single Point of Contact and implement a Media Strategy	Rec 1: Agencies should develop a Domestic Abuse pathway and recognise the role of a 'Champion' or a Single Point of Contact to ensure all cases of domestic abuse are referred, monitored, supervised, and directed to the right professional and agency
2	Domestic Violence Protection Notices, Orders (Domestic Abuse Protection Notices and Orders from 2023) and Victimless Prosecutions	<p>Rec 2: Police and other agencies to effectively utilise Domestic Abuse Protection Notices and Orders (DAPN and DAPO) that consolidates existing protection orders and non-molestation orders under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.</p> <p>Police in persistent DA cases, where the victim does not support a criminal prosecution, through the CPS, a request should be made to conduct a victimless prosecution</p>
3	Recognising Coercive, Emotional and Manipulative Control. There was clear evidence provided to the review which supports this finding which was not identified or recognised in P's case.	<p>Rec 3: How to recognise and act upon the signs and symptoms of coercive, emotional, and manipulative controlling behaviour of an adult at risk in conjunction with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.</p> <p>Ensure the criminal offence under Section 76 of the Serious Crime Act 2015, if suspected will be referred for safeguarding action to be taken to protect the subject</p>
4	Supervision, Professional Curiosity and Risk Assessments. Agency submissions to the review outlined the requirement for more effective action required which supports this finding to enhance professional practice.	<p>Rec 4: A high-risk domestic abuse case or any safeguarding referral should not be closed without supervision oversight, to ensure that all available action, risk assessments, safeguarding plans are completed with the rationale recorded that is subject to scrutiny.</p> <p>More professional curiosity must be displayed to ensure that practitioners are aware and take into account all aspects of domestic abuse of an adult at risk, in order to protect their health and well-being and utilise the supportive services of an IDVA where necessary.</p> <p>A review must be conducted as to the suitability of the role of a sole carer where safeguarding concerns of domestic abuse and other serious concerns have been raised, to ensure the continued protection of the person.</p>
5	Consideration of Mental Capacity Assessments for 'Best Interest' decisions. The SAR process and practitioners' event identified an MCA should have been considered and more thoroughly.	Rec 5: Where there is a possible concern of mental capacity, they must ensure that a Mental Capacity Assessment is always considered to be carried out or seek the advice from a Mental Health/Capacity professional or Independent Mental Capacity Advocate, to ensure the 'best interest' decision, to protect the welfare of the adult at risk, is assessed.

6	Communication, record keeping, escalation and sharing information. Agency submissions to the SAR identified and evidenced this finding and recommendations.	<p>Rec 6: The requirement for enhanced professional curiosity to fully investigate and record on the correct database, details of their enquiries and decision making for any case of domestic abuse, in order to protect an adult at risk. The information should be expediently shared to the relevant safeguarding agencies in compliance with Local and National Domestic Abuse Policies and Guidance.</p> <p>Professionals should be encouraged to challenge the decisions or actions taken in a safeguarding enquiry which are not agreed. Practitioners should raise the concerns to their line manager and if the matter is unresolved should utilise either the WST Escalation Policy, Dispute Resolution, or their own agencies escalation policy to address the issue in question.</p> <p>Rec 7: Request for the Care Quality Commission to conduct an inspection of Agincare Care Agency into the quality of Agincare's record keeping, decision making, sharing of safeguarding information requiring a referral; the retention of essential documentation including details of staff and ex staff members for any subsequent statutory review which may occur. Furthermore, to ensure that the reported concerns within the SAR for Pat are not being replicated in other Agincare teams providing care to the community and that the lessons in SAR Pat are learnt.</p>
7	Professionals' meetings. Even though there were strategy discussions held, they were not comprehensive as was the case of the MARAC meetings which were not to the standard expected and require improvements.	<p>Rec 8: Wolverhampton safeguarding partners and voluntary agencies reassure WST that their staff have been reminded that they can request a prompt multi-agency professional or strategy meeting when continuing concerns with an adult at risk persists, in order to enable professionals to consider the wider aspects and options available in a case, to protect the health and welfare of the adult.</p>
8	Concerns for the Medication of K and P. This was addressed at the time with appropriate supervision by health professionals as it was believed additional medication requested by K was not being used correctly and could have been used inappropriately. This was effectively challenged at the time therefore no recommendation is necessary.	No recommendation required.

9	<p>Compliance to complete Safeguarding Referrals and Risk Assessments. There were missed opportunities or delays to refer safeguarding domestic abuse incidents together with no effective risk assessments conducted to a professional standard.</p>	<p>Rec 9: Complete and submit safeguarding referrals expediently which are risk assessed for appropriate safeguarding action to be taken.</p> <p>Ensuring that all available actions and initiatives including Care Act needs assessments and safeguarding enquiries in compliance with Local and National Safeguarding Adult Policy and Procedures are completed and the outcome shared with relevant agencies.</p> <p>The knowledge and experience of an IDVA must be utilised when dealing with high-risk domestic abuse cases of an adult at risk to give the best possible opportunity to improve their health and wellbeing and to ensure they are effectively protected.</p> <p>Rec 10: Wolverhampton Adult Social Care and West Midlands Police should conduct joint home visits in a high-risk, suspected domestic abuse, adult at risk cases, in order to fully assess the allegation and ensure that a thorough DASH assessment form is completed to support and inform professional practice to protect and safeguard the subject.</p>
10	<p>West Midlands Police, Quality and Response to Domestic Abuse, Adult at Risk Case. There was identified learning for WMP from the outcome of the information provided to the SAR to be considered and addressed.</p>	<p>Rec 11: To clarify with Local Authority Commissioners of statutory reviews the type of WMP report or individual management report required, ensuring that any lesson learnt are included in the report, agreed, and signed off by senior management.</p> <p>Review the quality of the WMP domestic abuse investigations within SAR Pat to ensure lessons are learnt, including from previous learning from HMICFRS inspections, complying with the West Midlands Crime Commissioner Policing Priority for Hidden Crime (domestic abuse) and Local and National Safeguarding Adult Policies and Procedures.</p> <p>Review the quality of MARAC meetings, to ensure they are supervised, the recorded minutes, of the meeting reflect the discussion had; the right agencies with knowledge of the case are invited, to consider the wider aspects of an adult at risk case, with safeguarding action plans developed with the rationale of decision making and outcomes recorded.</p>

Safeguarding Training

April 2021 – March 2022

WST have continued to offer multi-agency training via Teams in 2021/22.

The Multi-agency training for the period under review included:

Core safeguarding (Children)

- A Shared Responsibility x 4
- Working Together x 4
- Thresholds to support x 4
- Working Together Update x 4
- Managing Allegations (Children and Adult Workforce) x 3

Core Training (Adults)

- Safeguarding Adults - Postponed till June 22
- Section 42 Investigations – as above
- Managing Allegations x 3
- Think Family x 3
- ICON x 4
- Sp-eak, Suicide Prevention x 4

For core training, a total of 640 places were available. All of the courses were fully booked and the waiting list option was utilised. An additional date was added to accommodate this.

Think family training, 75 places were available with 62 places booked and 57 attended.

ICON, 24 places were available, 22 booked but no data is available to report on those who actually attended.

Sp-eak, there were 120 places available. However, booking and attendance is not available as the courses were booked directly with the provider and commissioned by Public Health.

Safer Wolverhampton Partnership IDVA on behalf of WST delivered 9 sessions to 163 delegates from Children's and Adult workforces, focused on the following topics:

- Domestic Abuse, Impact on children and the family
- Domestic Violence 'Honour' based Abuse, Forced Marriage & FGM

WST have continued to allow access to elearning via Wolverhampton City Councils learning management system on a guest basis.



APPENDIX A
Partner Statements

Children and Young Adults - City of Wolverhampton

Deputy Director of Children Social Care

City of Wolverhampton Children's Services – Partner Statement



Judgement	Grade
The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families	Outstanding
The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection	Good
The experience and progress of children in care and care leavers	Good
Overall effectiveness	Good

Ofsted conducted a short inspection between 21 March and 1 April 2022

- The outcome offers external reassurance that the needs of children and young people in the city are being met with overall effectiveness graded as Good
- The impact of leaders on social work practice has improved from Good to Outstanding
- The experience of children in need and protection has improved from Requires Improvement to Good
- The experience of children in care and care leavers remains Good with some outstanding practice in supporting care leavers
- Children in care have experienced even better placement stability this year with continuing good outcomes, and care leavers have benefit from consistently good quality care
- We have continued our journey of transformation embedding innovative areas of work into practice. Examples include: our local House Project for care leavers, our Social Work in Schools project, our multi-agency Missing and Exploitation Hub, and our MASH 24, all of which are demonstrating a difference and supporting positive outcomes for young people
- The social work and workforce health checks are positive, with colleagues feeling well supported and committed to continuing their careers in Wolverhampton
- We have been nominated as finalists in the MJ national awards on 24 June 2022 in two award categories; The House Project for Best Social Housing Initiative, and Power2 for Innovation In Children's and Adults Service
- We have also been nominated as finalists in the LGC national awards on 20 July 2022 for Transformation of Children's Services

- We have some significant key strategic priorities over the next 12 months including: implementation of the recommendations from the National Care review, developing and embedding the national framework for delivery of family work through Family Hubs, establishment of two new internal residential provisions for 4 of our young people in care with complex needs, and development of a Families front door
- Practice weeks take place three times a year with all senior managers undertaking “practice conversations” with practitioners, observing practice, obtaining feedback from parents, children / young people, and carrying out dip samples of records. Workers receive immediate feedback and learning opportunities, and senior managers understand how interventions are experienced by children and families first-hand. It aligns with our restorative practice approach and supports a culture of continual learning, improvement, curiosity, and reflection
- As part of our Quality Assurance framework, we triangulate wider service information with our practice week audit activity and incorporate feedback from compliments and complaints, data, and young people / families, as well as linking learning from the safeguarding service, local dip audits and DHRs / CSPRs. This helps us to identify themes and trends and to indicate where quality assurance activity should focus next
- There has also been improvement in specific areas of practice over the year, for example the number of high quality, meaningful care plans that evidence progress for children rated good or above has increased over the last 12 months. This is a key area on the Aiming for Excellence Plan and actions that have supported this progress have included refresher workshops led by the Advanced Practitioners and the sharing of good examples within teams as part of reflective sessions



City of Wolverhampton Council

Director of Adult Social Care

Adult Social Care remains committed to improving safeguarding practice and has continued to work closely with Children's Social Care and Education Services across the City of Wolverhampton Council's Families Directorate, to relight our city as we come through the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Wolverhampton Partnership Exploitation and Missing Hub was established in February 2021, this Multi- Agency Hub brings together services that have contact with children, young people and adults who are at risk of exploitation, to make use of their combined knowledge to increase safety and protection. In July 2021 an Adult Exploitation screening tool was launched, we have started to see more screening tools being submitted by partner agencies following awareness raising sessions.

Adult Social Care have continued to ensure representation at the Exploitation Hub daily briefings, this enables information sharing and timely responses to concerns of an adult being at risk of exploitation.

The Principal Social Worker (PSW) has continued to lead on quality assurance activity in adults during 2021-2022 with audits evidencing that high quality social work practice and adherence to statutory duties has continued despite the ongoing challenges of Covid and its aftereffects:

Audit period	Total rate Good or higher	Total rated Requires Improvement or lower
2019 - 20	83%	17%
2020 - 21	78%	22%
2021 - 22	92%	8%

Local audit activity throughout 2021-2022 has also demonstrated consistently good practice over the year in many areas, such as in use of advocacy, strengths-based approaches, Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP), effective management oversight and involving the person in decision making. Good outcomes have been evidenced for people with care and support needs over the year, with an average of 90% of files rated good or above for demonstrating that social work intervention has made a positive difference to the person.

The PSW leads on the annual social work development plan and ensures training opportunities are informed by QA activity and offered in line with service priorities as well as keeping practitioners up to date with changes in legislation and / or supporting with the challenges being faced in practice. Some examples of training in 2021-2022 included: The Domestic Abuse Act 2021, Cultural Competence, Supporting People who Hoard, Making Safeguarding Enquiries (S42 Care Act), Trauma Informed Practice, Mental Capacity Act / Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS), and Reflective Supervision.

Quality of MSP and the management of safeguarding risk are asked at every file audit and oversight ensured in supervision and by the QA of safeguarding documents by managers – these areas continue to be an area of strength in 2021- 2022 although some decline from the previous year which is being monitored. A deeper dive into safeguarding practice across social work teams is being planned for 2022-2023

Making enquiries (s42) training has been commissioned and offered in Q4 2021- 2022 to support the skills and knowledge in social work teams.

There has been an increase in the volume and prevalence of domestic abuse safeguarding concerns. There are conversations ongoing regarding the introduction of an independent Domestic Abuse Pathway that is independent of the MASH and where people can be signposted appropriately.

In September 2021 the new 24/7 AMHP Hub was launched, this dedicated team responds to requests for Mental Health Act assessments. The dedicated AMHP Hub has brought an improvement in response times for Mental Health Act assessments for people when in crisis.

Adult Social Care continues to operate in a strengths-based way that encourages an enabling approach that seeks to maximize people's independence. Multi-Disciplinary Team meetings have continued to take place during 2021/22 between health and social care colleagues to prevent unnecessary hospital admissions.

During 2021-22 the Welfare Rights team continued to provide the dedicated phone line to support people who were experiencing financial hardship due to impact of Covid and also offer debt management support.

Throughout 2021-22 practitioners have worked both virtually and face to face in order to safeguard some of the most vulnerable people in the city. Where appropriate due to Covid-19, the DoLS team have completed Best Interest Assessments virtually to ensure that people who lack mental capacity and are deprived of their liberty are safeguarded appropriately.

To support information sharing and joint working, Wolverhampton Adult Social Care has continued to host a bi-monthly CQC information sharing meeting. This has proven to be a very effective forum and partners include CQC, social care, CCG, commissioning, and Health Watch and is a forum for agencies to share concerns regarding care services and agree and plan appropriate action to safeguard the vulnerable people who use the services. This multi-disciplinary approach has resulted in improved outcomes for the adults who access the services through timely responses, early intervention, and opportunities for prevention due to the assurance and safer practices being in place.

Adult Social Care has continued to actively participate in both MARAC and MAPPA meetings, champions have also been identified in teams for a number of subject matters e.g., Safeguarding, Modern Day Slavery & Exploitation, Mental Capacity and Carers.

In November 2021 Adult Social Care, alongside other departments in the City of Wolverhampton Council worked in partnership with Royal Wolverhampton Trust and the Black Country and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group to establish Wolverhampton Cares, a network of partners and a website that provides additional help and support to care providers and unpaid carers in the city.

Wolverhampton Cares demonstrates the commitment of partner agencies to support the city's care sector, care workers and family carers and also the commitment to equality of access and provision of high-quality care.

NHS Black Country and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group (Wolverhampton Place)

Progress in April 2021 to March 2022: Adult and Child Safeguarding

- Both System wide and Place based working has continued since the merger of the Black Country CCG's
- The Designated Safeguarding Leads continued to progress various ICB Safeguarding Workstreams including Assurance, Training, Portfolio Group and Suicide Prevention
- Governance processes have been strengthened to include the CCG's Safeguarding Steering Group and Safeguarding Board
- Assurance has been submitted to NHSE/I regarding the CCG's (now Integrated Care Board since July 2022) Statutory Safeguarding responsibilities in form of the Safeguarding Commissioning Assurance Toolkit with minimal area's for improvement
- Safeguarding supervision has continued to be provided for Named, Designated and Safeguarding Specialist professionals by the CCG's Designates
- Preparation is in place for the introduction of Liberty Protection Safeguards which is due to be implemented in 2023/2024. A project lead has been appointed by the CCG who has led the implementation group and a system wide response to the LPS Consultation
- Challenges were overcome regarding new ways of virtual working during the Covid 19 Pandemic. Blended ways of working are now available, with the new Wolverhampton Place Based Head Quarters at the Civic Centre
- Virtual Level 3 Safeguarding Training has continued to be provided for Primary Care, CCG, Care Home Staff and the CCG Governing Body
- Safeguarding Newsletters (monthly) continue to be provided for CCG Providers and Primary Care to keep colleagues informed of changing legislation, guidance and safeguarding arrangements
- All statutory and non-statutory requests for information for safeguarding reviews have been responded to in a timely manner
- Good partnership working has been identified as a strength at the Wolverhampton Place
- The GP Domestic Abuse and Training Project which supports Primary Care with assessment of risk and training has continued (until May 2022), and will be replaced by the IRIS project in September 2022
- Recruitment to vacant and new posts has been successful within the Safeguarding Team
- There has been a multi-agency response to the new Serious Violence Duty in Wolverhampton. Violence and Need Assessment Workshops have been set up to assess and monitor what work is being undertaken to support and respond to this new duty. Work on a new strategy is currently ongoing in Wolverhampton to support this new legislation.

- Monthly GP Safeguarding Lead forums have commenced, to enable the CCG to support the Wolverhampton GP Practices.
- The DN for safeguarding children lead on a Black Country wide safeguarding review of the 5 cases of children suicides that have occurred in the BC, with the additional review of a near miss case. The review report highlighted key safeguarding themes and issues, incorporating the learning from the CDOP processes. The learning and key messages from the report were shared across WST and the partnership was tasked with picking up the recommendations within.

LeDeR:

- The new LeDeR policy and revised process for reviewing and agreeing actions is working well in Wolverhampton. Monthly multi-agency panels are held (subject to completed reviews) with representatives from RWT, LA, BCHFT, Continuing Health Care, Compton Hospice and a family expert by experience. All completed reviews are discussed and the learning and service improvements have included changes to how appointment letters are sent out for hospital clinics, CHC colleagues now checking if Annual Health Checks have been completed and Adult Social Care have reviewed how workloads are managed in times of staff absence.
- There is continued evidence of well-planned and coordinated end of life care for people, which for many was also at the time of the increased restrictions during the pandemic. Evidence of good uptake Annual Health Checks and also for the Covid Vaccine and deaths from Covid-19 in 2021/22 were below the national figure.
- There were also fewer learning disability deaths recorded than previous years with the mean age of 60.8 which reflects (sadly) the national figure.
- The Black Country Annual LeDeR Report 2021/22 is completed.

Children and Young People in care (CYPiC)

- We recognise the importance of our Children and Young People's (CYPs) voices and involving them in decision making within health is key. Wolverhampton City's 3 year (2022 – 2005) Corporate Parenting Strategy, outlines our commitments, challenges, and the key steps we shall take to ensure that our children have the best possible outcomes in life. This process is to ensure the experiences and opinions of the young people are embedded into service delivery and development.
- This strategy has been co-produced with the Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Independent Collective, each principle has been evaluated analysing the strengths, challenges and what needs to happen. This feedback will form the basis of the Corporate Parenting Action plan and will be reviewed annually.
- Health and the Local Authority continue to work closely together to improve compliance rates for statutory health assessments, in particular Initial Health Assessments (IHA's). Meeting the 20 day challenge is a national issue, and joint local processes are being strengthened. Training has been given by the Children and Young People in Care (CYPiC) Named Nurses to Social Workers, and health checklists have been developed to ensure correct paperwork is submitted by the Local Authority. We are hoping to see some of the impact of this in Quarter 2 performance data.

Link: Initial Health Assessment Checklist.docx

The Safeguarding Children's Lead at Royal Wolverhampton Trust has taken over the management of the CYPiC health team. This has proved invaluable in terms of driving service improvement, and as such will evidence the need for a substantive post moving forward.

Progress includes:

- All children that are identified as Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) are allocated to a Named Nurse for CYPiC.
- Dashboard and monthly activity sheet updated and now embedded into practice to better monitor performance.
- CYPiC nursing team to expand the on-call drop in across paediatric acute services (to commence in June 22)
- Joint pathways with the LA strengthened to improve compliance in statutory activity (impact review at end of Q2)
- Business case for substantive Band 8 CYPiC lead submitted.
- Designated CYPiC professionals across the ICB meet regularly to prevent duplication of work, outline individual and place-based responsibilities, and align commissioned services. As members of the regional and national forums, this offers opportunity to share best practice and address issues locally. A single Dashboard has been developed to report performance across the ICB.
- Regional Designated leads for CYPiC met to discuss the NHSE CYPiC Out-of-Area Mental Health Protocol, and the impact it will have locally. A collective response was sent to NHSE to feed its launch, which has been delayed due to Covid.
- The Designated Nurse for CYPiC and Local Authority Exploitation Leads discussed partnership arrangements within the exploitation hub. There is not a health presence within the daily briefings, and this has been identified as a gap and significant risk. Following a period shadowing within the hub, the Designated Nurse submitted a formal proposal for additional recourse to fund an exploitation lead post within health to the ICB Chief Nurse and this is being scoped at system level. Until resource is agreed there is a mitigation plan to ensure that there is some information sharing.
- Government Care Review: report from the National CYPiC task and finish group was presented to the Independent Chair of the Review. This focuses on unwarranted variation and subsequent inequality of health provision. A unique opportunity for health to be given recognition as an equal partner, and influence future legislation and statutory guidance to improve outcomes for our most vulnerable children.
- There remains significant unwarranted variation for CYPiC placed outside of their originating authority. Wolverhampton continue to see complex Young People placed into City in unregulated accommodation. The Designated Nurse CYPiC continues to raise individual cases with our MA Safeguarding Leads across the partnership, and this remains as priority on CYPiC ICB work plan.
- Designated Nurse CYPiC represented the region on a national working group to support a contribution to the Government Care Review, and unwarranted variation formed one of 6 priorities.

- Designated Nurse CYPiC met with the BCWB CYP inequalities lead to discuss the proposal of free prescriptions for all Care-leavers across the STP. A draft copy of the proposal was submitted to the CYP Board for approval in March. This will be added to the City's core offer for Care-leavers, alongside ring-fenced apprenticeships within the health sector.
- Wolverhampton LA have proposed to open an innovative restorative practice children's residential home within the city. The Designated Nurse CYPiC forms part of the MA steering group to ensure health remains a focal point in its development.
- Somerset Ruling - The court found that the Agency Decision Maker (ADM) in Somerset had not made the decision that children should be placed for adoption in accordance with the Adoption Agencies Regulations (AAR) 2005. Coram Baaf advised that all local authorities should check their procedures. Designated CYPiC professionals met with Adoption@Heart where compliance was confirmed. In addition, a job description and appointment letter was created for the medical advisor post to formalise the process.
- Successful bid for NHSE monies has helped to fund translation leaflets for our UASC. These focused on BBV's and will be given to CYP during their initial health assessment. These are accessible across the ICB.
- The Designated Adult Safeguarding Lead is the Chair of WST's One Panel and the Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children is the Vice Chair
- The Designated Adult Safeguarding Lead and the Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children are members of the WST Scrutiny and Assurance Group and related task and finish groups.
- The DN for Safeguarding Children has been a member of the following task and finish groups: Review of impact of Covid on the Under 1's, ICON Implementation Group, Myth of Invisible Men
- The CYPiC Designated Nurse is a member of the Exploitation Priority Group
- The Named GP for Safeguarding Children is a member of the Mental Health Priority Group
- The Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children is a member of the Early Help Priority Group
- Full participation by all Designates on Statutory and Non-Statutory Review Panels
- The Designated Leads were members of the WST Covid-19 Response Group, and the Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children led the Task and Finish Group responding to escalation of a potential safeguarding surge, seeking assurance from agencies in regards to their operating models
- Presentation to demonstrate progress at the WST Away Day, Learning from Reviews, see graphic over the page
- The DN for Safeguarding Children supported WST with the roll out of the WeCAN (Wolverhampton Child Assessment of Neglect) toolkit for all agencies within Wolverhampton. The DN facilitated a train the trainer's workshop with the nominated WeCAN multi-agency champions and continued to provide support and advice to WST throughout the process.

ICB Safeguarding team and WST

- The Chief Nursing Officer for the Black Country and West Birmingham CCG is the Chair of the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together (WST) Executive Group

We have selected a number of key examples to highlight how we have implemented, shared and embedded the learning from SARs, DHRs/CSPRs



- WST disseminated the Section 11 bi-annual audit to be completed by all organisations to provide assurances that we are compliant with legislation. Positively, BC and WB CCG were rated Outstanding or Good in all areas of the audit apart from one which was rated as required improvement and an associated action plan was put in place.
- As per One Panel direction, the DN for Safeguarding Children lead on a single agency review meeting within health alongside RWT on a 'near miss' case. There were found to be 5 emerging themes in the case and recommendations alongside the themes as well as areas of multi-agency practice that needs to be reviewed.



West Midlands Police

The West Midlands Police (WMP, Wolverhampton) presents its progress with regards to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults during 2020/21 as one of the statutory partners within WST.

Contribution to Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together Partnership

West Midlands Police operates on both a geographical and thematic model. Wolverhampton has a dedicated Neighbourhood Policing Unit (NPU) with the NPU Commander who is the delegated authority of the Chief Constable and strategic lead for the WST partnership. In addition, there is representation in the WST and the sub-groups from a senior leader in the Public Protection Unit (PPU), Force Criminal Investigation Department (FCID), and other NPU leaders. The PPU lead chairs the priority sub-group for Exploitation (children).

Building an effective workforce

WMP support and engage young and vulnerable through a number of dedicated partnership roles including two schools link staff, 3 early intervention staff and our young person's officer.

Under WMP Force SOCEX (Serious Organised Crime and Exploitation Model). WMP have created 3 designated Partnership Hubs, which work closely with our wider partners and relevant local authorities to identify criminal exploitation themes and support identified victims –focusing on children and vulnerable adults that are potentially at risk of sexual and criminal exploitation and ultimately wider Modern Slavery. This team which includes people from intelligence, investigation and statutory partners develops local intelligence to promote safeguarding and wider disruption opportunities. The Wolverhampton Hub consists of 1 sergeant and 4 officers with the support of 2 intelligence officers.

The combination of this, alongside the gangs offender managers, youth cohort offender management and the PPU central team are continuing to seek to address and improve WMP commitment to Strategy Discussions in a detailed and timely manner protecting and safeguarding young and vulnerable people at risk of harm.

The Public Protection Unit (PPU) continues to recruit to fill all vacancies in the department. Alongside this the new Detective academy and Police Now direct investigator cohorts seek to maintain and increase investigators in the specialist safeguarding and public protection arenas.

Through realignment of resource an additional police officer was also invested into the MASH to assist with managing demand and to provide early police support to information sharing as a result of referrals. This was also complemented by moving 3 other police officers into the MASH to support multi agency joint visits to children. These officers now form the MAET (Multi Agency Enquiry Team), which seeks to support early intervention and out of court disposals. This co-location of staff ensures a more consistent working relationship, and earlier visits to children who need to be seen by both police and a social worker.

Celebrating Successes & Contributions to safeguarding

In 2019/20, recorded Child Abuse incidents fell for the first time in a number of years from 2,654 child abuse related incidents in 2018/19 to 2,600 in 2019/20. The partnership acknowledge that there is a risk this reduction could have been due to Covid restrictions and impacts across the partnership and with referrals during the peak stages. This was recognised and measures put in place to address this. The number increased in 2020/21 to 2,899 which is a 11.5% increase, this should be viewed as a positive for a number of reasons; the measures to address any Covid impacts, greater compliance and accuracy of crime recording across WMP and the investment of the exploitation hub resources allowing greater scrutiny and recognition of risk at an earlier stage

In 2021/22 the total number of recorded child abuse has risen to 3,455 an increase of 19.1%, this is made up of 1710 crimes and 1745 non-crimes reflecting the greater focus on identification, accurate recording of incidents of child abuse crime and non-crime, alongside the investment of the exploitation hub. This is a positive raised awareness, accurate reporting and greater partnership working as opposed to any increased concern in regards to rising child abuse cases. Alongside the recognition that this is first full year of no pandemic related restrictions and statutory partners and schools returning to normal circumstances.

Data from January 2022 including to June 2022 – 6 months of data:

42 persons highlighted as possible victims of exploitation

- 25 (60%) Male
- 17 (40%) Female
- 23 (55%) Child U/18
- 19 (45%) Adult

Classifications:

- Criminal Exploitation – 23 (55%)
- CSE – Child Sexual Exploitation – 8 (19%)
- Adult Sexual Exploitation – 3 (6%)
- Labour/Forced Servitude – 4 (10%)
- Other – 4 (10%)

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

It is important to recognize that CSE forms only part of the exploitation of young and vulnerable people which we seek to identify. Our journey with CSE has been longer and as such it is a real positive to see that the accurate identification and recording of CSE has vastly improved as presented further in this report.

In 2018/19 there were 148 CSE incidents recorded in Wolverhampton, with only 18% of these leading to a confirmed crime being recorded. In 2019/20 there were 102 CSE incidents but with 35% of these leading to a crime being recorded. In 2020/21 there were 88 CSE incidents, of which 33% of these lead to a crime being recorded. As a crime is usually only recorded when either a victim confirms this or when there is other evidence available to do so, namely appropriate recognition of a crime, it is now far more likely that police and other agencies are able to find supportive evidence, or to support a victim in making a disclosure of a crime.

If we compare this to 2021/22 we have seen a decrease in CSE incidents to 69 incidents overall but an increase in the conversion to recording a crime-91.3%.

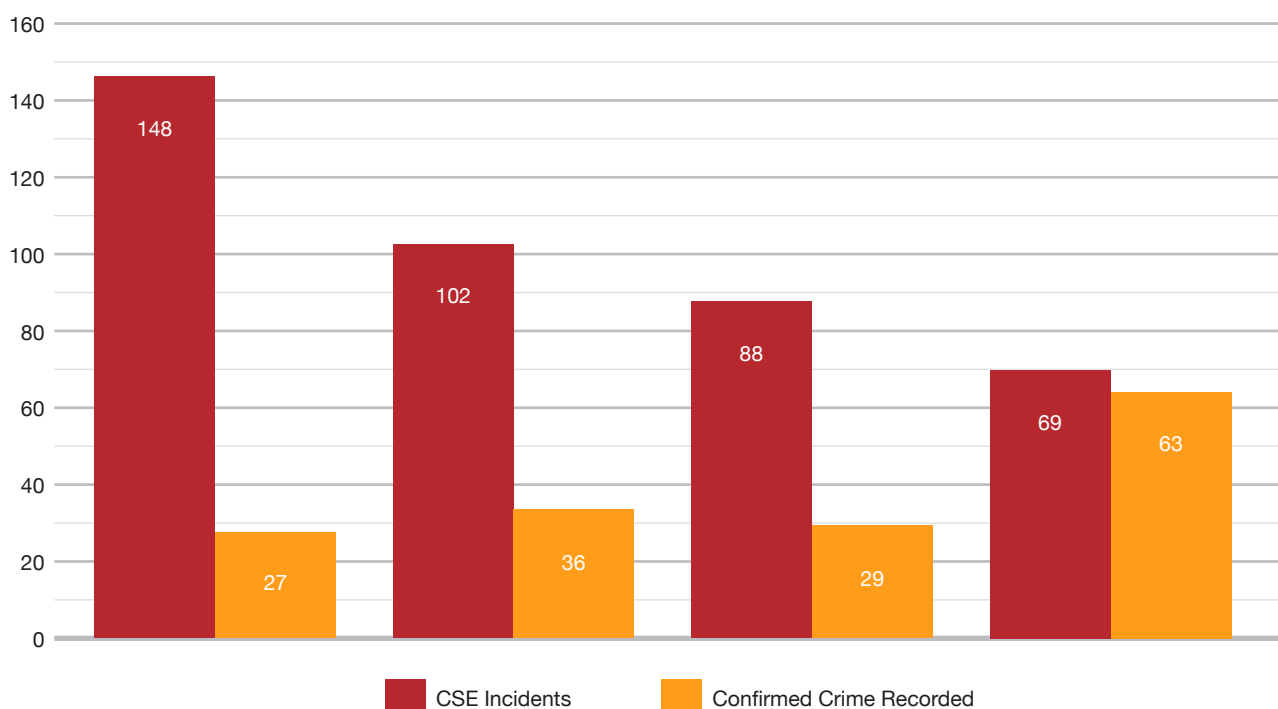
This in explained in several ways;

1. That police colleagues are identifying and recording CSE more efficiently, with less crimes but those that are recorded are supported by evidence.
2. There is greater capacity and resources to invest more time investigating complex CSE concerns.
3. The Exploitation hub is able to develop early concerns with the expertise of the CSE coordinator to really understand the CSE picture in Wolverhampton versus other forms of exploitation in children. Therefore, exploitation in other forms (CCE/ County lines may be increasing whilst CSE decreases due to this more informed picture).

It is also important to highlight that the number of reported CSE cases form approximately 15-20% of the total exploitation In Wolverhampton.

Year	CSE Incidents	Confirmed Crime Recorded	% of Crime Recorded
2018 / 2019	148	27	18.24%
2019 / 2020	102	36	35.29%
2020 / 2021	88	29	32.95%
2021 / 2022	69	63	91.30%

Within these child abuse figures are incidents recorded by WMP with a CSE (child sexual exploitation) marker.



Criminal Exploitation/County Lines and Modern Slavery

WMP-Wolverhampton through the exploitation hub, intelligence, gangs and offender management are focussed on the wider identification of young and vulnerable people being exploited in a criminal rather than sexual way.

Violence Reduction Partnership and Community Navigator

Working closely with the OPCC and the Violence Reduction Partnership, WMP-Wolverhampton a community navigator who engages daily with offender management, neighbourhood teams, the exploitation hub and the community safety partnership. They identify commissioned services and provide vital inputs into schools and colleges working in partnership with the Schools linked officers and Young person officer to target activities in a prioritised way.

Community Safety Partnership

Although it is not normally highlighted specifically within the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together Annual report, it is relevant to present that this is part of a wider strategic and tactical approach which represents the collection priorities around harm and youth violence especially with the forthcoming Serious Violence Duty, which starts to align accountability of the partnership to tackle Serious Violence in a similar way that Safeguarding procedures have done for many years..

Missing Children

In 2019 West Midlands Police changed practice in relation to the risk assessment and recording of missing persons, including children. Where previously there had been use of an “absent” category, which did not result in recording on the COMPACT system (for recording missing persons) and no automatic reporting to the local authority this has now changed. “Absent” reporting has been replaced with “no apparent risk” as a category and regardless of risk assessment the missing person will be placed on COMPACT and an automatic referral made to the relevant local authority. This has resulted in a much higher number of children being referred to the local authority and subsequently receiving a return home interview by the local authority Missing Return Officer.

The work of the Child Exploitation and Missing Operational Group in Wolverhampton (CEMOG) ensure that partners are working together and considering ways to prevent missing episodes, address underlying causes and ensure the safeguarding of young people. This governance process assists in developing the intelligence picture and identification of potential young people exploited in County Lines, as many will be reported missing.

Operation Encompass

This is where WMP notify Wolverhampton schools when one of their pupils is exposed to a domestic abuse incident – after a trial in 2018 this procedure continues and is well supported by schools and partners. This process ensures that schools are informed of an incident which may have adversely affected a child in the previous 24 hours so that staff can understand the factors that may be affecting that child in school and provide appropriate support if required. This is in addition to any information sharing as a result of a referral that meets the threshold for MASH.

Vulnerable Adults

During 2020, Wolverhampton Police have received a much higher number of internal referrals for Vulnerable Adults. The majority of these referrals have been Mental Health Related. Partnership working between Adult MASH, Penn Hospital and GP's throughout Wolverhampton has resulted in these individuals receiving the support they need at the right time. We carry out a process for any victims of Distraction Burglaries – including older and vulnerable residents - whereby the local neighbourhood team visit, referrals are made to WV Trading Standards, Safer Wolverhampton Partnerships and MASH (based on individual need).

Cadet Programme

In 2019, Wolverhampton police launched the Police Cadet Programme locally at Kings School. Police Cadets had been trialed in other areas in WMP and based on the success and uptake has now been expanded. Following the success of this original Cadet scheme in 2020 a further scheme was launched at The Royal School. This involves volunteer cadet leaders – both police officers/staff and volunteers from outside of policing – running a youth support programme for 13-17 year olds with a focus on policing and public service. Any child can be referred into the programme, including young people with additional safeguarding needs or subject to Early Help. There are plans to expand into a second cadets unit in the next financial year. The Wolverhampton WMP child protection lead provides the safeguarding training for the cadet leaders.

At the end of 21/22 year the third Wolverhampton Cadet scheme was developed at Bilston College, meaning we now have three of the four quarters of Wolverhampton covered by available Cadet schemes. The aim for the coming year to explore opportunities around the Wednesfield area.

Hate Crime

A dedicated Hate Crime champion was appointed in 2020. During Hate Crime Awareness Week joint visits were conducted with the Taxi Licensing department to several taxi ranks in order to raise awareness around identifying Hate Crime and how to report concerns to police and other agencies.

Several secondary school inputs have taken place within the Wolverhampton area raising awareness of Hate Crime. We are currently planning the delivery of 3rd party reporting in conjunction with the Safer Partnerships Team.

City of Wolverhampton Council - Education

Leaders adopt safe recruitment practices. They make appropriate checks to ensure that permanent and agency staff who work with learners are safe to do so.

City of Wolverhampton Council audits undertaken in a sample of schools to ensure safer recruitment practices in place.

Further improved web filtering system providing a secure and safe digital environment, with reporting functionality.

Termly network meetings for Designated Safeguarding Leads covering a range of national and local issues.

Safeguarding training offered and completed:

Initiatives worked on during the period under review:

- Contributing to guidance on sexual harassment following Ofsted report
- Promotion of revision to Relationships and Sex education curriculum with all schools
- Prevent staff training renewed where appropriate



West Midlands Fire and Rescue

The WMFS annual report provides a summary of safeguarding achievements in 2021-22:

There have been 273 safeguarding concerns reported by WMFS staff between 1st April 2021 and 31st March 2022.

The number of safeguarding concerns reported has been increasing since the first quarter. 14.7% of safeguarding concerns are about children and almost 85.3% about adults. Since Q1, mental health has become the most frequent recurring theme in reported safeguarding concerns raised by the service.

The Safeguarding Competency and Supervision Framework Level 1 Safeguarding Awareness eLearning has been reviewed. New content has been produced including case studies and video. The NFCC are developing Level 3 and 4 (specialist and strategic management) training in 2022.

A safeguarding news page was created on the WMFS intranet in April 2021 and is regularly updated. It has included information on the safeguarding policy and procedures, the PiPoT policy, domestic abuse, safeguarding data, and other information related to safeguarding.

The Safeguarding Oversight and Assurance Group was established in February 2021. The Group has met monthly with quarterly meetings chaired by the ACFO. The Group has an action plan to drive, monitor and review improvements in safeguarding. The impact has been that oversight of safeguarding has been strengthened, visibility and awareness of safeguarding has increased in the service, and improvements have been made in several areas

Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together ambitions and priorities 2020-21:

- a) Continue to embed and strengthen the new WST arrangements; we will look to implement any recommendations made following the commissioning of the independent scrutineer.
- b) Improved-multi-agency working across partnership priorities and learning themes.
- c) Implement and embed the expert by experience / participation of children and adults' knowledge in terms of our Safeguarding eco system to improve our responses and thus make vulnerable people safer.
- d) Implement a Quality Assurance framework by seeking assurance of WST's safeguarding practice through multi agency audits / cross agency visits, capturing what difference(s) we have made and how we can improve our response(s).
- e) Widen learning and development opportunities following the feedback on the current face to face training offer undertaken by our workforce.
- f) Following review of Contextual safeguarding across Wolverhampton, recommendations will need to be implemented.

West Midlands Ambulance Service University NHS Foundation Trust

West Midlands Ambulance Service University NHS Trust has continued to experience unprecedented demand on its service. This has been a combination of extensive handover and turn around delays at acutes across the region.

As a Trust we have taken a number of actions to mitigate this demand and improve our response to patients.

- The introduction of a clinical validation cell with our emergency operations centre to clinical review our lower acuity 999 calls to see if they can be managed more appropriately using other systems within the wider healthcare economy.
- Increase our workforce within the IEUC and frontline both PTS and A&E
- Continue with the PPE requirements to protect our workforce
- Work with the Acute Trusts to improve handover of patients at hospital
- Work with Community Services partners to manage more patients at home or in their local community systems.
- Push to allow more intelligent conveyancing, 24/7
- Encourage staff to maximise the use of Alternative Care Pathways and work with partners to develop these further
- Continue working with hospitals and other parts of the NHS to improve patient flow through acute trusts. The Trust's Patient Transport Service already provides the fastest discharges in the country

Priorities in 2022-23

- Assure Trust processes by driving consistency and improvement in safeguarding practice
- Continue to build on effective relationships internally and externally, including WST
- Monitor the Trust's Safeguarding processes and compliance
- Support the Trust with Safeguarding practice and requirements.
- Implementation of an automated referral process - DATIX

What we did during the period under review:

- Completion of Level 3 safeguarding training for all Paramedics this also included Safeguarding and PREVENT training to the board
- Continued involvement with multiple workstreams across the region including DHR's, SAR's, LCSPR's, CDOP and JAR meetings, Child Alerts and Court cases.
- Several collaborative assurance audits completed with WST leading to a regional review due to best practice.
- Continued to see an increase in demand in both Safeguarding and across the Trust

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust (RWT)

- All mandatory safeguarding training with the exception of Safeguarding Children Level 3 training, is in line with CCG compliance requirements. During Q4 the decrease in compliance with Safeguarding Children Level 3 eLearning and assessment has continued. This concern has been escalated to the Trust Safeguarding Group. All non-compliant staff have also been sent a targeted email reminder.
- Two of the adult safeguarding team members successfully obtained a Best Interests Assessor (BIA) qualification. This will assist with the uptake and training for MCA/DoLS within the Trust and assist with the eventual implementation of Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS).
- An audit to assess if practice is in keeping with the Protocol for Injuries in Non-Mobile Children Presenting in the Emergency Department, was undertaken in December 2021. Significant improvement has been noted in staff using the protocol since the 2019 audit.
- An audit of compliance with the Child Protection Information Sharing System (CPIS) has demonstrated that there has been a significant increase in compliance with regards to CPIS checks being completed on all attendances to the Emergency Department. The audit concluded that there is an 85% compliance, compared to the 5% compliance in 2020.
- Learning Disability Awareness training became mandatory for all RWT staff in Q3. It is positive to note that compliance for Q4 already stands at 83%.
- Safeguarding supervision compliance for Health Visitors, School Nurses and Midwifery is excellent (91-100%).
- The Adult Safeguarding Supervision Policy (OP05) was ratified in December 2021
- A service Improvement project, which focuses on compliance with MCA has demonstrated improvement in two clinical areas
- The Adult Safeguarding Supervision Policy (OP05) was ratified in December 2021 and is now available on the intranet. Safeguarding supervision is recommended for front line staff as and when required (Adult Safeguarding Roles and Competencies for Healthcare Staff 2018). Nominated Safeguarding champions (MCA/DoLS/Domestic Abuse/Safeguarding) and Emergency Department Staff will receive supervision 3 monthly. Compliance will be collated from Q1 2022-2023. This will be monitored by via the monthly Safeguarding Emergency Department meeting and Trust Safeguarding Group.
- Improved links have been made between the safeguarding team and sexual health services. The offer to provide supervision will be progressed
- RWT have attended all respective safeguarding case review groups across the region. This covers work aligned to Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPR), Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR), Learning Disability Reviews (LeDeR) and Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR).
- A new Safeguarding Children Nurse commenced in post November 21 (0.1wte vacancy remains).
- The safeguarding team continue to offer support, training, and guidance on the Mental Capacity Act, assessing mental capacity, and completing DoLS.
- Midwifery safeguarding supervision compliance is excellent.

Health Watch Wolverhampton

Who we are

Healthwatch Wolverhampton is a local independent service which exists to speak up for local people on health and care. Our role is to make sure that the health and care system across Wolverhampton reflects what local people expect and need. We will listen to your opinions and experiences of health and social care services and feedback your views to the people who plan, pay for and deliver health and care services (the commissioners and providers). We can also help you to find the information you need about a local health or care service or point you towards someone who can help you if you need support to raise a concern or make a complaint about a service. We are independent from the NHS, Local Authority and other local health and social care services so people can talk freely about whatever they like.

What we do

Healthwatch Wolverhampton is one of a network of local Healthwatch organisations that cover each local authority area with social services responsibility across England. We cover the geographical area of Wolverhampton, including Bilston, Blakenhall, Bushbury, East Park, Ettingshall, Fallings Park, Graiseley, Heath Town, Merry Hill, Oxley, Park, Penn, Spring Vale, St Peter's, Tettenhall, and Wednesfield.

Healthwatch Wolverhampton exists to fulfil the statutory functions of a local Healthwatch. These functions can be broken down to:

- Engaging with local people about health and care services and promoting their involvement in all areas.
- Providing an information and signposting service for local people so that they can make choices about health and social care services.
- Monitoring the quality of health and care services.
- Using the voice of local people to influence commissioners and providers.

Our contribution to safeguarding 2021-22 includes:

- Continuing to support the work of the WST Board, ensuring that the patient's / local people's views are heard and central to service planning and any relevant case reviews
- Ensuring that our Board, staff and volunteers are trained to understand and follow up any safeguarding concerns they have identified by us (or raised with us) in our work locally
- Being able to reinforce the issue of engagement and involvement of local people and communities in service development and delivery across partner organisations. We welcome the commitment to improving engagement and understanding of safeguarding across all communities.

We will continue to work closely with Wolverhampton's Safeguarding Together Board to ensure the views and experiences of local people across the city are heard and listened to ensuring that Safeguarding becomes everyone's business.

Black Country Healthcare NHS FT

The Trust has been able to deliver against its safeguarding annual priorities and obligations. The safeguarding service redesign is almost completed which will have the following specialist posts, domestic abuse lead and exploitation lead. These posts along with the wider team will provide expert leadership and coordination across the Trust. This new model will ensure that services are best able to meet the growing demands on the safeguarding team & ensure we are able to serve all four safeguarding partnership arrangements within the Black Country ICB.

A work stream is underway to improve reporting systems and to ensure safeguarding data is relevant and comparable across four place areas as well as ensuring that key performance data is accurate and reliable.

Positive working relationships have continued to develop, with remote working providing an increased visibility at multiagency meetings such as case reviews, performance meetings and quality assurance meetings.

Safeguarding training was being delivered by an external agency which ended in June 22. The level 3 training for Children and Adults has been updated and is now being delivered by members of the safeguarding team.

The Safeguarding Adult and Childrens policies and processes have been updated and are awaiting ratification.

Continued to offer health contribution to the Wolverhampton Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH) with the equivalent of 2.0 WTE Named Nurses, additional support has been employed on an interim basis to offer further resilience to support this arrangement.

The Safeguarding Team continue to actively support MARAC and work with partners and colleagues to ensure that timely information sharing assists in keeping the most vulnerable adults and children safeguarded.

The BCHFT Associate Director for Safeguarding commenced as co-chair of the Mental Health Priority Group in April 2021, leading on the delivery of the key priorities and work plan, with a specific focus being on how effectively the Think Family approach is implemented in mental health support across Wolverhampton.

The Safeguarding Team continue to participate and contribute to the WST One Panel focusing on areas of good practice, embedding learning, improving practice and outcomes for those at risk of abuse and/or neglect and have participated in chairing rapid reviews.

The Safeguarding team have been part of the ICON implementation group and continue to work with WST to promote awareness within BCHFT. As a Mental Health provider we have focused specifically on the prevention of Abusive Head Trauma (AHT) by raising awareness within some of our more specific services, Perinatal and Mental Health within Working Age Adults (18 years- 65 years of age).

BCHFT have continued to promote the Domestic Abuse Training provided by Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum. This training has been well received by staff with very positive feedback.

All WST training and events are shared with the BCHFT Safeguarding monthly Newsletters & are promoted in the BCHFT safeguarding training programme.

Voluntary and Community Organisations (VCO's)

Wolverhampton has a vibrant and diverse voluntary and community sector. It is made up of more than 700 local community groups, local and national charities, faith groups, Community Interest Companies (CICs), clubs / societies, and social enterprises.

The Voluntary and Community Sector provides a wide range of support and activities for children, young people, families, adults (including adults at risk and adults with care and support needs), and communities.

The sector is supported by Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council (WVSC), the local infrastructure support organisation, which also acts as a source of support in relation to safeguarding for local VCOs. The sector provides a wide range of support that anyone in the community can access, plus plenty of more specialist support relating to: substance misuse, mental health and emotional wellbeing, housing; older people; domestic abuse; youth violence / gangs; people who are disabled or who have learning disabilities or special educational needs; children and young people excluded from school; people leaving prison; and new arrivals / refugees.

In 2021-22 the contribution of the local voluntary and community sector to safeguarding people in Wolverhampton has included:

- continuing to play a vital role in helping communities and individuals recover from the Covid-19 pandemic
- supporting those living with new or worsening emotional wellbeing and mental ill health through isolation, anxiety and a range of other challenging circumstances
- responding to the many issues facing individuals and families caused by the worsening financial situation that for a large and increasing number of people in Wolverhampton is coming down to having to choose between paying rent / housing cost, heating their home, or having enough to eat
- providing support in communities (including evenings, nights and weekends) to young people and their families affected by youth violence and gangs
- on-going support to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and their families, and disabled adults

- supporting young people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans or are questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity
 - helping those affected by domestic abuse both women, men and children
 - supporting families who mistrust or otherwise don't want to access support provided by statutory services
 - reviewing and enhancing safeguarding policies and support
 - contributing to WSTs multi-agency safeguarding training programme
 - maintaining representation from local VCOs on WST's Priority and Standing groups (One Panel, Early Help, Communities and Engagement, Exploitation, Learning and Improvement) and Task and Finish groups by providing a voluntary / community sector perspective.
 - applying and being awarded grants from sources outside the city to complement and enhance existing local resources to keep adults at risk / with care and support needs, and children, young people and families safe from harm
- WVSC continuing to provide strategic and operational safeguarding support to the local VCOs including:
 - a) supporting the development of suitable safeguarding arrangements including reviewing or developing safeguarding policies and procedures.
 - b) supporting local VCOs with safeguarding decision-making, safer recruitment information and advice, linking to MASH, Early Help and support available from WST partners
 - c) sharing safeguarding information with VCOs including: WST safeguarding updates and other safeguarding information of relevance to them
 - d) Increasing access to safeguarding training for local VCOs (both single-agency and multiagency training)
 - Continuing to offer support to the 260+ faith groups with safeguarding updates, training, and bespoke support

Wolverhampton Homes

Moving on from the previous year, and with considerable learning having been done due to the pandemic, 2021/22 was a year where Wolverhampton Homes looked to embed practices that focused on preventing the escalation of need and to respond earlier to concerns.

Focus was very much on what we could do as part of our everyday transactional business that would be most meaningful for customers while also being straightforward for staff to follow in terms of process, rather than building in further complex procedures that hindered rather than helped the identification and response to issues which staff came across in their day to day work.

Since its launch in January 2022, our See It Report It process, aimed specifically at increasing the level of referrals from our Property Section, has resulted in trade operatives (who carry out repairs) reporting over 400 concerns about either someone they saw on a visit to a property, the property itself or both. Not all have resulted in a safeguarding referral but all resulted in checks being made to make sure that Wolverhampton Homes responded according to the needs of the customer, making referrals where needed and putting in place support if required, as well as doing repairs which might otherwise not have been logged and therefore detrimental to both the people in the property and the property itself.

Work to prevent escalation of need remained a key focus for the Home Improvement Agency too, a service which looks to maximise independence for adults and children by way of interventions such as the supply of ramps, level access showers and telecare equipment, to full blown extensions, therefore helping people to live better for longer in their own homes and within a family setting.

Emphasis was also placed on identifying households who had the gas supply disconnected. While on occasion this is as a result of existing debt, some households were choosing to have the supply cut off to prevent them getting into arrears or as a result of the pending increase in utility charges. Given the impact having no heating can have on people and the property (increasing the potential for damp and mould) work has been done (and continues) with around 150 households having had their gas supply reinstated, with financial help to clear debt being provided by our Money Smart team.

The year also gave Wolverhampton Homes the opportunity to learn from its involvement in a number of quality assurance exercises. Covering a range of disciplines from the Care Act self-assessment to the Children's Early Help and Prevention Audit, each exercise gave the chance to reinforce the importance of a multi-agency approach to helping adults and children alike in terms of the services we provide as a housing management agent. Involvement in Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and other multi-agency reviews resulted in changes to practice. They also had the added benefit of highlighting to partners the role a company such as Wolverhampton Homes can play, often knowing more about customers due to the very different relationship we have with them which, on occasion, can help support the work done by other services and agencies across the partnership.

And as the year came to a close, work started in preparation for the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance inspection which will take place in 2022/23 to consider the company's delivery of services in relation to domestic abuse. With the end of the year seeing a comprehensive review of DA policies and procedures, we look forward to inspection and securing accreditation that offers reassurance to customers that we have services that deliver safe and effective interventions in relation to DA and that our processes help guide staff to address the needs of victims and survivors.



West Midlands Probation Service

Safeguarding is a crucial role for the Probation Service and we are well placed to identify People on Probation who pose a risk of harm to children and/or situations wherein a child may experience poorer outcomes due to the behaviour or circumstances of their parents/carers. As members of the Community Safety Partnership and Safeguarding Children's Board, we continue to work in partnership with key agencies in the Borough to safeguard families and protect the public. There are information sharing agreements in place for those assessed as vulnerable or risky with established partnerships between social care, police, and health providers through a variety of forums at both operational and strategic levels. Practitioners will attend case conferences and other multi agency meetings to ensure relevant information is shared at the right level and appropriate measures are in place to safeguard children and vulnerable adults.

Safeguarding is included in operational staff job descriptions including operational (middle) managers. All staff in contact with People on Probation and their families are supported and held accountable for their safeguarding work. There are also clear 'leads' for Safeguarding, including; a lead Senior Manager for the whole organisation who holds responsibility for providing clear strategic leadership across the organisation and ensuring adherence to policy and procedures in line with safeguarding children, a Regional Manager in all local areas who attends the LSCB and is accountable for safeguarding practice in their area and a lead Operational (middle) manager who supports the Regional Managers and attends relevant LSCB sub-groups as agreed locally .

In 2021, Community Rehabilitation Companies and the National Probation Service re-unified and we are now The Probation Service. As a result, staff have had to undertake numerous training events to ensure competence. This has included child and adult safeguarding. Our internal safeguarding training is an integral part of our Learning & Development programme contained within the Business plan. This mandatory training for legacy CRC staff is now complete in the Wolverhampton Probation area. We also implement mandatory child and adult safeguarding training for new staff and current staff complete refresher training every three years. All staff have access to our Safeguarding Policy and are asked to familiarise themselves with it. Our Quality Development Team have delivered an event specifically focusing on the learning from SFO's particularly around examples of good practice. The Quality Development team also provide seven-minute briefings on a range of topics, one of which is '7 top tips for adult safeguarding'

We ensure that staff understand the working together 2018 arrangements, embedding the Early Help offer and emphasising the importance of understanding contextual safeguarding in our assessments. We now know more about Adverse Childhood Experiences, the inter-generational impact of these and the importance of intervening earlier to prevent or reduce the negative impact and how the work carried out by our Probation Practitioners can contribute to positive life-long changes for children now and future generations.

There is a clear Supervision Framework in place which includes reflective practice sessions and observations. Supervision occurs approximately every six weeks with discussions in between these sessions as required. Staff who need additional support can be offered additional supervision sessions. The detail of each supervision session will vary but it is an opportunity for managers to have oversight of those critical cases, including those with child protection plans in place.

We have clear policies around undertaking home visits particularly where there are Domestic Abuse or Safeguarding concerns. During COVID clear guidance was given to practitioners who undertook doorstep contacts with People on Probation, alongside face-to-face contact for those that presented the highest risk or were most vulnerable. Staff were aware that the lock down meant many children and vulnerable people were at home and ensured video calls were utilised, spoke to family members (where appropriate), and liaised with partner agencies, including police and Children's Services, where safeguarding concerns arose. The Probation Service have now resumed face to face home visits with People on Probation which contributes to professionals utilising professional curiosity, obtaining knowledge of the individuals we work with and identifying any potential safeguarding concerns which require further action.

We review staff management of safeguarding cases every time we countersign an OASys assessment where there are safeguarding concerns or have a conversation with staff around that case. Part of the information Practitioners obtain within OASys assessments includes detail of family members, associates and significant people linked to the Person on Probation. OASys assessments are reviewed at the point of significant change and will include an update of the relationships section including any assessed risk to children.

We recently reviewed how our contacts are recorded and introduced a Touchpoints Model to ensure there is management oversight on these critical cases, for example where there are Child Protection concerns. The development of our Management Information supports us to be assured. We also have a re-offending analysis tool which allows us to monitor in real time trends, which impact on offending rates. This could include offences against young people and children.

Where an individual practitioner involved in the SAR, DHR, CSPR needs additional support or training this can be achieved through internal or external training and through specific work with a Quality Development Officer. Cases can be dip sampled, and quality assurance frameworks can be used, for instance to assess the quality of safeguarding referrals. Completion of these tasks if aligned to an action plan must be completed within a set timescale and shared with senior leaders. Leaders involved in the DHR process will also disseminate learning and good practice examples across the Delivery Unit. There is a very clear appraisal process in which training and development are key areas. Alongside participating in Board sub-groups, internally we have a Quality Development Team which co-ordinates and oversees action/improvement plans arising from Inspections and Audits. The group is chaired by a senior manager and attended by a range of operational and corporate service staff. Lessons learnt are regularly cascaded to staff through management structures

Some PDUs have begun to implement the Self Assessed Quality Assurance Framework which provides practitioners an opportunity to have an in-depth discussion regarding their case, including assessing the supervision of the Order/Licence against HMIP standards. This is about learning points but also identifying positive areas of practice. This will be commenced in the Wolverhampton Probation Service this year and will also focus on safeguarding practice.

We have specific performance meetings focusing on quality as well as performance. We have HMIP action plans which will now be regional and across each of the 9 PDUs. We share learning from Operational Service Assurance Group (OSAG) and HMIP Thematic Inspection. Cases are regularly audited by Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) which provides increased assurance that safeguarding practices are taking place in line with required practice. A HMIP inspection has just been undertaken in three areas of the West Midlands Probation Service, not specifically Wolverhampton and once the report is received there will be identified learning and actions plans as a result to promote continuous improvement of practice.

Locally the Probation Service have a strong Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Team in place working closely with partners to supervise and support the borough's most prolific offenders. For women in particular, there exists a women's specialist team who work closely with local commissioned women providers to ensure a holistic approach is undertaken in the delivery of their statutory Order or licence. For individuals with mental health issues at an appropriate threshold specific court orders are in place, such as Mental Health Treatment Requirement Orders. The Wolverhampton Probation Service have a number of commissioned services who provide this work, such as Maximus, Ingeus and Nacro as well as Changing Lives, Recovery Near You, referrals are also made into Shaw Trust and other agencies.

The Probation Service second a full-time member of staff into the MASH Team. This role includes work for the Youth Offender Services to improve their footprint within the MASH as part of our joined-up work. We have a full-time secondment within the Youth Offending Team. We also have an enhanced presence on the Youth Offending Board and are engaging with the Youth Offending Services in relation to identifying youths who are transitioning to the Probation Service and ensuring that this transition is as smooth and supportive as possible. At a National Level we are supporting the development of the Family Safeguarding Model.

We also have Court Analytics which gives us concordance with sentencing proposals and sentencing outcomes to ensure the right interventions are given to the right people. In terms of Accredited Programmes, we are moving to reduce the COVID backlogs through programmes and toolkits for Probation Practitioners. The Probation Service offer our cases a suite of accredited programmes, structured interventions, and toolkits to address their risks and criminogenic needs. The accredited programmes include the Thinking Skills Programme, Building Better Relationships for perpetrators of domestic violence and a range of programmes for individuals who have committed sexual offences. An individual has to meet a criteria in order for them to have a Programme Requirement or licence condition

to complete an accredited programme. The structured interventions are also delivered by our programme facilitators and include interventions to address domestic violence, emotions, driving whilst unfit and thinking skills. For those who are not suitable for structured interventions or an accredited programme, for example due to their risk of reoffending scores or individual needs, such as individuals with complex mental health issues they can engage in structured one to one sessions with their Offender Managers using toolkits. The toolkits address issues, such as relationships, substance misuse and thinking skills. People on Probation benefit from these interventions as they address their risks, criminogenic needs and assist them in obtaining new skills to aid in their community integration. Victims also benefit from a reduction in reoffending and harm as the accredited programmes are evidenced by research to reduce reoffending. Probation staff are trained and utilise a trauma informed approach when working with People on Probation, victims, and the community. This approach recognises the impact of trauma on individuals and aims to minimise the likelihood re-traumatising individuals by exploring their past experiences and considering the approach when working with individuals. Such an approach aims to encourage engagement and result in better outcomes for the individual and communities.

The Probation Service in Walsall have also invested a part time Probation Officer into the local Youth Offending Service. This local working agreement aims to reduce reoffending and protect the public by working with the Youth Offending Team. The Youth Offending Team will work with children within the St Matthews area to prevent them from progressing to adult offending and where necessary supporting effective transition processes from youth to adult services. It is recognised that youths bring different issues, challenges, and opportunities.

The Probation Service has a flagging system on its case recording system (Delius) to readily identify when a child connected to a Person on Probation is subject to involvement or a plan.

As a result of the national Probation Safeguarding Framework the Probation Service are now required to complete safeguarding checks on ‘...an individual who either has children, is in contact with children, is seeking contact with children, or who presents a potential risk of harm to children or who has refused to answer questions, or where there are concerns that the individual being sentenced may have provided an inaccurate disclosure about contact with children...’ Therefore, Children’s Services are likely to see more enquiries being made for lower-level offences that might not immediately suggest an active risk to children. This is due to a number of serious further offence reviews concluding that more information would have come to light in probation risk assessments if safeguarding enquiries had been made, even if the offence does not suggest a risk. Similarly, the Probation Service are now asked to make domestic abuse checks in all cases which may not be apparent from the index offending. This increase in checks and partnership working will inform our risk assessments and assist in the identification and management of individuals posing a risk of harm to children.



APPENDIX B
Glossary of Terms

ACRP	Adult Case Review Panel
A&E	Accident and Emergency
ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
ASC	Adult Social Care
BCHFT	Black Country Healthcare NHS FT
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
CCRP	Children's Case Review Panel
CDOP	Child Death Overview Panel
CWC	City of Wolverhampton Council
CWC ASC	City of Wolverhampton Adult Social Care
CWC CS	City of Wolverhampton Children Services
CFP	Children & Families Practice
CFLT	Children and Families Leadership Team
CJB	Criminal Justice Board

CP-IS	Child Protection Information Sharing
CR-MARAC	Community Risk-Multi-Agency Risk Assessment
CSC	Children's Social Care
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
CQC	Care Quality Commission
CuSP	Custody Support Plan
DoLS	Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards
ED	Emergency Department
ELPIS	Police 'missing' data system
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FII	Fabricated or Induced Illness
LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer
LDU	Local Delivery Unit
LeDeR	Learning Disability Mortality Review

LPA	Local Policing Area
MAPPA	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MASH	Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
MCA	Mental Capacity Act
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
NHS	National Health Service
NPS / RRP	National Probation Service / Reducing Reoffending Partnership
OFSTED	Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services & Skills
PVP	Protecting Vulnerable People
RWT	The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust
SAR	Safeguarding Adults Review
SCR	Serious Case Review

STP	Sustainability and Transformation Partnership
VARM	Vulnerable Adults Risk Management
WVCOS	Wolverhampton Voluntary and Community Sector
WMAS	West Midlands Ambulance Service University NHS Trust FT
WMFS	West Midlands Fire Service
WMP	West Midlands Police
WCCG	Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group
WST	Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together

You can get this information in large print, braille,
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