



# Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) & Safeguarding Adults Board (WSAB)

## Annual Report 2017-18



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## Foreword from the Independent Chair



Linda Sanders, Independent Chairperson  
Wolverhampton Safeguarding Boards

As the new Independent Chair of the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children and Safeguarding Adults Boards since September 2017, I am pleased to present the Annual Report 2017/18 on behalf of all the partner agencies and organisations that contribute to our work.

I would like to record thanks to Alan Coe, the previous Chair, for his leadership of the Boards during some of the period this report covers. I also wish to thank the frontline staff and volunteers

who work tirelessly to support our vulnerable children, families and adults with care and support needs, in an effort to improve their lives and bring about sustained change. I would like to relay my thanks also to all of the partners involved in our Safeguarding Partnership in the City who continue to play their part in building a culture where adults, children, young people, carers and families are listened to and their views influence practice. A special thanks also to B-Safe, the junior safeguarding board, who provide a strong young peoples' voice to inform our safeguarding work in the City.

One of my priorities since taking up the role of Chair across the two Boards has been to work with members to ensure there is greater join up of conversations and activity across Children's and Adults' Safeguarding. In a challenging environment where resources are under strain and there are increasing areas of common interest, such as County Lines, Domestic Abuse and Violence against Women and Girls to name but a few, we have exerted effort this year in reviewing and changing our Governance Structures to enable us to work more efficiently by providing a platform for cross-cutting areas of work that will foster improved communication and joint working.

As a result, and in the spirit of integration, this Annual Report is our first Joint Children and Adults Safeguarding Annual Report. Within the joint format the report continues to provide distinct findings about practice and performance in each area to ensure it met the statutory requirements of Working Together 2015 and the Care Act 2014. I hope it also enables the reader to understand what the Boards do "better together" and where we can continue to develop our collective response.

The report provides clear evidence of sustained strong partnership working across the agencies that work in Wolverhampton. The Safeguarding Boards provide support and critical enquiry to ensure that organisations work together to reduce or prevent abuse and neglect of children and adults. There is much to celebrate about our achievements this year, as you will see in this report. There is always more that we can do and we outline our joint priorities for 2018-19 at the end of the report.

Finally, in light of the recently published Working Together 2018 Statutory Guidance for Children's Safeguarding, we will ensure that we fulfil the new requirements whilst also maintaining and developing further the Safeguarding Partnership's collaboration

across children's and adults' safeguarding work in the city to further improve and quality assure practice.

I hope that you find this report informative and would welcome feedback on the new format.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linda Sanders', with a large, stylized loop at the beginning.

**Linda Sanders**  
Independent Chair,  
Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children and Adults Boards



## SECTION 1- ABOUT THE ANNUAL REPORT

This Annual Report covers 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018. It evaluates the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements for children and young people, which is the responsibility of Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) and Adults with care and support needs which is the remit of Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adults Board (WSAB). Much of the report also focuses on the joint work of the Boards, which is referenced as Wolverhampton Safeguarding Boards (WSBs) throughout.

The report focuses on the five priority areas outlined in the Adults Safeguarding Board Strategic Plan 2016-18, and four priority areas outlined in the Children's Safeguarding Board Strategic Plan 2016-2018.

Information is drawn from a wide range of sources from across the partnership and sets out the achievements made and the areas we need to exert additional focus and scrutiny to make improvements.

- Pages 8-14 sets out the **governance and accountability arrangements** for the Safeguarding Children and Adults Boards. Details are provided about the structures in place and the resources available to support the Boards to fulfil its remit effectively.
- Pages 15-26 outlines the **progress against WSAB and WSCB strategic priorities** and in particular the support that is provided through its Committees.
- Pages 27-35 illustrate the lessons learnt through **Learning and Improvement** activity and the action taken by Wolverhampton Safeguarding Boards to ensure that this learning informs practice improvement as a result. It also outlines the range and impact of the **multi-agency safeguarding training** delivered by Wolverhampton Safeguarding Board.

- Pages 36- 38 provides an annual **summary of the work of the Child Death Overview Panel** and identifies modifiable factors that can be changed to avoid future deaths.

This report has been shared with: All Statutory Partners of the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Boards, the Leader and the Managing Director of the Council, the Lead Members for Children and Adults Services and Scrutiny Committees, West Midlands Police, Healthwatch, the Chair of the Safer Wolverhampton Partnership, the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, The Leader of the Council and the Chair of the Children's Trust.

# Key Achievements

*Here's an at a glance summary of our key achievements this year, and our areas for continued improvement in accordance with Ofsted recommendations.*



We've put 'Think Family' at the heart of what we do across children's and adults' safeguarding – driving us to join up some of the Boards' committees, Executive and integrating our Board meeting; undertaking joint audits and learning together through training & conferences.



We've developed a Joint Board's Risk Register, as recommended by Ofsted. This is reviewed by our Executive or committee and shared at our Integrated Children & Adults Board meeting. This helps us to see risks across the systems and how best we can utilise our resources to fix the problems and reduce the risks.



We've completely revised our performance scorecards for Children and Adults so that they contain more information about partners safeguarding work. This will help us to see how the safeguarding system is working across agencies and thresholds (this was also an Ofsted inspection recommendation for the Safeguarding Children Board.)



We've refreshed and re-launched our Children's Thresholds document and delivered a series of briefings sessions to support the launch. Now we're actively monitoring the impact of this.



We've spread the word about preventing and responding to bullying through our B-Safe Team's work with schools and important contribution of their anti-bullying charter



We're strengthening, safeguarding and improving relationships with the faith sector through funding a new Faith Engagement Worker from Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council.



## SECTION 2 - ABOUT THE BOARDS

Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adults Board (WSAB) is a statutory body set up in accordance with the Care Act 2014. Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) is a statutory body established under the Children Act 2004.

Both boards consist of senior leaders from a range of different organisations, and key statutory partners, who work together to safeguard adults with care and support needs and children and young people vulnerable to abuse or neglect.

*We have a responsibility to co-ordinate and ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each agency for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of Children and Adults with care and support needs in Wolverhampton.*

We do this by:

- Developing robust policies and procedures both locally and with Adults and Children Boards in the West Midlands Region.
- Participating in the planning of services for Children and Adults in Wolverhampton.
- Communicating the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of Children and Adults and explaining how this can be done.
- Monitoring what is done by partner agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of Adults and Children.



- Undertaking Serious Case Reviews, Safeguarding Adult Reviews and other multi-agency learning reviews and we share the learning from these with our workforces and the public.
- Collecting and analysing information about child deaths (through the Child Death Overview Panel 'CDOP') and deaths of individuals with learning disabilities (through the Learning Disability Mortality Review 'LeDeR' Programme).

## Our Priorities

Both boards operate to a set of strategic priorities which we have updated to take us through to 2019. There were many similarities across the priorities so this year we set ourselves a task to align both of the Strategic Plans. The strategic plans are reviewed on an annual basis and updated to reflect any emerging key issues for the boards.

### The overarching Strategic Priorities for 2017-2019 are:

1. We will operate an effective board that focuses its work on local safeguarding priorities including support, challenge and holding multi-agencies to account for their contribution to the safety and protection of children and adults living in the City of Wolverhampton (**Effective Leadership, Challenge and Change**)
2. We will develop rigorous approaches to monitoring and evaluating the impact of services on safeguarding children & adults, and we will drive improvements in practice through timely and robust methods of learning and development (**Quality, Performance and Learning**)
3. We will ensure that everything we do promotes improved practice to help safeguard and meet the needs of those children and adults who are particularly vulnerable or are at increased risk of abuse and harm (**Safeguards for particularly vulnerable groups**).
4. We will ensure that we engage children and families, adults and communities of all backgrounds in the work of Wolverhampton Safeguarding Boards (**Communication and Engagement**).

You can find more detail about the work we've done to achieve these objectives in Section 3 of this report.

## Key roles, responsibilities and relationships

**The Independent Chair**, Linda Sanders has been in post since September 2017. She is accountable to the **Managing Director of City of Wolverhampton Council** for the effective leadership of the Boards and ensuring they fulfil the statutory functions. The Independent Chair meets regularly with the Managing Director, the Directors of Children's and Adult's Services and the Leader of the Council. The chair also meets with individual board members on a 1-1 basis to seek their views on the effectiveness of the board arrangements and safeguarding issues relating to their agencies.

**The Wolverhampton Safeguarding Boards Business Unit** is made up of an energetic and committed group of staff who work hard to ensure the smooth running of board business. The team comprises a full-time Board Manager, a full-time Board Administrator, a full-time Case Review and Child Death Co-Ordinator and a part-time Learning and Development Officer. As a result of the integration of the Children's and Adult's arrangements, we are also recruiting another Administrator and a Quality Assurance Officer in 2018-19.

**City of Wolverhampton Council** are required to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board and a Safeguarding Adults Board in the city. The Managing Director holds the Chair to account, whilst the Lead Members for Children's and Adult's Services have responsibility for ensuring the Council fulfils its legal obligations to safeguard children and adults. The Lead Members contribute to Wolverhampton Safeguarding Boards as 'participating observers' to provide scrutiny and, if necessary, challenge to the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Board's members on behalf of children and adults.

**Partner Agencies** are vital to the effectiveness of the safeguarding boards and Wolverhampton benefits from the commitment and resolve of its members in ensuring children and adults are appropriately safeguarded. Members hold a strategic role within their organisations and can make decisions on behalf of their agencies and when required, hold their agencies to account.

**Designated Professionals** play a crucial role in both strategic decision-making and advice to the Boards and its committees on matters of policy and practice. The Local Authority Head of Safeguarding chairs the Safeguarding Adult Review Committee and the Law, Policy and Procedures Committee; the Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children in Wolverhampton is now the Chair of the Serious Case Review Committee. The Designated Doctor is an active member of the Child Death Overview Panel and chairs the Rapid Response meetings. The Designated Nurse Safeguarding Adults is the Co-Chair of the SAB Quality and Performance Committee, alongside the Head of Safeguarding for Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust.

**Lay Members & Local Involvement Networks** are a crucial element of a Safeguarding Boards, providing additional independent scrutiny and a means through

which local communities can influence the work of the Boards. WSCB has been fortunate to benefit from the long-standing support of its lay member, David Perrin, who has been in post since 2014. We are also very fortunate to have an active Junior Safeguarding Board, B-Safe, who work closely with WSCB and partners to raise awareness amongst children and young people and to influence the discussions that take place at the Board. Our WSAB, equally benefits from the contribution of 'consumer champion' Healthwatch. Overseen by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), Healthwatch operates at both local and national levels. You can find out more about the contributions of our lay members in Section 3 of this report.

**Committees of the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Boards** work on behalf of the Boards to achieve the objectives within the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Board Strategic Plan. Each committee has its own workplan arising from this plan and equally influences the annual review of the Strategic Plan. Each committee is overseen by a Governance Lead who is a member of the WSAB or WSCB. All committees review their terms of reference and membership on an annual basis and this year we've moved all committees to quarterly meetings to enable task and finish work to be progressed between meetings.

The Executive group, chaired by the Independent Chair, meets on a quarterly basis and oversees the progress against the Strategic Plan on behalf of the Boards. The Executive receives reports from the committees at each of its meetings to evidence the work undertaken and identify any issues that require escalation to main board. The activity of the committees is detailed in Section 3 of this report.

**The Children's Trust** and WSCB have important but distinct roles in keeping children safe. The Trust is accountable for the commissioning of services for Children and Young People in line with the Children, Young People and Families Plan (2015-2025). A number of WSCB members attend the Children's Trust including the Independent Chair.

**The Health and Wellbeing Board** brings together the NHS, Public Health, Adults' Social Care and Children Services, including elected representatives and Local Health Watch to plan how best to meet the needs of our local population. WSAB and WSCB works closely with the Health and Wellbeing Board. Several members of the boards are also members of the Health and Wellbeing Board, including the Independent Chair.

**Safer Wolverhampton Partnership (SWP)** is the local Community Safety Partnership. Members of the partnership sit on the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Boards and vice versa. Performance information is shared across both these strategic groups in relation to areas of joint priority e.g. Domestic Abuse, Violence against Women and Girls, County Lines.

There is a protocol in place to support communication between the Children's Trust, Health and Wellbeing Board, Safer Wolverhampton Partnership and the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Boards and work is planned to strengthen this during

2018-19 in order to develop a more integrated approach to tackling cross-cutting key issues and associated communication and engagement activity.

Structure charts illustrating the links between the Boards and its committees and the Boards relationships with other partnerships both local and regional is outlined below. Fig 1 demonstrates the work completed this year to join up WSAB and WSCB committees, our Executive and a portion of the Safeguarding Boards meeting to ensure that where possible joined up discussions about cross cutting issues pertaining to children’s and adults’ safeguarding takes place. The work completed within these joint meetings is outlined in Section 3 of this report.

It should be noted that across the partnership there are established single agency safeguarding groups which are closely linked to the Board and support in the dissemination, promotion and embedding of safeguarding messages.

Fig.1

### WOLVERHAMPTON SAFEGUARDING BOARDS - INTEGRATED STRUCTURE

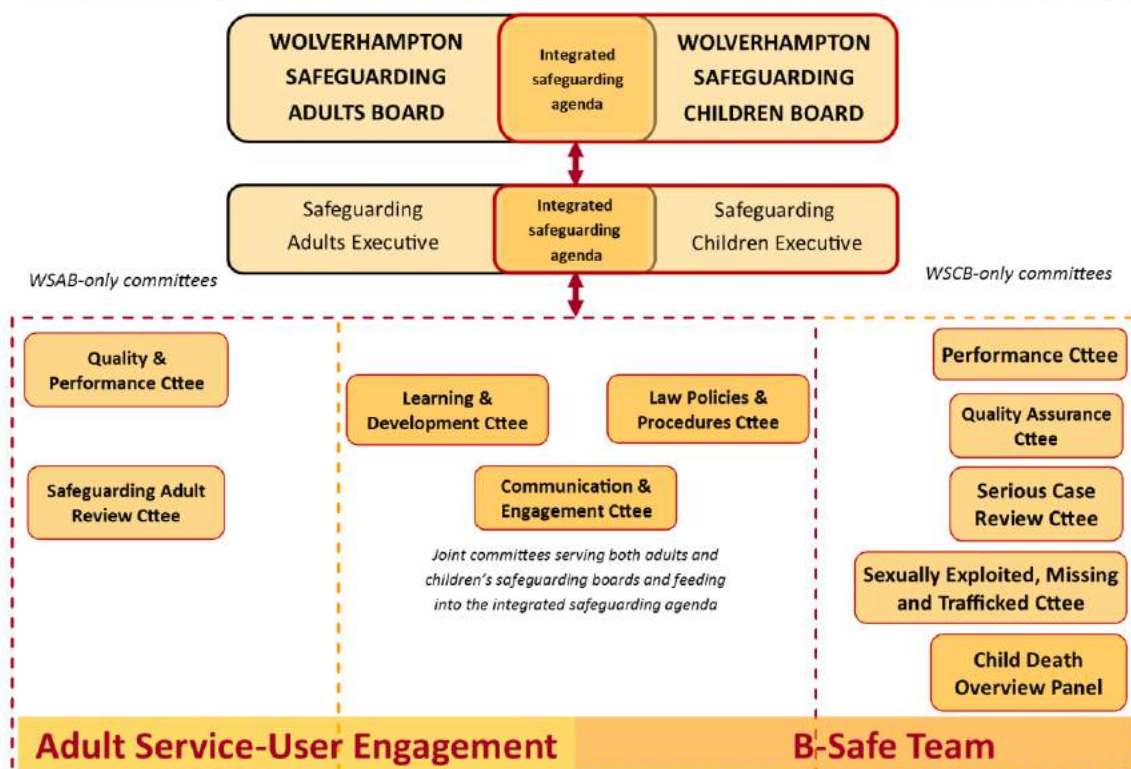
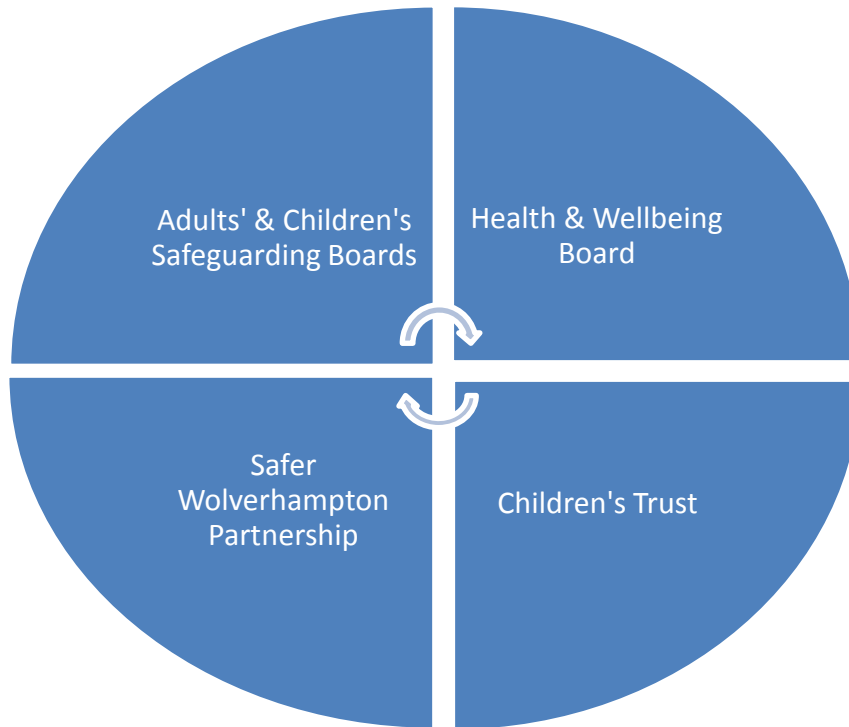


Fig. 2

## Wolverhampton Children's and Adults' Board links to Partnership and Network Meetings



## Attendance

The Boards and its committees have continued to benefit from largely well attended sessions during 2017/18. We recognise that demands on some of the Regional Partners is significant as they service a number of Safeguarding Boards. To support this, the WSCB and WSAB are linked with a number of Regional Groups so that information can be shared once and disseminated across the Boards e.g. Regional Emergency Services Performance Information, Regional Adults Editorial Group, Regional Children's Policy and Procedures Group.

A list of Board Members attendance at the WSAB and WSCB meetings can be found at Appendix A.

## Financial Arrangements

Board partners provide strong financial support to the Joint Budget across Children's and Adults' Safeguarding, in addition to a variety of "in kind" resources such as staff who deliver training and provision of meeting venues. Since the combining of both boards' budgets we operate on an indicative 70% children's, 30% adults' split.

Agency contributions totalled £330,364 for the period 2017-2018. Prudent financial management has resulted in **£67,013** being carried forward to 2018-2019.



### Income

**Total from Partner Agencies = £330,364**

**Income generated through Training/non-attendance = £4,555**

**Total = £334,919**

### Expenditure

**Staffing including travel & Independent Chairs Costs = £ 214,138**

**Training & Conferences = £ 13,845**

**Printing, Services & Supplies = £21,993**

**Serious Case Reviews and Safeguarding Adult Reviews = £17,929**

**Total = £267,905**

**Carried Forward in 2017-2018= £67,013**

**Existing Reserve = £73,813**



## SECTION 3 - PROGRESSING THE BOARD'S PRIORITIES

**Priority 1:** We will operate an effective board that focuses its work on local safeguarding priorities including support, challenge and holding multi-agencies to account for their contribution to the safety and protection of children and adults living in the City of Wolverhampton

*(Effective Leadership, Challenge and Change)*



We've put 'Think Family' at the heart of what we do across children's and adults' safeguarding – driving us to join up 3 of the children and adults board committees and the two Executive meetings and integrating our Board meeting so that key strategic leaders meet together. We've also moved the majority of the meetings to a quarterly frequency enabling us to utilise task and finish groups in between to help us get more work done. Some of the products from this approach are highlighted later in this report.



We've developed a Joint Board's Risk Register that is regularly reviewed by our Executive and shared with the Integrated Children & Adults Board meeting. This helps us to see risks across the whole safeguarding system and how best we can utilise our resources to fix the problems and reduce those risks.

Some of the risks we've mitigated during this period include:

- *Capacity of Committees / Executive to deliver work plans for the board.* – We achieved this by re-structuring the committees as outlined above and providing additional resources to increase staffing in the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Board Business Unit.
- *Developing a programme of Multi-Agency Case File Audits to ensure we are sighted on the quality of frontline practice.* - We signed off a new Quality Assurance Schedule that includes a series of 'Think Family audits' (there's more detail under Priority 2 below about these).
- *Regional Procedures Project may not be of sufficient quality by the "go live" date.* – The new contract for our children's procedures was awarded and there was combined effort by Regional Board Managers to get the procedures in place in a timely fashion.
- *Number of DoLS (Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards) assessments that remain unallocated.* – The Cheshire West Supreme Court ruling saw a 7-fold increase in referrals nationally, and the City of Wolverhampton felt the impact. The Local Authority provided additional monies to secure resources to enable progression of the additional and the Board contributed to discussions about how best to manage ongoing future demand.
- *Scrutiny and challenge in respect of contract management and quality, following learning from the Case Review of Adult B.* – The WSAB has requested that all meetings between the Quality Assurance and Compliance Team (Local Authority), the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) which monitor quality of provision across all commissioned care and support services, including Residential and Nursing Homes, Supported Living Schemes, Home Care, Community Services and Children Services to name a few, keep an action log to ensure any concerns are followed up and resolved in a timely manner.
- *Effectiveness of the Barnardo's Screening Tool (BST) for children witnessing domestic abuse.* – The Board were concerned about potential delay for children with a twice weekly meeting to discuss referrals. Following scrutiny, it was assured that all high-risk cases are triaged directly by the MASH, but this led to recognition that the BST meetings could in fact be duplicating efforts. A full review was undertaken as a result, and a new process is now being piloted.



*We have strengthened our resources:*

- In respect of training and development activity, partners endorsed an increase in hours of the Training Co-Ordinator to ensure there was capacity to dedicate to improving the adults' training offer. Scoping has been completed and sessions on Making Safeguarding Personal and Section 42 enquiries are now in development.



- A Faith Engagement Worker was funded by the Board, initially for a 9-month period, to develop the links between the city’s faith organisations and Safeguarding Partners and increase awareness of their safeguarding responsibilities. There is more about the impact of this post in Section 3 of the report.



We’ve been an influential voice in the consultation on the Local Authorities Commissioning Strategy 2018 -2021 ‘Shaping Futures, Changing Lives’, encouraging the think family plan ethos of the strategy and promoting the importance of ‘Making Safeguarding Personal’.

**Priority 2: We will develop rigorous approaches to monitoring and evaluating the impact of services on safeguarding children & adults, and we will drive improvements in practice through timely and robust methods of learning and development (Quality, Performance and Learning)**

WSCB and WSAB use a range of quality assurance methods to assure itself that frontline practice is effective in keeping children and adults safe.



During this reporting period, the Performance Committee (children) and the Quality and Performance Committee (adults) have fully reviewed their performance scorecards to ensure that they provide a holistic, multi-agency picture of safeguarding across the partnership and thresholds for intervention. We have also streamlined reporting processes to create consistency across both boards. Each Board has a full scorecard comprising 77 indicators for Children and 42 indicators for adults. From these a number of key indicators have been identified, which will be reviewed at each Performance Committee and reported to Board (in addition to any exceptions from the main scorecard). Reporting in this new format will be in place from June 2018. The indicators now include a focus on the following areas:

<b>Children’s key Indicators</b>	<b>Adults’ Key Indicators</b>
Agency attendance/contribution to Child Protection Conferences	Quality concerns of commissioned/co-commissioned providers
Reduction in risk in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation	Avoidable pressure injuries and falls
Exclusions	Contribution from partners to MASH enquiries
Repeat referrals and plans	Repeat Referrals

Pressure on the system - referral rates, number of Early help, Child in Need and Child Protection Plans.	Number of deprivation of liberty referrals
Looked after children	Number of Section 42 enquiries that fulfilled desired outcomes.
Attendance at Emergency Departments	Concerns raised by types of abuse

In addition to a focus on data, we undertake audits to enable the board to identify what is working well and how practice can be further developed to improve outcomes for children and adults.



In March 2017 the Ofsted Inspection of the LSCB noted that “in the absence of a coherent, rolling programme of single- and multi-agency audits, the board is not fully fulfilling its quality assurance function”. To enhance our auditing activity, the Quality Assurance Committee (children) and the Quality and Performance Committee (adults) have worked together to identify a range of ‘Think Family’ topics that can be audited across the Children’s and Adults’ workforce on a termly basis, these include; Domestic Abuse, Mental Health, Substance Misuse and Learning Disabilities. A joint quality assurance schedule has been developed by the committees and endorsed at the Board in March 2018, so look out for the learning arising from these ‘think family’ audits in the new financial year; which will be available via the recently launched [‘Lunch and Learn Sessions’](#).

The Quality Assurance Committees also plan to undertake a number of **Deep Dive Audits** to ensure we scrutinise specific areas of practice pertinent to children’s and adults’ safeguarding from assurance activity locally or issues reported nationally. Themes identified for 2018-19 include:

Children’s Deep Dives	Adults’ Deep Dives
Child Sexual Exploitation & gangs	Making Safeguarding Personal
Random 20 case audit	Section 42 enquiries

**Priority 3:** We will ensure that everything we do promotes improved practice to help safeguard and meet the needs of those children and adults who are particularly vulnerable or are at increased risk of abuse and harm **(Safeguards for particularly vulnerable groups).**

Wolverhampton Safeguarding Boards strive to ensure that every child and adult with care and support needs in the authority lives in an environment that is safe and enables them to succeed and achievement fulfilment. However, we need to pay particular attention to those children and adults that we have identified as being at

particular risk, and to practices that may not effectively safeguard them. We know from our own case reviews that some risks are well hidden, such as neglect and domestic abuse, making it more difficult for agencies to identify. Quality assurance activities across the boards help us understand the experiences of children and adults when needs are identified or as they receive services. Agencies also accept that it is incumbent on them that they raise any concerns or exceptions with the Boards that could impact on the safety or wellbeing of children and adults.

## Children's Update

- The rates of children in need in Wolverhampton has fluctuated during the year, with rates rising to 268 (per 10,000) in Quarter 1, then reducing again to 225 (per 10,000) at Q4 which was lower than the previous year.
- Children are placed on child protection plans when they are considered to be in need of protection from either physical, sexual, emotional abuse, or neglect. The rate of children on plans per 10,000 rose to 64 in Quarter 4 this year which is more than double the rate of children on CP plans in Q1 of the previous year.
- Emotional Abuse remains the largest category of child protection plans (216 children), influenced by the impact of Domestic Abuse (41% of CP plans have domestic abuse as a factor in Q1 of 2018-19). Neglect is the next largest category (155 children).



This year the WSB has commenced work on the refresh of its Neglect Strategy and development of a suite of tools that can help professionals to identify neglect at the earliest opportunity. This work is ongoing, and we anticipate it will influence the dispersal of children across the threshold once in place as we anticipate an increase in early help activity as a result.

- Rates of Children in Care have remained consistent across this period with 110 (per 10,000) in care at Quarter 4.

## Thresholds

Having identified, through performance data, a need to review the thresholds, in November 2017 the WSCB launched its refreshed Thresholds of Need and Support document and a new on-line referral form. 3 half-day briefings, delivered by our multi-agency partners, were put on to support the launch with



Thresholds of Need  
and Support in  
Wolverhampton



places for 180 frontline staff. The impact of the new guidance is now being monitored.

As a Board, we actively monitor where children are on the thresholds scale in order to understand the demands on services in the City and to ensure that they are able to help or protect children in a timely fashion when the need arises.

### **Children who are privately fostered**

Parents can choose to have their children cared for away from home by someone who is not a close relative (e.g. Grandparent, sibling, aunt/uncle or step-parents of the child). This is known as private fostering (PF). The Local Authority must be notified of these arrangements, but it remains a difficult area to monitor.

During this period the Performance Committee have monitored the number of private fostering arrangements. We remain concerned by the low numbers of children being identified. As of 31st March 2018, there were 2 children recorded as privately fostered. Publicity material and recent campaigns by the Local Authority have been developed and promoted across services, but numbers do not appear to be rising. The Performance Committee is not aware of any cases where private fostering arrangements have not been notified, thus it is difficult to say if this is an under-representation. Active monitoring will therefore remain in addition to driving further promotion.

For more information on private fostering and how to refer please follow the link: <https://www.wolverhamptonsafeguarding.org.uk/safeguarding-children-and-young-people/i-work-with-children-young-people-families/private-fostering>

### **Child Sexual Exploitation**

A new Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) screening tool was approved by regional CSE leads and implemented in Wolverhampton on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017. The new screening tool was accompanied by guidance to support practitioners and offer increased clarity regarding levels of risk. The WSCB supported the launch with drop-in sessions to allow practitioners to raise queries regarding the new tool and CSE.

For more information on CSE – the signs and symptoms and how to respond please visit the WSCB website.

### **Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Service**

The Safeguarding Children Board continues to work closely with the Independent Reviewing Service who are responsible for chairing multi-agency Child Protection Conferences, Looked after Children's Reviews and the development of effective Care plans.

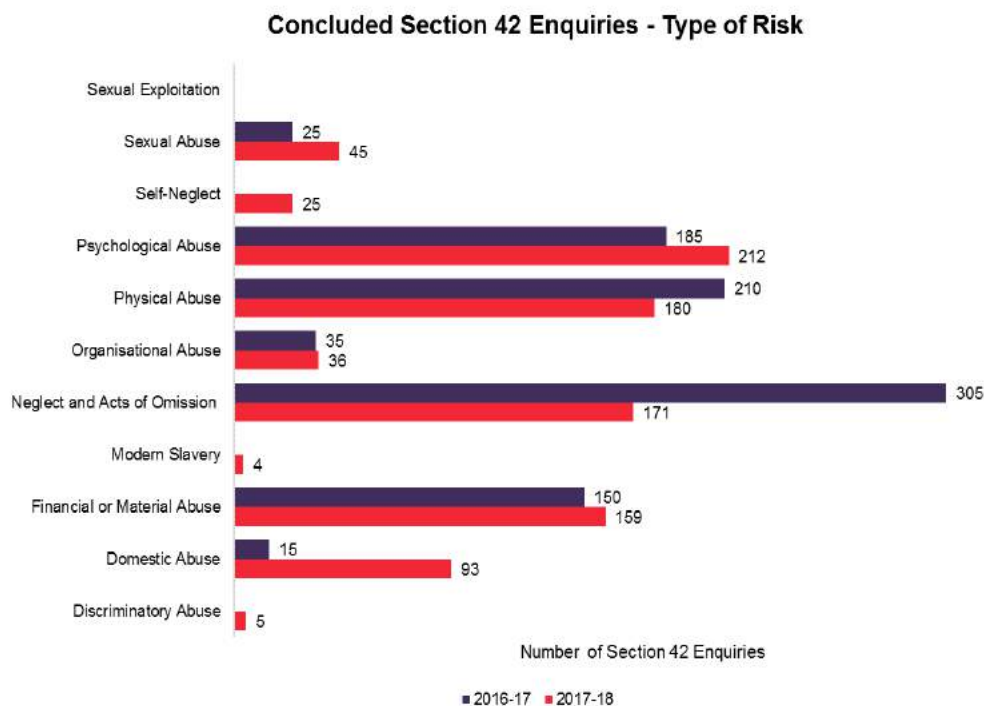
The IRO service endeavours to highlight areas of good practice and areas which require improvement, and identify emerging themes and trends; this approach serve

to enhance the Boards' insight into the experience of Looked After Children and those subject of Child Protection Plans across Wolverhampton.

## Adults' Update

- The total number of safeguarding concerns and Section 42 enquiries in 2017-18 decreased on the previous year by 12%, however figures are still higher than 2015-16 (concerns 8% higher and Section 42 enquiries 19% higher). The lower number of concerns for this year is attributed to the work taking place at the front door to filter out referrals to safeguarding that do not meet the criteria for a concern.
- Ethnicity against Section 42 enquiries shows a larger change on the previous year compared to safeguarding concerns. The proportion of individuals with a 'BAME' ethnicity has increased by 3.3%, with 'White Ethnicity' subsequently decreasing. Though this is the case, it is felt that the increase in those with a BAME ethnicity reflects the diverse population in the city, and therefore should show a higher percent compared to the national average

For concluded Section 42 enquiries, there are two types of risk that have seen considerable changes since last year. Enquiries recorded as Domestic Abuse increases from 15 to 93, showing that recording has improved, as previously it was felt that this form of abuse was under-represented. Neglect and Acts of Omission have been recorded considerably less this year.



- The percent of cases where the individual has lacked capacity has decreased since 2016-2017 and is likely linked to the decrease seen for the number of enquiries for individuals aged over 65, with more enquiries associated to the 18-64 age band.
- The proportion of concluded enquiries which fully achieved the adult at risk's desired outcome has increased 11% since last year, and only 2% of cases where their outcomes were not achieved. The last two years have shown we have achieved much higher than the national average.

## Making Safeguarding Personal

As part of the West Midlands Fire Service strategic vision to make the West Midlands Safer – Stronger – Healthier, they produced a series of initiatives, training packages and guidance documents, aimed at those working with and or supporting members of the community with care and support needs.

There is documented evidence following Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR) highlighting that following fatal accidental fires in the home, adults with care and support needs may be of an increased risk of fire. However, these traits are not always recognised by their care provider and are not shared with Fire and Rescue Services who are best placed to offer advice, guidance and support. [Click here to download the guidance.](#) This proactive response from WMFS demonstrates how partners work collaboratively and individually to support the key priorities of the Board.

## Better Care Fund

The Better Care Fund plan 2017 -2019 sets out the joint commissioning intentions and areas for development. It explains how local authorities and the Clinical Commissioning Group, working with people and communities, will mobilise resources to target areas of need and deliver improved outcomes. The programme engages health and social care provider organisations, commissioners, the voluntary and community sector (including faith groups), General Practitioners (GPs), local forums and frontline staff to contribute towards delivering on the national performance metrics:

- Reducing emergency admissions to hospital
- Reducing the number of delayed transfers of care from hospital
- Improving the effectiveness of re-ablement
- Reducing the number of people permanently placed in nursing and residential care

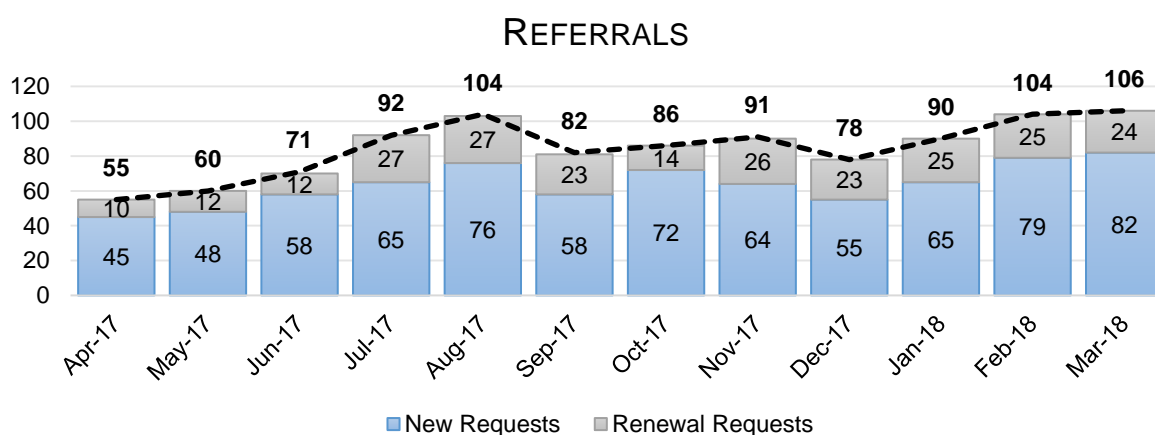
The WSB received assurance at its December Board that significant improvements have been made locally, leading to a reduction in the number of people delayed in hospital, reducing their dependence on hospital resources and limiting the risk of developing secondary illnesses. The Board are particularly interested in the impact of this project for vulnerable service users such as those with Dementia. The Better Care Fund Board continues to oversee this work whilst keeping the Board sighted on progress.

## Deprivation of Liberty Standards

The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) legislation, aims to safeguard vulnerable people in nursing homes, residential homes or hospitals who lack the mental capacity to consent to their accommodation, care, and/or treatment. The legislation states that assessments must be undertaken by professionally qualified assessors to ensure that any deprivation is both in the person's best interests and the least restrictive option available which maintains the persons health and safety.

### Increasing Demand

Demand for assessments has increased since a Supreme Court decision in 2014, which greatly lowered the threshold for what is considered to be a deprivation.



The City of Wolverhampton Council received a total of 1,019 DoLS referrals in the 2017-18 financial year, an increase of over 10% from the previous financial year. Referrals have increased by over 2068% from 2013-14, the financial year prior to the Supreme Court decision. In order to meet statutory expectations, the City of Wolverhampton Council provided additional funding in 2017-2018 to clear a backlog of assessments. Further Council funding has been identified for 2018-2019 to meet this continued increased demand and the Council are committed to ensuring that assessments are timely and that any necessary deprivations are authorised when required.

## **Priority 4: We will ensure that we engage children and families, adults and communities of all backgrounds and make up, in the work of Wolverhampton Safeguarding Boards (Communication and Engagement)**

The Communications and Engagement Committee oversees and co-ordinates a number of campaigns on behalf of the Board. Representatives from the B-Safe Junior Safeguarding Team, Healthwatch and partners from the voluntary sector, council, fire service and health co-operate to provide resources.

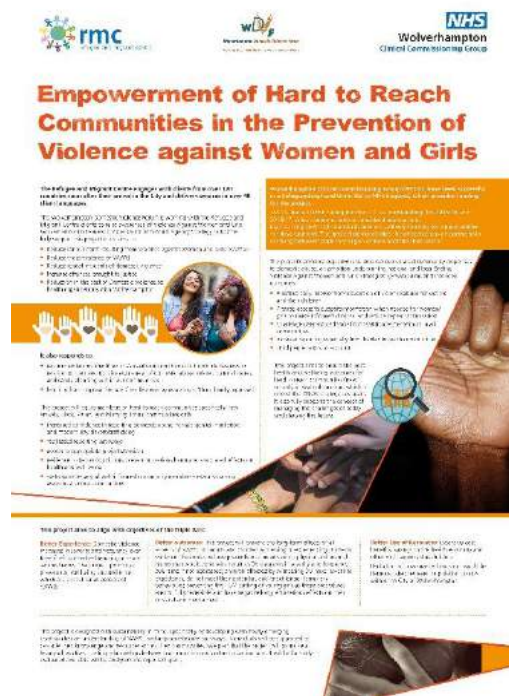
During the past twelve months the following initiatives have been delivered:



**Orange Wolverhampton** is our local awareness-raising campaign which is actively supported by the Safeguarding Boards. It is our city's contribution to the United Nations' International 16 Days of Action to End Violence Against Women and Girls and takes place between 25<sup>th</sup> November and 10<sup>th</sup> December every year. [Click here to find out more about our 2017 campaign.](http://www.wolverhamptionsafeguarding.org.uk)

### Empowerment of Hard to Reach Communities in the Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls project

Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group Designated Adult Safeguarding Lead applied to NHS England for funding and was one of only 3 successful bids in the Midlands and East region. The project develops coordinated community responses to domestic abuse within hard to reach communities. Hosted by Wolverhampton Refugee and Migrant Centre, training and support input is provided by the Domestic Violence Forum. The project commenced in November 2017 and so far, 45 women and 48 men have been trained with very positive feedback received. Formal evaluation will take place in November 2018 although plans are already in place to extend the project into other communities.



### SAFEGUARDING WEEK 2017

In September, Safeguarding week with the theme **'What is Safeguarding?'** focused on raising awareness of safeguarding amongst the public. It encouraged children and young people, adults with care and support needs, their families, parents /carers, friends and neighbours to find out more



from the Wolverhampton Safeguarding website.

Board members supported the campaign by displaying posters in public spaces and devising ways of discussing 'what safeguarding is' with those who use their services.

Engagement activities took place in care homes, with the public via a pop-up shop in the city centre and with faith groups. They promoted key messages such as:

1. **EVERYONE has a part to play** in keeping vulnerable people (adults with care and support needs, and children and young people) safe from abuse and neglect and promoting their wellbeing.
2. **Safeguarding is ....** about all the things that we can do together to identify, respond and support people who are being abused, or neglected, or whose wellbeing is being compromised.
3. **Help and support is available** - safeguarding processes help people and work with the individual and their family to meet their needs.
4. **Anyone can raise a concern** - tel: 01902 555392 (to safeguard a child) or 01902 551199 (to safeguard an adult)

## The B-Safe Team

The B-Safe Team is Wolverhampton's shadow Safeguarding Children Board, made up of local young people who get involved with safeguarding activities and decisions across the city.

The B-Safe Team enables the voice of Wolverhampton's young people to be heard and reflected in safeguarding business and activities. It empowers young people to contribute to the processes and approaches designed to keep them safe and helps to raise awareness of safeguarding amongst parents and professionals.



### Key achievements this year include:

- The B-Safe team wanted to create some awareness on what good care looks like for a young person who is a young carer. 40% of the B-Safe Team are young carers for their families and wanted to raise awareness around this. They were interviewed by the Head Start Radio journalist and created a radio

Podcast on the day in the life of a young carer, the show was broadcast on HeadStart.FM and listened to by 87 other young people. The young people also created posters and leaflets on this subject.

- One of the key priorities the B-Safe Team identified was to raise awareness of bullying and create an Anti-Bullying strategy for Wolverhampton. This was a priority for them as all of the young people in the B-Safe group had experienced bullying at some point in their lives. The B-Safe Team delivered peer education workshops to 100 other young people to raise awareness on what bullying is and provided information on support and services that are available locally.
- The B-Safe Team also wanted to challenge organisations on how they deal with bullying within their service by creating an Anti-Bullying Charter. The Anti Bullying Charter is a set of rights and commitments that all young people and professionals should promote, discuss and respect. The Charter aims to support every child in the City of Wolverhampton in feeling safe against bullying in any setting, whether in school, youth clubs, or the community. As part of the Section 157 / 175 audit the charter was sent out to all the schools in Wolverhampton by the WSCB with a self-assessment form for them to complete. During September 2017, 32 schools submitted their Anti Bullying Charters.

In total 21 schools have achieved the Anti – Bullying Status and have 11 more schools working towards. An award ceremony was held in March 2018 for the successful schools.

- During Anti Bullying week – 17th November 2017, The B-Safe Team organised a series of Anti Bullying workshops at the Molineux, with primary age attending in the morning and secondary students in the afternoon. 135 young people attended and participated in the workshops.

## **A word from Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board Lay Advisor**

After a year of significant changes, amongst the personnel and landscape within which we work, it is pleasing to see that we continue to move safeguarding forward in our City and beyond.

With the increase in youth violence both nationally and locally evident, it is imperative that we do not take our eyes off the ball and pull on the necessary sources to best meet the needs of our young people who are sometimes both perpetrator and victim and identification of such will lead to better intervention.

In the area of Abuse Linked to Faith and Belief, again some practical work has been done to support faith groups with their safeguarding policies and procedures and training therefore making places of worship see safeguarding as prominent in all that

they do. Unfortunately, there are some groups that are still not coming on board and thus the Board must consider what action they will take to address this.

My challenge to the board and senior partners for the next 12 months encourages them to think about:

1. How are we going to better engage with resistant, difficult and sometimes hostile families?
2. With increasing reports nationally and locally of youth violence and gang related activity, how do we work better with diverse communities?
3. How do we continue to bring more faith groups on board to work with the Faith Engagement Worker?

The next 12 months will be challenging and often hard work, however by having a teamwork approach, with no one individual being an island together we will continue to safeguard our children and young people.



## SECTION 4 – LEARNING & IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITY

### Case Reviews

Safeguarding Children Boards and Safeguarding Adults Boards are required to undertake a review of all serious cases when abuse or neglect of a child or adult with care and support needs is known or suspected and either the child / adult has died; or the child / adult has been seriously harmed and there is cause for concern as to the way in which the authority, their Board partners or other relevant persons have worked together to safeguard the child or adult.

The purpose of Serious Case Reviews (for children) and Safeguarding Adult Reviews is to establish whether there are lessons to be learned from the case about the way agencies worked, individually and together, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults with care and support needs; to identify clearly what those lessons are, how they will be acted upon and what is expected to change as a result.

### Serious Case Reviews – Children

The Serious Case Reviews (SCR's) of [Child F](#) (6<sup>th</sup> April 2017) and [Child G](#) (January 2018) were published in this period. The links above will take you to a summary of learning. In addition the full reports can be found on the [Serious Case Review](#) page on our website.

Themes arising from the learning in these cases include:

- Ensuring co-ordinated Sharing of Information, for instance ask yourself, **who might need to know what I know?**

- Recognising all aspects of Risk. Child Fs family were particularly difficult to engage and professionals needed to avoid reliance on **self-reporting and be more professionally curious**
- The importance of a good assessment was highlighted in both reviews. Always **analyse the current risk/need/child and family circumstances in the context of their history**
- Father's - Use all available professional and family networks to **identify and engage with fathers.**
- **People with 'No Recourse to Public Funds ( NRPF)** – raise awareness of how organisations can work with and support those families with NRPF and increase understanding of the expertise of local *specialist voluntary organisations* and the valuable role they can play.
- Assessing the implications of religious faith and beliefs - Professionals must have the **confidence and knowledge to make enquiries about faith and beliefs** to enable positive support networks to be identified and **holistic risk assessments to be undertaken.**

In addition to dissemination of the reports and learning lessons briefing notes, the Safeguarding Boards have hosted the first of 3 planned 'Lunch & Learn sessions' as at 31 March. These sessions highlight the key learning in the case of Child G and signposted professionals to other appropriate training and development e.g. [Safeguarding Children from Abuse linked to Faith and Belief training](#) We're also planning a joint conference with the Safer Wolverhampton Partnership in June 2018 which will focus on Domestic Abuse, Suicide and Neglect which are all key issues highlighted from our Children and Adults Reviews.

A further referral was received in March 2018 for a Serious Case Review and was pending conclusion of the Serious Case Review Committee processes as at 31<sup>st</sup> March.

In addition to the statutory reviews above, 2 table top local reviews were underway during this period but were pending conclusion at the time of writing. Look out for the Learning Lessons Briefing on our website in the coming months. All case review learning can be found on our website at:

<https://www.wolverhamptonsafeguarding.org.uk/safeguarding-children-and-young-people/i-work-with-children-young-people-families/serious-case-reviews-and-other-learning-reviews>

## Safeguarding Adult Reviews

There were no statutory Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) completed during this period, but one review has commenced and is anticipated to conclude in early autumn.

Additionally, one local table top review has been completed and published during this period. Recommendations from the review included:

- The Board should ensure that there is an escalation process for the sharing of key information between the various quality assurance bodies.
- The Board should undertake a small audit of randomly selected care homes/residents to satisfy itself that residents regularly receive holistic assessments.
- The Board should ensure that all agencies, especially GP's and care and nursing homes, are reminded of the Falls Service and encourage referrals to be made to that service.
- The Board should satisfy itself that the various quality assurance services Quality Assurance and Compliance Officers (QACO), Quality Nurse Advisors (QNS) and Care Quality Commission (CQC) are routinely examining medication records especially in relation to the use of controlled drugs and the retention of such drugs by care homes.

These recommendations are being progressed by the WSAB at the time of writing.

In addition, two table top reviews are in progress and will be reported on via the [Safeguarding Adult Review](#) page on completion.

## **Section 11 and Section 175 / 157 Audits**

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a duty on key agencies and bodies to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The WSCB seeks assurance that safeguarding standards are robust through Section 11 Audits, which enables partners to demonstrate the effectiveness of their safeguarding arrangements.

In the West Midlands a number of partner agencies cover more than one Local Safeguarding Children Board. As a result, the West Midlands Children's Board's introduced a consistent set of questions for the Section 11's so that one completion could be shared across the regional boards. We are now looking to enhance that approach through the introduction of an electronic audit tool to reduce duplication further.

For schools and colleges, the annual audit is referred to as a Section 157 or Section 175. All schools (including Independent Schools, Academies and Free Schools) have duties in relation to safeguarding children and are required to carry out an annual review of their school's safeguarding practice & provide information to the WSCB about how the duties set out in the DfE guidance ('Keeping Children Safe in Education' 2016) have been discharged.

The Section 175 / 157 audit was issued to 110 schools in the City, of which 97 (88%) provided responses. Returns highlighted that of the 97 who responded:

- 90% schools completed an annual self-assessment to the Local Authority
- 88 schools had a Safer Recruitment Policy
- There was variation in rates of implementation of learning from training
- 74 had a designated teacher for Looked After Children (LAC) appropriately trained
- 71 schools had appropriately trained Governors
- 77 schools had induction processes in place

The findings from the audit were shared with Board and the Head Teachers Safeguarding Group in November 2017. This was then communicated out to all schools via the established network meetings. Guidance was offered in respect of Safer Recruitment Policies, and the Board highlighted the issue of training availability for the Designated LAC Teachers to the Local Authority who offer the training. The Board were given assurance that a historic problem with provision was now resolved. The learning from the audit and appropriate signposting was also shared at Wolverhampton's Schools Designated Safeguarding Leads event which was held in January 2018.

## Adults' Annual Assurance

The West Midlands adults' safeguarding regional network developed the Annual Assurance document and this was adopted by Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adults Board (WSAB). The Annual Assurance statement enables partners to self-audit; supporting WSAB to assess the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements. This is the third year that the assurance tool has been completed.

Based on the Department of Health's 6 key safeguarding principles (2011):

- Empowerment - Presumption of person led decisions and informed consent
- Protection - Support and representation for those in greatest need
- Prevention - It is better to take action before harm occurs
- Proportionality – Proportionate and least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented
- Partnership - Local solutions through services working with their communities
- Accountability - Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding

The process enables partner agencies to provide governance to the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adults Board and provide the Board with a benchmark to measure effectiveness and progress against the six key safeguarding principles.

The following organisations returned a Partner Self-Audit (PSA):

- Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust (BCPFT)
- Wolverhampton Homes (WH)
- West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS)
- West Midlands Police (WMP)
- Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust (RWT)
- City of Wolverhampton Council (CoWC)
- West Midlands Fire Service (WMFS)
- Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- Staffordshire and West Midlands Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)
- Wolverhampton Healthwatch

Returns were summarised and reported to the WSAB. Each agency was able to demonstrate strengths in some area, and honest reflection as to where there was room for improvement. The Quality and Performance Committee are now planning a review of each agencies progress against their action plans. One theme throughout the returns is in relation to Regional Partners finding the demands of several boards a challenge to maintain. In response, the Quality and Performance Committee is represented at a regional meeting which is intending to create a consistent electronic framework for assurance tools such as this, so that in future regional partners can complete one tool that is shared with all areas.

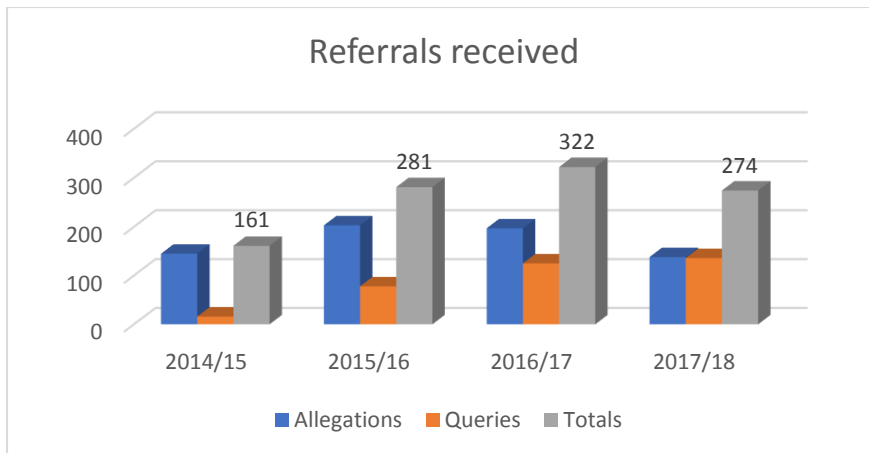
## Local Authority Designated Officer

### Children's Update

The role of the LADO in Wolverhampton has been filled in an interim capacity from July 2015 to December 2017, following the departure of the permanent post holder in May 2015. However, with effect from January 2018, this is now a permanent position ensuring continuity and consistency of service delivery. The current post holder has sought to increase the understanding and awareness of the LADO role across the City of Wolverhampton, and to maintain and develop working relationships across all sectors involved in the delivery of services to children and young people.

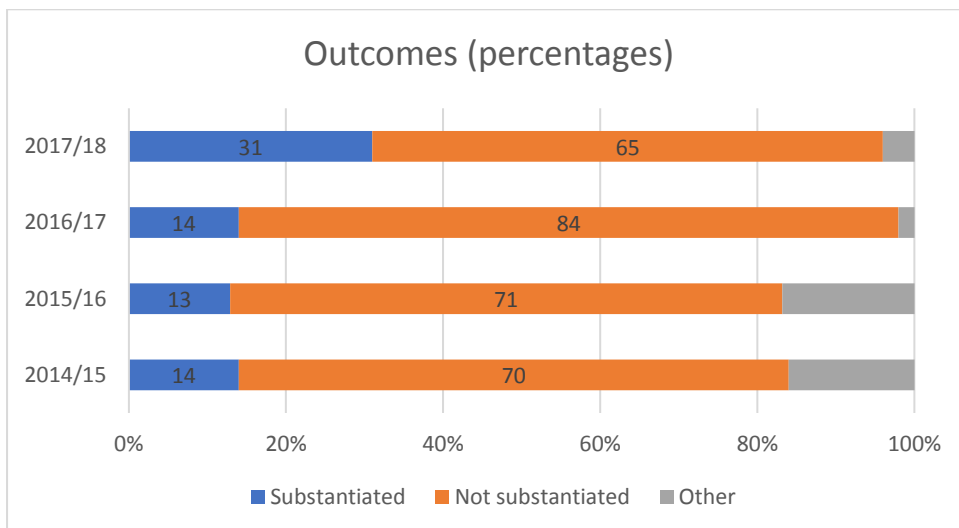
The number of referrals received has reduced by 15% in 2017/18 compared to the previous full year. This may be in part due to the number of awareness raising sessions and direct training provided by Wolverhampton LADO within the City. There is a much improved knowledge and understanding of the management of allegations threshold criteria across organisations and this is has had a positive impact.





Positive relationships with Head Teachers and Designated Safeguarding Leads have been developed and maintained by the LADO and this has helped to achieve timely outcomes. By contrast, the small number of referrals made by **health organisations** has previously raised some concern and was a priority area as identified in previous annual reports. The LADO has presented to a number of health forums and met with health agencies to promote awareness and expectations. It is therefore reassuring to see further increases in the number of referrals being received.

The low number of referrals from **faith based organisations** has also raised some concern in previous years and work has been undertaken to address this, including linking in with the Faith Engagement Worker and presenting to a multi faith audience at an event organised in December 2017. This continues to be an area of priority.



The above table and graph show that there has been a large increase in the number of substantiated cases being addressed through the management of allegations process.



The performance indicator of 80% of cases being completed within 1 month has not been met in this Local Authority before. However, it has been exceeded in 2017/18 with 83% being resolved. The second indicator was met in the previous year and has been exceeded this year. Just 2 cases

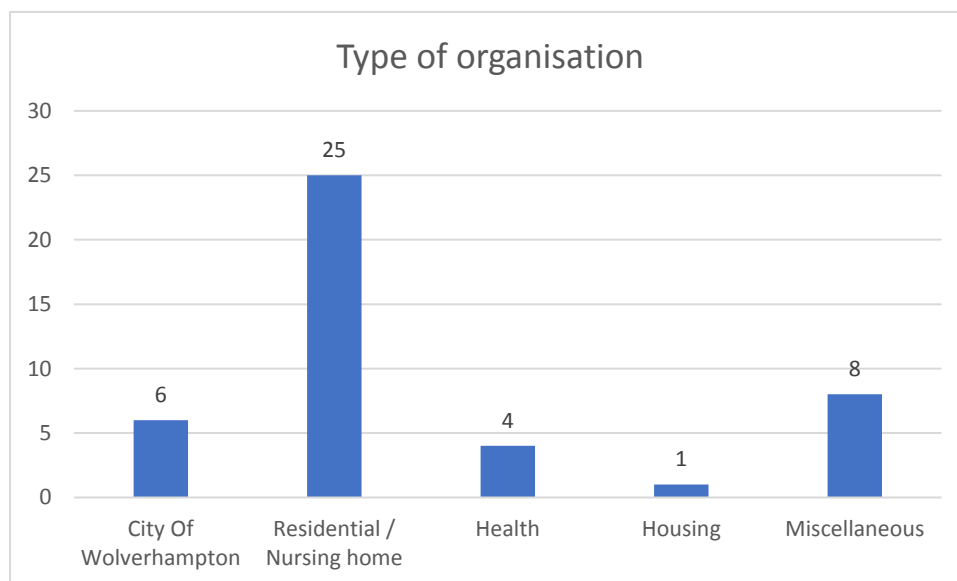
are proving more challenging to resolve and have taken more than 12 months to date. However, this represents less than 1% of all cases and is due to external factors such as ongoing police investigations and court processes.

## Adults' Update

Allegations made against people working with adults with care and support needs also requires appropriate management. Until August 2017, this was a responsibility that lay with two identified Designated Adult Safeguarding Managers. However, due to changes in legislation and changes of roles, the management of such allegations now lies with Wolverhampton LADO, effective from September 2017.

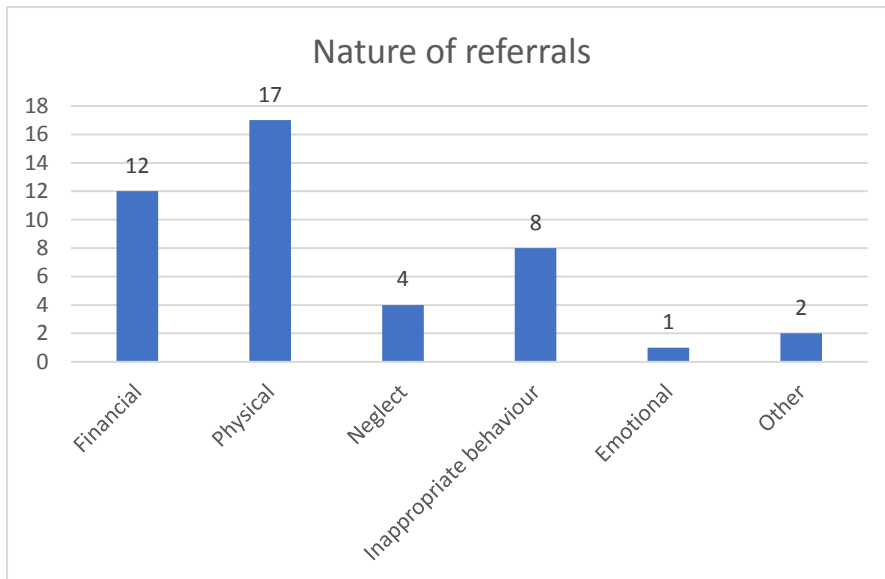
The LADO provides advice and guidance to employers and voluntary organisations, liaising with police and other agencies and monitoring the progress of cases to ensure they are dealt with as quickly as possible, are consistent and follow a fair process.

Between April 2017 and March 2018, a total of 44 referrals were received in relation to allegations made about people working with adults with care and support needs. From September 2017, 5 of these referrals have required position of trust meetings.



57% of referrals were to do with residential / nursing home providers

Organisations have in place their own processes for dealing with the management of allegations. The Local Authority is responsible for oversight of the activity of the Management of Allegations Officers in key WSAB member agencies. To achieve this, the LADO meets with such leads on a 6 monthly basis. However, data has only been forthcoming from 2 of these agencies, namely Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust and West Midlands Ambulance Service.



Referrals regarding physical abuse and financial abuse account for two thirds (66%) of all referrals received. 50% were substantiated and 50% were not. Of the substantiated cases, 6 were referred to DBS and 2 resulted in criminal convictions.

## Training

Wolverhampton Safeguarding Boards have responsibility to ensure that appropriate safeguarding training is available to the workforce across the City of Wolverhampton. This work is led by the Learning and Development Committee with support for the WSB Training Co-Ordinator.

The 2017-18 training programme saw 88 courses delivered (including 38 which were run regionally). There was 68% course utilisation, which is a steady improvement in course attendance. Wolverhampton Safeguarding Board also offer a range of e-learning courses which include Child Sexual Exploitation, Female Genital Mutilation, and domestic abuse amongst other things. In addition, the Faith Engagement Worker organised bespoke training to 123 volunteers from 15 different faith-based organisations. More training for faith groups is planned for 2018-2019 including 12 sessions funded by the Near Neighbours Fund following a successful application by Interfaith Wolverhampton (IFW). This is being delivered collaboratively with the Faith Engagement Worker funded by the Board.

To enhance the learning and development opportunities a series of **Lunch & Learn** briefings have been launched to disseminate learning in short and succinct formats. We've started with a focus on learning from local case reviews and audits. It is early days as only one session had been delivered within this reporting period, but we hope that take up and interest in these hourly sessions will be high.

Attendance at training by agency is variable, as is expected given the varying size of the workforce, staff turnover, and availability of single agency training. Schools and the Strengthening Families Workforce have the highest rate of attendance. Representation from Children's Social Care and Police are comparatively low. The Learning and Development Committee will continue to monitor attendance to see if action taken to date improves attendance.

Attendance rate cannot be considered a measure of success, and it remains a challenge to demonstrate the impact of learning and development activity on outcomes for children and frontline practice. The Boards use post-course evaluation forms to evaluate the learning from events and feedback has been largely positive. To strengthen our evidence of impact we've introduced post course surveys every 3 months which seek examples of how professionals have put learning into practice after their training.

We've run the first follow-up evaluations on the Thresholds briefing. Here's what some of the participants had to say:

- I didn't know about the strengthening families' surgeries until I attended, I've since been to discuss a case.
- The multi-agency nature of the sessions helped me understand the perspective of other agencies, and I'm now more confident to pick up the phone.

Our partners also have a key role to play in training and development activity. During this reporting period Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group, together with the Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum, have successfully secured funding to support General Practitioners in recognising and responding to domestic abuse. The project involves training, support, resources, access to drop in sessions, identification of local DV Champions and education regarding access to and embedding local pathways.

The project only started in March 2018. At the time of writing, 127 practice staff have been trained from over 21 practices and it's already making an impact. There have been 10 direct referrals to the drop-in sessions, 6 GP referrals to MASH and 9 MARAC referrals have been received which is a significant increase in referral activity. The formal evaluation will be carried out by the University of Wolverhampton on conclusion of the project.

## Child Death Overview Panel

The WSCB is responsible for ensuring that a review of each death of a child normally resident in the City of Wolverhampton is undertaken by CDOP.

The functions of the CDOP involve reviewing all child deaths, excluding those babies who are stillborn and planned terminations of pregnancy carried out within the law; in order to determine whether the death was deemed preventable.

Preventable deaths are those in which modifiable factors may have contributed to the death. Modifiable factors are those things which, if changed, could avoid a future death.

The CDOP publishes its own annual report which is considered by the WSCB. The report for 2017-18 can be accessed via Safeguarding Board website.

To summarise, modifiable factors that were identified within some cases included:

- Co-sleeping
- Smoking (by parents)
- Parental Substance Misuse
- Non-attendance at medical appointments
- Understanding / dissemination of key safety messages e.g. wearing protective helmets, water safety and railway safety.

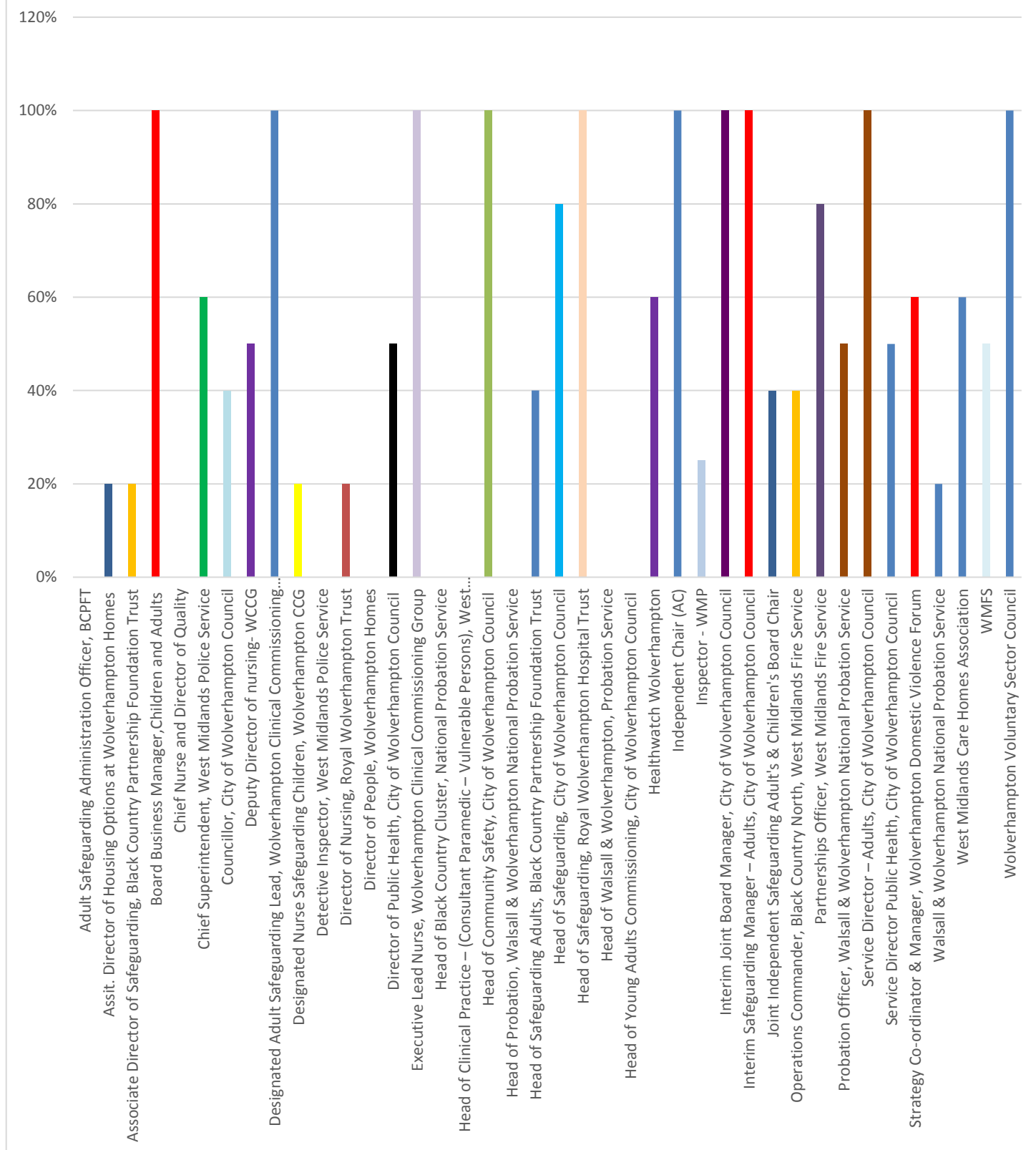
### **Wolverhampton Safeguarding Boards Priorities for 2018-19:**

- Ensure that WSCB and WSAB are high performing Boards and effectively delivering functions as defined in Working Together 2015 and the Care Act 2014 including the facilitation of multi-agency practitioner engagement events to ascertain the strengths and challenges of multi-agency safeguarding work.
- To enhance the quality assurance function and better analyse the safeguarding system. This to include the review and update of performance information so that it is sufficient to analyse the 'safeguarding system' as a whole.
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of training, including multi-agency training, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults
- Develop a dynamic auditing programme that includes scrutiny and challenge of single agency audits and completion of multi-agency audits
- Commence a methodology for multi-agency assurance visits
- Ensure that the Children's Safeguarding Board effectively transitions to the Safeguarding Partners in line with Working Together 2018
- WSB contribute to the development of improved practice in respect of Domestic Abuse.
- Maintain and publish effective policy and procedures and ensure that local guidance is available to support this.
- Draw on sufficient resource to better quality assure practice, including through joint audits of case files involving practitioners and identifying lessons to be learned and outcomes achieved.
- In partnership with the Health and Wellbeing Board Understand the local profile of families with No Recourse to Public Funds (**NRPF**) and seek assurance that families are identified; risk is identified; and responded to appropriately
- Support multi-agency partners to recognise and respond at the earliest opportunity to those illustrating Hoarding behaviours

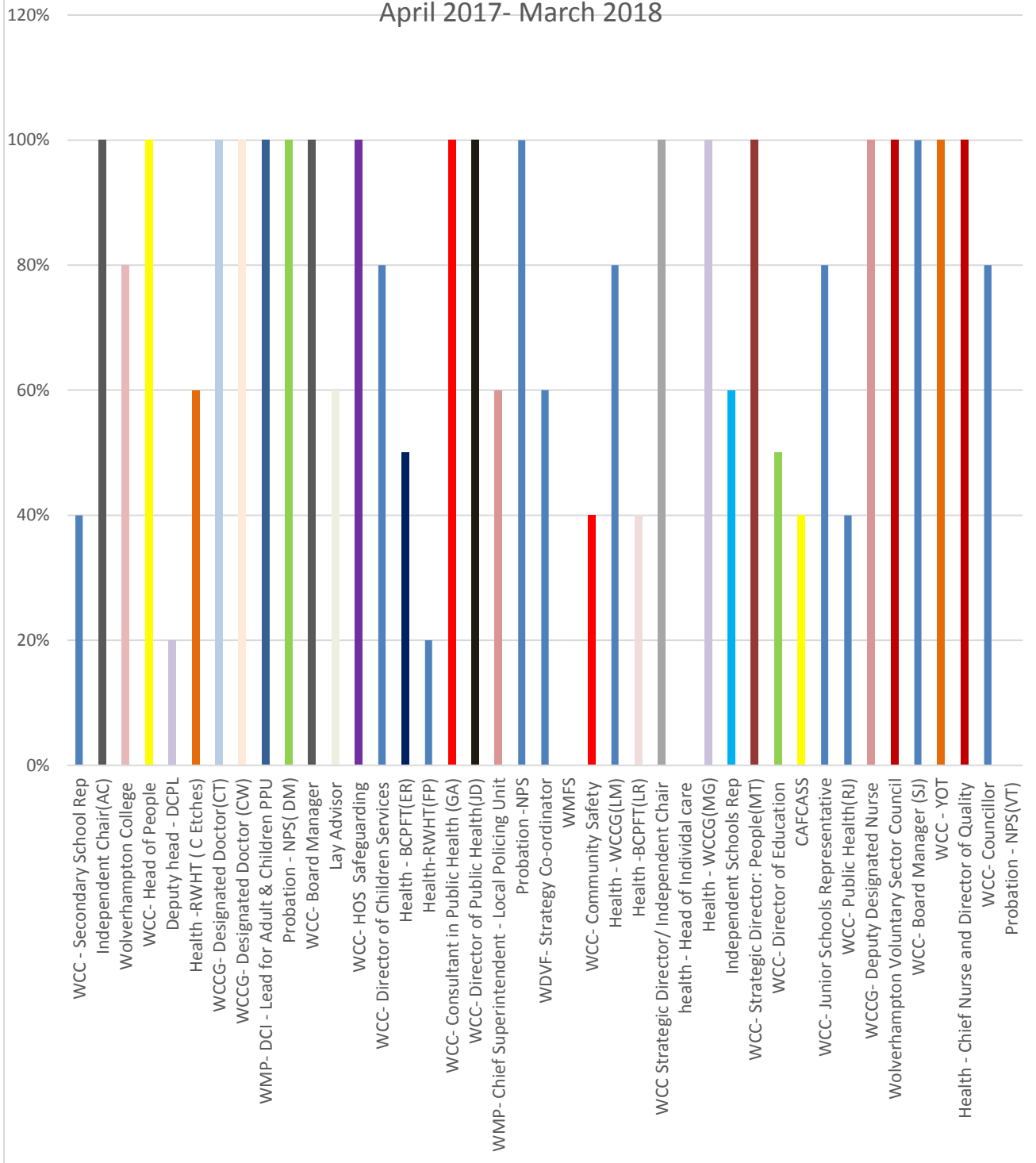
- Raise awareness of safeguarding among the general public and community / faith groups including: how to recognise abuse and neglect.
- Develop a system whereby service users and their families can influence the work of WSB including 'Hard to Reach' communities
- To receive and consider the Independent Reviewing Service Annual Report.
- To continue to work more closely with other Partnership Boards within the City.

## Appendix A

### Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adults Board Attendance April 2017- March 2018



## Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board Attendance April 2017- March 2018







**Essential Information**

**First draft completed: 11/08/2018**

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**Published:**

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