

Safeguarding Improvement Board – 2nd October 2012

Item 3.3 – Scrutiny Task Group report on Improvements Within 3 months

Background

On 22 August, the Safeguarding Improvement Board (SIB) asked the Safeguarding Children & Young People Task Group to scrutinise the delivery of the improvements to safeguarding that were required to be completed within 3 months of the Ofsted inspection.

The Task Group met on 1 October and considered evidence provided by officers of Wiltshire Council. Members focused on the Improvements required by Ofsted in its inspection report rather than the milestones set out in the Safeguarding Improvement Plan.

Conclusions

	Ofsted immediate actions on safeguarding	Comments and conclusions
1	Wiltshire Council to ensure that the improvement plan to address the findings of this inspection is prioritised and fully resourced to reduce any adverse impact upon the capacity of the front line service	Complete <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current need is adequately resourced and analysis is being done on resources needed going forward.
2	Wiltshire Council to undertake a comprehensive audit of all children who are on the threshold of risk and/or subject to child protection plans to ensure that these children are being protected from serious harm	Complete <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence was provided of the comprehensive audit.
3	Wiltshire Council to ensure that the serious shortcomings in quality assurance arrangements are addressed by strengthening management oversight and challenge in case work and through improved effectiveness of the child protection chairs	Partially complete <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At present there is insufficient evidence to say this has been completed. Several improvement measures have been implemented, but members recognise that this is a cultural issue that will take time to resolve.
4	Wiltshire Council to ensure core assessments are regularly used and updated to reflect and evaluate the impact of changing family circumstances	Partially complete <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officers advised this would be complete by the end of the year. The Group recognises that a structured, long-term approach is being taken to this issue rather than a quick fix.
5	Wiltshire Council to ensure child protection plans and written agreements with parents clearly identify what needs to change with clear timescales and what action is required to address any drift	Partially complete <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At present there is insufficient evidence to say this has been completed. Officers reported a number of changes, including social workers being involved in plans at an earlier stage. However, evidence for this and its impact won't be known until audit reports go to LSCB in December.

6	Wiltshire Council and Wiltshire Constabulary to review procedures for conducting joint Section 47 interviews to ensure practice is compliant with statutory guidance	<p>Complete</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A multi-agency procedure has been agreed and is compliant with statutory guidance.
7	NHS Wiltshire and NHS South Gloucestershire, Great Western NHS Foundation Hospital Trust, Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust and Avon & Wiltshire NHS Partnership Trust to ensure that staff fully understand the escalation policy and that there is effective monitoring of when the policy is invoked.	<p>Unknown</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Task Group did not receive evidence of this improvement so cannot reach a conclusion.
Ofsted 3 months actions on safeguarding		
8	Wiltshire safeguarding children board to ensure a comprehensive Section 47 multi-agency audit is carried out that identifies robustly current practice to ensure it is compliant with statutory guidance	<p>Partially complete</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Task Group were satisfied that a comprehensive Section 47 audit took place. However, it cannot evidence that current practice is now compliant with statutory guidance.
9	Wiltshire Council to ensure that the serious shortfalls in the identification of risk within assessments, contingencies and care planning are addressed and improved through appropriate staff development and training	<p>Partially complete</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Task Group were satisfied that appropriate staff training and development had taken place but did have concerns that there appeared to be no audit mechanism in place to monitor any improvements However, a more holistic review of a risk is being done, which will take longer.
10	Wiltshire Council to ensure children in need plans are consistently drawn up following assessment and are regularly reviewed	<p>Partially complete</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At present there is insufficient evidence to say this has been completed. Audit systems are in place to monitor this improvement, but the audits expected to be done in September are not yet complete.
11	NHS Wiltshire and Salisbury NHS Foundation Hospital Trust to ensure that activity and outcomes from the review of children's cases presented in the accident and emergency department are reported regularly through hospital and safeguarding governance arrangements	<p>Unknown</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Task Group did not receive evidence of this improvement so cannot reach a conclusion.
12	NHS Wiltshire and Salisbury NHS Foundation Hospital Trust to ensure that staff have access to regular safeguarding supervision as set out within statutory guidance to senior managers within the Trust	<p>Unknown</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Task Group did not receive evidence of this improvement so cannot reach a conclusion.
13	NHS Wiltshire, Salisbury Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Great Western NHS Foundation Trust to ensure that staff are well supported to undertake their safeguarding responsibilities through training at levels	<p>Unknown</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Task Group did not receive evidence of this improvement so cannot reach a conclusion.

	appropriate to their role and documentation which includes triggers to facilitate comprehensive risk identification	
14	NHS Wiltshire/BANES and NHS South Gloucestershire, Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust and the police to review practice to ensure that children and young people under 18 years of age are not inappropriately detained under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983. In the event that a child or young person has to be detained ensure that there is access to appropriate dedicated facilities within the relevant cluster areas and that the child or young person concerned receives a prompt mental health assessment	<p>Partially complete</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The task group received evidence stating that only 2 young people were detained inappropriately in July and August this year compared with 15 in 2011. However the task group did note that was still no agreement in place with regard to suitable accommodation for under 18's being detained under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act
15	NHS Wiltshire and NHS South Gloucestershire, Great Western NHS Foundation Trust, Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust and Wiltshire Council to ensure that staff in adult services receive children's safeguarding training at levels appropriate to their role, receive safeguarding supervision as set out in statutory guidance and are fully engaged in children's safeguarding and governance arrangements.	<p>Unknown</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Task Group did not receive evidence of this improvement so cannot reach a conclusion.
15a	Wiltshire Council to ensure that staff in adult services receive children's safeguarding training at levels appropriate to their role, receive safeguarding supervision as set out in statutory guidance and are fully engaged in children's safeguarding and governance arrangements	See above
Ofsted immediate actions on Looked After Children		
16	Wiltshire Council, through its review of its risk assessment processes and practice to ensure that all children and young people who need to be in care in Wiltshire are appropriately accommodated	<p>Complete</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An audit has been completed.
17	Wiltshire Council to ensure placement plans for looked after children and young people placed with foster carers contain relevant, up to date information to assist carers provide good quality safe care personal to the child or young person's needs	<p>Complete</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised guidance issued.
18	Wiltshire Council to ensure the looked after children's health team receive prompt notification of a child or young person's admission to care or change of placement	<p>Partially complete</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Task Group were satisfied that a system was in place designed to improve this, but no audits had taken place and no evidence was provided of outcomes.
19	Wiltshire Council to ensure robust tracking and monitoring systems are in place to enable	<p>Partially complete</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Task Group were satisfied that an auditing

	the council to assure itself that looked after children and young people allocated to teams other than the through care teams receive a service that is at least comparable to the quality of service provided by the through care service.	system and new practice standards would improve this, but no audits had taken place and no evidence was provided of outcomes.
20	Public Health and NHS Wiltshire and the council should appoint a designated doctor and designated nurse for looked after children to ensure effective strategic clinical leadership in line with statutory national guidance as set out in Working Together To Safeguard Children, 2010	Complete
21	Public Health & Public Protection NHS Wiltshire & Wiltshire Council should ensure that looked after children's health service delivery is subject to a work plan with measurable objectives and a rigorous performance management framework	Unknown <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Task Group did not receive evidence of this improvement so cannot reach a conclusion.
22	Public Health & Public Protection NHS Wiltshire & Wiltshire Council should ensure that the needs of young mothers and fathers within the looked after children service, including those who are placed outside the area, are identified and addressed	Unknown <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Task Group did not receive evidence of this improvement so cannot reach a conclusion.
23	Public Health & Public Protection NHS Wiltshire & Wiltshire Council should ensure that there is effective quality assurance of health assessments and reviews for all looked after children, and that the looked after children nurses are well equipped to undertake this role	Unknown <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Task Group did not receive evidence of this improvement so cannot reach a conclusion.
24	Public Health & Public Protection NHS Wiltshire & Wiltshire Council should ensure that health support to looked after children and care leavers is fully developed in partnership with the children in care council	Unknown <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Task Group did not receive evidence of this improvement so cannot reach a conclusion.
25	Public Health & Public Protection NHS Wiltshire & Wiltshire Council to ensure that care leavers receive copies of their health histories to equip them to make effective future health choices.	Unknown <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Task Group did not receive evidence of this improvement so cannot reach a conclusion.

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