

WOLVERHAMPTON CCG
Quality and Safety Committee
13th September 2016

Title of Report:	Safeguarding Children (Section 11) Audit
Report of:	WCCG Safeguarding and Looked After Children Team
Contact:	Lorraine Millard
Quality and Safety Committee Action Required:	<input type="checkbox"/> Decision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assurance
Purpose of Report:	To provide assurance that WCCG is compliant with Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 and has effective arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
Public or Private:	Public
Relevance to CCG Priority:	
Relevance to Board Assurance Framework (BAF):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domain 1: A Well Led Organisation 	<p>Domain 1: Well led organisation – impacting on whether the CCG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> has strong and robust leadership; has robust governance arrangements; involves and engages patients and the public actively; works in partnership with others, including other CCGs; has effective systems in place to ensure compliance with its statutory functions.



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domain 2a: Performance – delivery of commitments and improved outcomes 	<p>Performance: delivery of commitments and improved outcomes: and ensuring standards for all aspects of quality, including safeguarding are met.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domain 2b: Quality (Improved Outcomes) 	<p>Quality: Also ensure that the CCG is able to demonstrate the continuous improving quality agenda for all aspects of quality including safeguarding.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domain 3: Financial Management 	N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domain 4: Planning (Long Term and Short Term) 	N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domain 5: Delegated Functions 	N/A



1. BACKGROUND AND CURRENT SITUATION

- 1.1 Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a duty on key persons and bodies to make arrangements to ensure that in discharging their functions, they have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- 1.2 There are some key features of effective arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children which all agencies need to take account of when undertaking their particular functions. The arrangements help agencies to create and maintain an organisational culture and ethos that reflects the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
- 1.3 The Children Act (2004) required Local Authorities to set up Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (LSCBs). One of the functions of the LSCB is to monitor the effectiveness of arrangements in a locality to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. This includes monitoring compliance with Section 11 of Children Act 2004 and Section 175 of Education Act 2002.
- 1.4 The requirement for all agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people is also reflected in the statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' 2015. This includes detailing the roles and responsibilities of respective agencies, the voluntary and private sectors and faith communities in safeguarding and promoting welfare.

2. MAIN BODY OF REPORT

- 2.1 Whilst Working Together 2015 specifically addresses those agencies with a statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote welfare, it also highlights that there are a number of common features that ALL organisations that provide services for children and young people or work with children and young people need to have in place at a strategic and organisational level, these key features are having;
- a clear line of accountability for the commissioning and/or provision of services designed to safeguard and promote the welfare of children;
 - a senior board level lead to take leadership responsibility for the organisation's safeguarding arrangements;
 - a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings, both in individual decisions and the development of services;



- clear whistleblowing procedures, which reflect the principles in Sir Robert Francis's Freedom to Speak Up review and are suitably referenced in staff training and codes of conduct, and a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children to be addressed;
- arrangements which set out clearly the processes for sharing information, with other professionals and with the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB);
- a designated professional lead
- safe recruitment practices for individuals whom the organisation will permit to work regularly with children, including policies on when to obtain a criminal record check;
- appropriate supervision and support for staff, including undertaking safeguarding training;
- employers are responsible for ensuring that their staff are competent to carry out their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and creating an environment where staff feel able to raise concerns and feel supported in their safeguarding role;
- staff should be given a mandatory induction, which includes familiarisation with child protection responsibilities and procedures to be followed if anyone has any concerns about a child's safety or welfare; and
- all professionals should have regular reviews of their own practice to ensure they improve over time.
- clear policies in line with those from the LSCB for dealing with allegations against people who work with children.

2.2 The audit tool used to support this process is completed online. It contains the 11 standards with a series of sub-criteria totalling 45 across the whole audit tool. For each of the criteria, there are a set of grade descriptors ranging from 25% (red), 50% (blue), 75% (amber) to 100% (green) compliance.

2.3 Partner agencies of WSCB are required to self-assess themselves against the standards and competencies using the web-based audit tool every two years. The primary aim of this process is to assist member organisations in assessing compliance and identifying areas of further development or improvement activity.

2.4 Each agency/organisation is responsible for developing its own action/improvement plan arising from their Section 11 audit.

2.5 The WCCG self-assessment and action plan submitted on 22nd August 2016 can be found as appendix 1.



3 CLINICAL VIEW

3.1 Since January 2014 the Safeguarding Children team have maintained a self - assessment score card to assess the position of WCCG in terms of the range of safeguarding children responsibilities, with subsequent quarterly reports demonstrating where the CCG were performing well, those areas that required more attention and the results of the actions taken to ensure compliance.

3.2 The self -assessment tool developed by WCCG safeguarding team includes the standards within s.11.

3.3 A Safeguarding Audit was carried out by the Internal Audit Team in March 2016 to carry out a review of the CCG's safeguarding arrangements to ensure compliance with current legislation and guidance. A Management Action Plan has been agreed to strengthen areas where improvements can be made. The overall internal audit rating was rated as **Substantial**.

4 PATIENT AND PUBLIC VIEW

4.1 A number of standards and subsections relate to engagement with children and their families and hearing the voice of children.

5 RISKS AND IMPLICATIONS

Key Risks

5.1 Non-compliance against s.11 would result in insufficient arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, with the potential risk to children and young people and reputational risk to the organisation.

Financial and Resource Implications

5.2 N/A

Quality and Safety Implications

5.3 Commissioners are responsible for assuring themselves of the safety and effectiveness of the services they have commissioned. In order to support a clear and consistent approach to the reports provided by the services commissioned by WCCG an overarching adult and children dashboard has been included in contracts moving forward. In addition a new reporting framework has been developed – this includes the requirement to demonstrate the organisation has effective safeguarding arrangements in place and complies with s.11 of the Children Act 2004.

Equality Implications

5.3 A equality impact assessment was not required.



Medicines Management Implications

5.4 N/A

Legal and Policy Implications

5.5 Compliance is required under the Children Act 2004.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Recommendations

- **Receive** and **discuss** this report.
- **Note** the action being taken.

Name: Lorraine Millard
Job Title: Designated Senior Nurse Safeguarding Children
Date: 30.8.16

ATTACHED: Appendix 1

Section.11 audit (completed 22.8.16)



Safeguarding
Children (Section 11)



REPORT SIGN-OFF CHECKLIST

This section must be completed before the report is submitted to the Admin team. If any of these steps are not applicable please indicate, do not leave blank.

	Details/ Name	Date
Clinical View	L Millard	30.8.16
Public/ Patient View	F Brennan	30.8.16
Finance Implications discussed with Finance Team	N/A	
Quality Implications discussed with Quality and Risk Team	Lorraine Millard	30.8.16
Medicines Management Implications discussed with Medicines Management team	N/A	
Equality Implications discussed with CSU Equality and Inclusion Service	N/A	
Information Governance implications discussed with IG Support Officer	N/A	
Legal/ Policy implications discussed with Corporate Operations Manager	N/A	
Signed off by Report Owner (Must be completed)	Lorraine Millard	30.8.16

