



Coventry Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report
April 2017 to March 2018

Foreword

I am pleased to introduce the Coventry Safeguarding Children Board (CSCB) Annual Report covering the period from April 2017 to March 2018.

The CSCB is required to publish an Annual Report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in its area, including an assessment of local safeguarding arrangements, achievements made and the challenges that remain. This report sets out the work of The Board and its understanding of the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements across Coventry. The report also aims to give those people who live and work in Coventry a greater understanding of the way agencies work together and individually to keep children safe from harm and abuse.

During this period partnership working has continued to strengthen and is seen a real asset here in Coventry despite the ever changing and reducing financial landscape that remains a challenge for all agencies. The board continues to rise to meet these challenges with a strong commitment by our partners to the CSCB's work. We have been able to have frank and strong discussions on a wide range of issues. This has been vital in keeping our safeguarding system as strong as possible.

The report contains a lot of detail, facts and figures which help us to understand how well we are doing. We continue to work to ensure the data we do collect helps us understand progress against our priority areas of work and against the performance of other areas in England.

Progress against our priorities is outlined in detail in section four but briefly:

- As a partnership we now have a greater understanding as to what it is like to be a looked after child in Coventry and we have been working more closely with the corporate parenting board.

- There has been a big change in how early help work is tackled in the city and this continues to grow and develop.
- Professionals are increasingly aware of and responding to the Child Sexual Exploitation risk to the point that we feel able to be thinking about the risk of exploitation in a much wider context.
- For children who are neglected or living in households where there is domestic abuse we have made good progress in setting the direction for partnership working supporting the development and launch of strategies in relation to both neglect and domestic abuse and the roll out of Signs of Safety (a method of working with families) to all agencies.
- Finally we have a fifth priority area that is concerned with the ongoing development of the partnership and responding to changes in legislation. That said our core work and reason for working in partnership remains the same, to challenge and support all agencies in Coventry to safeguard and promote the welfare of our children.



I would like to thank all the Board staff, for their continued support in the smooth functioning and promotion of the CSCB. I would also like to thank members of the Board, from across the partnership of our voluntary, community and statutory services and all the frontline practitioners and managers for their commitment, hard work and effort in keeping children and young people safe in Coventry.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'David Peplow'. The signature is stylized and written in cursive.

David Peplow
Independent Chair

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Introduction



Introduction

This report outlines the achievements and challenges of Coventry LSCB from April 2017 to March 2018. It evaluates the impact of Coventry's services on outcomes for children and shows how the work of the Board has contributed to improving outcomes. It details the Board's progress in implementing its current priorities.

The objectives of an LSCB are clearly set out within Section 14 of the Children Act 2004:

- a) To coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and
- b) To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.

In order to fulfil its statutory functions under Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006 as a minimum an LSCB should:

- assess the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families, including early help;
- assess whether LSCB partners are fulfilling their statutory obligations;
- quality assure practice, including through joint audits of case files involving practitioners and identifying lessons to be learned; and
- monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of training, including multi-agency training, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

LSCBs do not commission or deliver direct frontline services though they may provide training. While LSCBs do not have the power to direct other organisations and Board partners retain their own lines of accountability for safeguarding, safeguarding boards do have a role in making clear where improvement is needed.

This annual report provides an assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services in improving outcomes for children. It details how Coventry LSCB has helped to create better outcomes for children through improving multiagency processes and co-ordination, assessing the effectiveness of what is being done by agencies and feeding back to them, quality assuring practice and disseminating good practice, developing and providing multi-agency training and ensuring that agencies are fulfilling their statutory responsibilities. The Board challenges partners but also supports them to improve. It listens to the voices of children and directs its work accordingly.



Local background and context



Coventry Children's Services were inspected by OFSTED in 2017 and rated overall as 'Requires Improvement', evidencing the efficacy of the Improvement Plan implemented after 2014's 'Inadequate' rating. Coventry City Council and partners have worked hard to improve the services they offer, and the change in rating is testament to the work of all Coventry professionals and their dedication to providing good quality services and support to Coventry children and families.

In 2018 OFSTED conducted a focused visit to Local Authority children's services, and again the feedback was on the whole positive. Particular encouraging reference was made to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub

(MASH), demonstrating the high quality work undertaken by partners to manage the safety of children and young adults in Coventry.

The Independent Chair of the Children's Board continues in tenure and has driven a child-centred approach to Coventry's work, resulting in greater assurance of positive outcomes for children and families. Working together to safeguard children in Coventry continues to be complex, as the City has a diverse population, a high lone parent context and is acknowledged to have significant areas of deprivation meaning families often require high levels of support, as is illustrated in our infographic.



Local background and context

Coventry population¹



76,600 children and young people in Coventry aged 0-17

24.4% of under 18 population are under 3 (18,700)

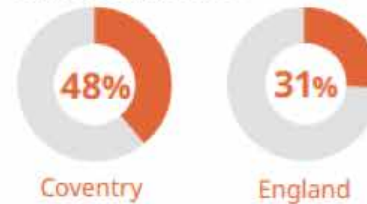
Migration³

Net international migration
mid-2012 **4,500**
mid-2016 **7,700**

If current population growth trends continue, the total population of Coventry will rise by **12%** between 2018 and 2028, with the total number of children projected to increase faster than the adult population.⁴

Minority ethnic groups⁵

% of children from minority ethnic backgrounds



80 languages spoken⁶

32% of Coventry school pupils have a first language other than English

19% in England⁷

Lone parents¹¹

Coventry has a higher than average percentage of children living in lone parent households.

Free School Meals¹²

School pupils on roll known to be eligible and claiming free school meals:



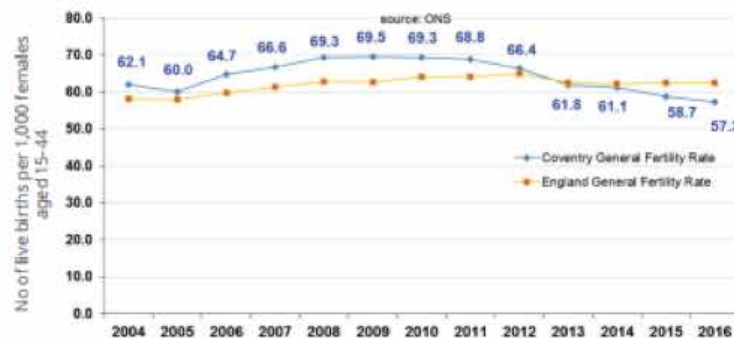
Coventry births and General Fertility Rate²

Year	No. of births
2004	3,987
2005	3,871
2006	4,216
2007	4,373
2008	4,618
2009	4,660
2010	4,726
2011	4,801
2012	4,731
2013	4,495
2014	4,572
2015	4,517
2016	4,531



(General fertility rate refers to the birth rate per 1,000 female aged 15-44 using ONS mid-year population estimates):

Coventry and England Fertility Rates



Deprivation

25% of Coventry residents 0-17 years live in areas that are among the most deprived 10% of neighbourhoods in England⁸

16,100 Coventry children live in low-income households⁹



Sources

- 2016 mid-year population estimates, Office for National Statistics
- Births by mothers' usual area of residence in the UK, Office for National Statistics
- 2016 mid-year population estimates, Office for National Statistics
- 2014 Sub National Population Projections, Office for National Statistics
- Schools, Pupils, and their Characteristics: January 2017, Department for Education
- CLSCB Annual Report 2017 (As the data for the 2017 report is based on the 2011 Census, no updates are expected between now and the writing of the previous report.)
- Schools, Pupils, and their Characteristics: January 2017, Department for Education
- Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015, DCLG; 2016 mid-year population estimates 2016, ONS
- These are that have an annual income lower than 60% of the national average (before housing costs are accounted for), or receipt of out-of-work benefits.
- Personal tax credits: children in low-income families local measure: snapshot at 31 August 2015, HMRC
- CLSCB Annual Report 2017
- Schools, Pupils, and their Characteristics: January 2017, Department for Education



Outcomes for Coventry children



Outcomes for Coventry children

Summary

2017-18 has seen ongoing hard work across all agencies to improve outcomes for children in Coventry. There is evidence to suggest that abuse is being identified early, and that families are being supported to manage their own issues when safe to do so using the inclusive new Family Hubs model. Coventry's Local Authority children's services were re-inspected by Ofsted in March, and were judged as "requires improvement to be good". This is a significant development from the previous 'inadequate' rating and evidences the efficacy of the 'Getting to Good' improvement plan, to which all partners have contributed over the past few years. This section provides more detail on the progress being made on outcomes for children.

Early Help

Coventry is moving from the well-known Common Assessment Framework (CAF) process to a new Early Help offer during 2018; however, these changes have not affected the support children and families are receiving as evidenced by the stable number of families engaged in the process: in 2017/18 2369 CAF's were completed. The Board encourages partner contributions to children and families' lives, and the efficacy of this approach is evidenced by a third of all Common Assessment Frameworks across the year having a Lead Professional who is non-Local Authority.

The outcome of CAF work is considered successful if it is completed with no actions outstanding; over the year this figure has risen from 64.6% to 72.1%. Coventry has begun to make some changes to its Early Help offer using the concept of Family Hubs: a number of different agencies using one space within communities to ensure easy access and tailored support to local

people. The change from the CAF to the Early Help process will continue into late 2018, as referral forms and other processes are updated to reflect the changes.

Child Protection

Over the year the number of children with child protection plans has reduced, but not enough to achieve any statistical significance. The reduction in numbers may indicate that more families are engaging with the new Early Help offer and therefore not escalating to child protection, but more time is needed to obtain an evidence base to validate this suggestion.

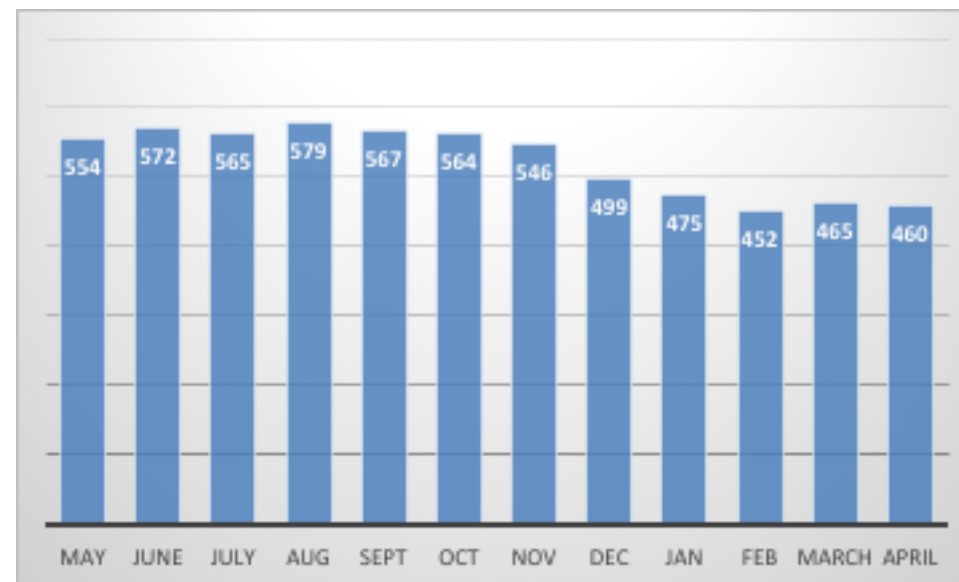


Figure 1: Numbers of Children on a Child Protection Plan



The Safeguarding Board recently produced a new thresholds of intervention document, 'Right Help Right Time', designed to assist practitioners in decision making and reducing the number of inappropriate referrals to the Local Authority safeguarding team. This reference and support guide is likely to further increase the number of referrals into Early Help, thus increasing the avoidance of statutory intervention and resulting in timely positive outcomes for Coventry children and their families.

Children are mostly still receiving the help they need in a timely way. Eighty two percent of initial child protection conferences are held within fifteen days, but 67.5% of children and family assessments are held within 45 days as opposed to 86.1% at this time last year. It is theorised that these lower figures are related to the identified need over the last year for more succinct threshold guidance, and that the introduction of the right Help, Right Time guidance should see these figures improve as the number of inappropriate referrals reduces.

The number of repeat referrals overall has dropped to 21.2%, meaning Coventry is performing better than its regional neighbour and below the national average in this area (being 22% and 21.9% respectively) However, the number of children becoming subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time remains high at 27.3% This is almost 10% above the national average and means that children are still being exposed to significant risk for a second or third time, which for the second consecutive year calls into question the effectiveness of the intervention already undertaken and the efficacy of the professional judgement and decision making processes involved in closing child protection cases.

In Coventry over the past 4 years the most prevalent category of abuse children experienced was emotional, with neglect second. This is contrary to statistics published by the NSPCC who state that nationally, neglect accounts for 46% of child protection plans whilst emotional abuse accounts for 34%. A neglect focussed thematic audit took place in Coventry this year and amongst the findings was a recognition that whilst cases are initially categorised when a

concern about a child is raised, investigation can often lead to a greater understanding of the issues within the family and re-categorisation, when required, is not always undertaken. One of the Board's priorities for 2017/18 and which is continuing into this year is child neglect, and so partners will continue to work together to focus on how neglect is identified and dealt with in Coventry.

Children in Need & Domestic Violence

There are currently 2225 open Children in Need cases in Coventry, 58% of which do not yet have a plan (this is potentially because they are still in the early stages of assessment). It is important to avoid drift and the Children's Social Care managers monitor cases on an on-going basis to ensure timeliness of work. Positively, 96% of children in need had their plan either written or updated in the last 6 months and almost 70% of children were visited in the last 4 weeks showing that Coventry practitioners understand the importance of maintaining positive relationships with children and families, and are actively and regularly reassessing risks and positive factors for each family they work with.

Coventry has a higher rate of domestic abuse than the national average, but is similar to its neighbours within the West Midlands region. Domestic abuse is a priority for the Board because of its prevalence (the annual cost of domestic abuse in Coventry is estimated to be £34.8 million) and it is recognised that so-called honour based violence and forced marriage are taking place in the City and so are part of this area of risk and need. Coventry recently published its multi-agency Domestic Abuse strategy which contains strategic priorities and proposed outcomes; the Board can use this document to help the partnership measure and manage progress throughout the coming year, as well as holding them to account for any actions not undertaken which would protect children and families from harm.



Looked After Children

Coventry is broadly stable in the number of children who are looked after although this has risen slightly over the year. The City looked after children numbers are higher than the England average and statistical neighbours, reflecting levels of deprivation in the city.

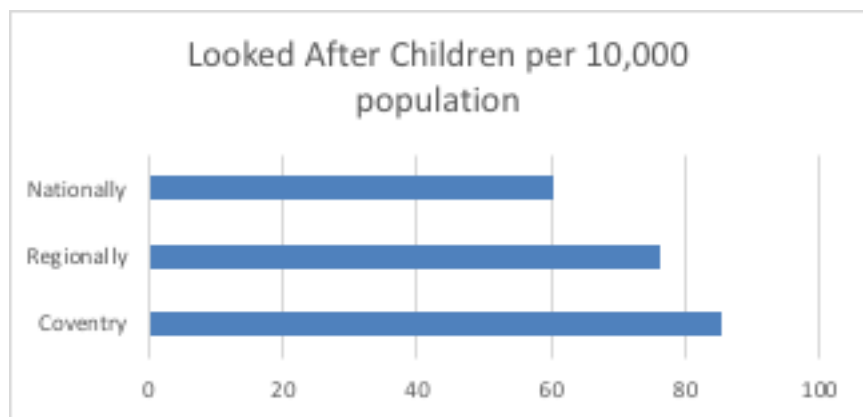


Figure 2: Rates of looked after children

The health care offered to looked after children continues to be a focus for partners. 95% of looked after children have a completed health assessment which is an increase from last year. The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) monitors the local performance in relation to initial and review health assessments through a contractual KPI and work continues to improve the consistency of the statutory health assessments and care plans of looked after children.

The education of looked after children is also an area of interest for the Board, and indicators show a good level of achievement with the % of looked after children excluded from school holding steady at 12%: identical to this time last year. Looked after children are also generally demonstrating higher school attendance figures than their non-looked after peers in every area except secondary education; this may relate to secondary age young people coming into care having developed a pattern of non-attendance, and working to change ingrained behaviours such as this can be challenging.

	% of Persistently absent pupils			Average Attendance		
	Cov LAC	Other Cov	Difference	Cov LAC	Other Cov	Difference
Primary	11.48%	11.88%	0.40%	96.25%	95.53%	0.73%
Secondary	20.74%	14.65%	-6.09%	93.06%	94.42%	-1.37%
PRU	63.64%	88.73%	25.10%	69.58%	49.32%	20.26%
Special	30.77%	33.67%	2.90%	88.34%	87.99%	0.35%

Figure 3: Attendance rates of looked after children



Early Years and Educational Attainment

There continues to be improvement in the early years of children's lives in Coventry. 65.4% of children aged 5 are assessed as having a good level of development, and whilst this is lower than the national average (69.3%) it is still a significant improvement and is comparable to local areas with similar levels of need and deprivation. For those eligible for free school meals, the proportion of children achieving good development is lower than the average for all children, but Coventry's children receiving free school meals are performing better than their national counterparts by 3%.

Early Years	65.4% of children aged five at a good level of development	57.4% children eligible for free school meals do not do as well as others	46% lowest rates of good development as age five are in Edgwick in Foleshill
Primary education	95.8% pupils attending a primary school rated good or outstanding	114th nationally pupils at expected standard for reading, writing and maths	Up to 9 places in 2016 in expected standard for reading, writing and maths
Secondary education	75% of Coventry children are attending a school rated good or outstanding	Improvement from 59% in May 2016	Coventry closed the gap with its statistical neighbour, average still static at 77%

Figure 4: Early years and educational highlights

Education, children's services and schools are regulated and inspected by Ofsted. Coventry's primary school performance in the Ofsted league tables of local authorities have significantly improved over the past few years: in 2011/12, Coventry came bottom overall with 42% of pupils attending a school that was rated good or outstanding; and by May 2016, this has improved to 88%, better than the national average of 86% and the statistical neighbour average of 83%. By October 2017 the rate of pupils attending a school that was rated good or outstanding has improved further to 95.8%. There was a 9 point increase in the percentage of pupils at the expected standard for reading, writing and maths, from 49% to 58% compared to an 8 point increase nationally to 61%. The gap with the national figure has therefore narrowed to 3%, and Coventry is now ranked 114 nationally – up 9 places on 2016.

As of March 2017, 75% of Coventry children are attending a secondary school rated good or outstanding by Ofsted and this is an improvement from 59% in May 2016. Coventry also closed the gap with the statistical neighbour average of 77% but is still lower than the national average of 83%. More than half of Coventry secondary schools have recorded improved results in this year's new, tougher GCSE exams in either English or maths. Provisional figures for the city at 19 schools where students took the new style exams suggest that 11 schools improved on last on last year's results in either English or maths, or in some cases both.

Missing Children

Missing children are a Board priority as they can be increasingly vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. We have a good picture of missing children in Coventry thanks to improved monitoring and reporting in this area. There is still a high level of repeat missing episodes and concern that children are not being given the opportunity to be seen promptly to discuss the reasons for going missing and to ameliorate any associated risk. Those children who



go missing the most and are the most vulnerable are monitored by the Missing Operational Group (MOG), but there is still work to be done to prevent children going missing so frequently and to ensure that the information contained in return home interviews is used effectively.

March 15	161
March 16	254
March 17	237
March 18	250

Figure 5: Number of children subject to a missing episode per annum

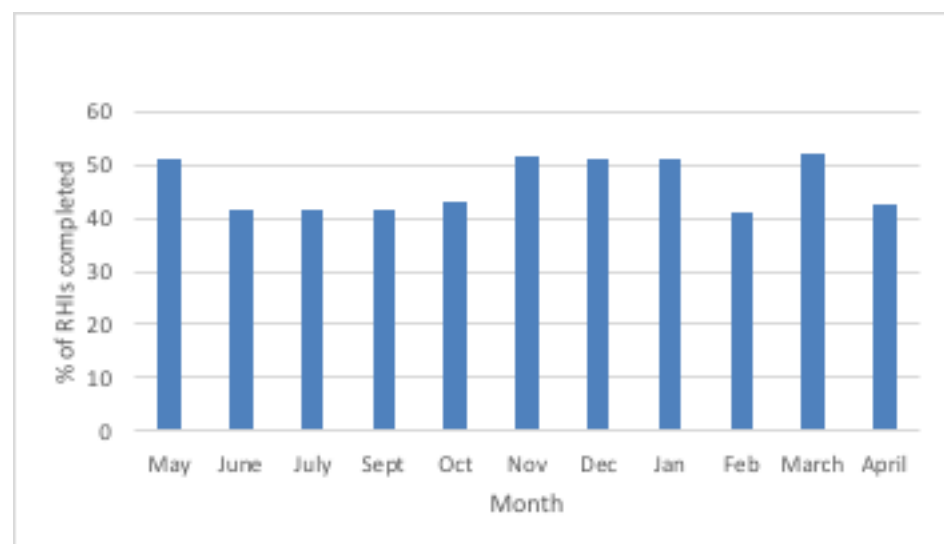


Figure 6: Return Home Interviews (RHI) completed

Whilst Return Home Interview (RHI) completed figures appear low, it is noted that in 19.9% of cases the young person refused to engage with the interview, and in 29.5% of cases they were unavailable. This means that approximately only 4% of RHIs are completed without a defensible reason.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Agencies across Coventry have continued to develop the support they are able to offer to children who are at risk of or experiencing CSE. They have continued to complete significant pieces of prevention work with suspected perpetrators and with known locations including private homes and hotels. The CSE Subgroup, a multi-agency Board group regularly considers information on CSE across the city, including the numbers of children at risk and the numbers of children missing 119 (63.9%) of whom are at risk of CSE. Currently 297 children in Coventry are experiencing or at risk of sexual exploitation, 238 of whom are female. These young people are being supported by services and are therefore likely to have significantly better outcomes.

Crime and Young People

The total of recorded crime where victims are children has risen, but this is in line with the force average within West Midlands. 26% of crimes against children were for wilful assault which would suggest the majority of offences are committed by a parent or someone in care and control of the child. 20% of crimes against children are recorded as having a positive outcome, which is in line with the force average. The police are now able to report on the number of police protections taken out in the City. The most common reason for police protection powers being used is physical abuse.



Health

Children in Coventry continue to experience mental health concerns with 72 hospital admissions per 100,000 children per year and this is of ongoing concern to the Board. Given that the world Health Organisation states half of mental illness begins before the age of 14 years, 70% of children and young people who experience a mental health problem have not had appropriate interventions at a sufficiently early age.

In 2017, 90.5% of children looked after continuously for 12 months or more had up-to-date health assessments, down from 94.7% in 2014/15. This, however, may represent an administrative delay. The equivalent figures for dental assessments is 77.3%, down from 92.2% in 2014/15. The immunisation rate in Coventry continues to be above the 90% target for childhood vaccination.

The teenage conception rate has been reducing significantly over the past few years in Coventry, but the rate of teenage pregnancy remains above both the regional and national averages. The rate of teenage conceptions is known to be ten times higher in the most deprived areas of Coventry. There are 5.5 conceptions per 1,000 females aged 13-15 years compared to 4.3 in West Midlands and 3.7 in England. Following national trends, the under 18s and under 16s conception rate, and in particular, the decrease in under 16s conceptions are closing on the national rate.

Female Genital Mutilation is a complex subject and one that is of concern to the Board as it is now known that Between April 2014 and February 2017 27 women who accessed University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire midwifery services had been affected by FGM. This equates to 0.43% of births, out of a total of 6252 births during that time period. Coventry has commissioned a specialist FGM support service which has run an awareness campaign and empowered front line professionals to identify and support those who have suffered from and those at risk of FGM, and this work continues to protect vulnerable children and young females within the City from harm. The Board will monitor and support FGM services over the coming year to ensure Coventry children and young people are safe and protected from FGM abuse where necessary.

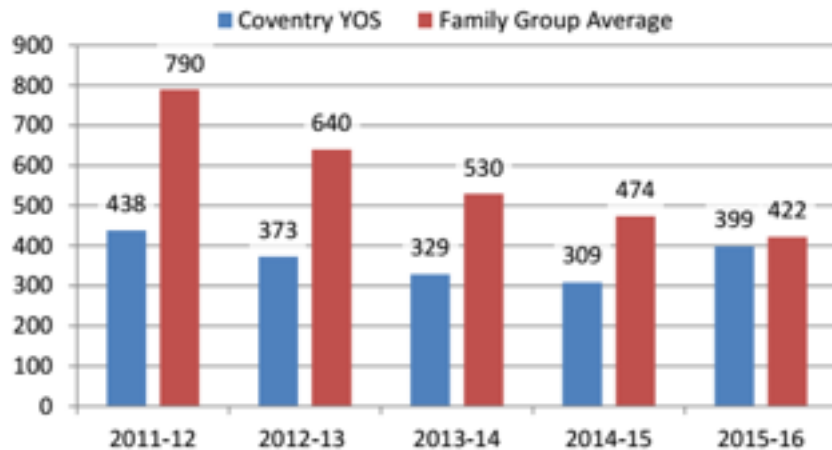


Figure 7: First time entrants to the criminal justice system

In recent years there have been a downwards trend in first time offending, with rates consistently below the national average, however first time offending increased in the last year. There is a continued downward trend in terms of youth re-offending, illustrating the effectiveness of youth offending services across the city.

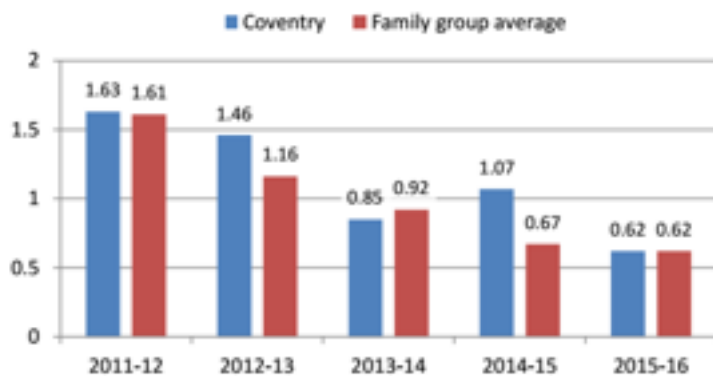


Figure 8: Proven re-offending rates



Progress against priorities



Progress against priorities

In March 2017 the Board agreed a new set of priorities. Reflecting the developing maturity of the board, they are more focused on safeguarding concerns effecting children in Coventry and less focused on the development of the Board itself. To ensure that partners are able to continue to improve and develop effective partnership working, our priorities for 2017/18 were:

Current priorities:

Children and young people who are looked after have equal opportunities to other children and young people.

Early help services, including mental health support, are available to children and young people and are resulting in positive outcomes.

Missing children and young people, and those at risk of child sexual exploitation, are protected by effective multi-agency arrangements.

The profile of understanding of emotional abuse and neglect, including domestic abuse, is raised, that abuse is identified as early as possible, and that appropriate interventions are provided to prevent further abuse and harm.

The Board to work towards developing the safeguarding partnership and continue to look forward and improve in light of the Wood Report and Children and Social Work Act.



The work that is undertaken by the Board is focused sharply on these priorities. Single agencies also contribute. Progress to date is outlined in the tables below.

Children and young people who are looked after have equal opportunities to other children and young people

This year the Board have developed a closer relationship with the Corporate Parenting Board, so that they can work effectively together to ensure that this priority is met. A better understanding of the outcomes for looked after children has been attained through our performance dashboard. Other work in this area is outlined below.

The CCG have re commissioned the looked after children's health review service to ensure that the health needs of looked after children are identified and that additional services are put in place to bring their health to the equivalent of their peers.

Coventry City Council have a raft of measures to ensure that looked after children are well looked after. This is encapsulated in the Coventry Pledge, created by young people for young people and sets out a list of promises made by the council as corporate parent. These promises ensure young people's rights are met and they have access to the same opportunities as their non LAC peers.

The Virtual School continues to provide specialist support to looked after children to ensure that their educational outcomes are maximised.

Conclusion

The Board now have a much better understanding of the outcomes for looked after children. Over the coming year there are plans in place to develop improved opportunities for this group of children, particularly through the provision of apprenticeships. There is also ongoing work to further improve the health of looked after children. The Board will be seeking assurance of effectiveness of commissioned services for LAC from the clinical commission group to ensure that these improvements are made.



Early help services, including mental health support, are available to children and young people and are resulting in positive outcomes

Over this year Coventry has made huge changes to the way that early help is delivered across the city. The development of an integrated family hub model for 0-19 year olds and their families has been established as an integral part of Coventry's Early Help offer, ensuring that families are able to easily access help and support when they need it. The partnership delivery of the early help offer includes a range of professionals providing services, including: family hub workers, targeted youth support workers, primary mental health workers, health visitors, midwives, school nurses, police officers, NHS community organisations, advice services (CAB, Law Centre and CIAS) Housing, benefits advice, Primary and Secondary schools, specialist mental health services, and social workers. Additionally,

As part of their whole programme of early help City College have a team of 5 Learning Mentors who caseload students who are at risk of withdrawing or being withdrawn from the College and becoming NEET. These staff also work with students who disclose a range of personal challenges and support these students to address these and continue their education. The team help approximately 300 students per year.

A CAMHS liaison nurse is employed by UHCW to ensure a co-ordinated provision of service between the acute liaison team (CAMHS) and young people presenting following a mental health episode.

Health Visitors are currently working as part of an integrated Acting Early team, alongside Children's Centre, Midwives and former Children Services staff (neighbourhood workers and Children and Family First workers). Health Visitors (alongside the partners listed) co-designed the new way of working in 2013/14 – with roll out being achieved across all 10 sites from 2015 (rolling out in phases). As part of the Acting Early programme Health Visitors meet weekly with their integrated team members to review cases of concern and offer a multiagency response. Team development and locality based action plans (driven by locality specific data) have also been developed by each Acting Early team.

The Family Nurse Partnership continues to provide specific early help to young parents and their children. The service track all families' progress and children's growth and development from birth to 2 years at regular intervals this enables the service to demonstrate that the programme is effective in meeting outcomes for the children and families.



Early help services, including mental health support, are available to children and young people and are resulting in positive outcomes

The Family Hub teams use a range of tools to measure impact of the help offered to families, such as the Steps to Change model and parenting strengths and difficulties questionnaires. The voice of the child is key feature in recording and demonstrates change and impact from the child's point of view as their lived experience. The Early Help assessment (currently CAF) recording on EHM includes outcome measures which provide evidence improvements and changes in family life.

Conclusion

The redesign of the delivery of Early Help is encouraging, as it will allow for a more seamless provision of support to families, across the continuum of need. There have been some positive developments in the way in which agencies are able to measure the impact of early help work. The board now needs to have improve the oversight it has of the sustainability of the positive outcomes that are now being experienced.



Missing children and young people, and those at risk of child sexual exploitation, are protected by effective multi-agency arrangements

This is an area which continues to be a strength in Coventry. The members of the Board have worked together to develop a resources to support practitioners providing early help support to children at a low level of CSE risk, that will help to reduce their level of risk. This is still under development and will be implemented in 2018/19. Work across the partnership has also begun to explore the support that is required for children who have been victims of CSE once they become adults. A scoping study is underway and we will work with Coventry Safeguarding Adults Board to agree appropriate pathways in the coming year. Other work that has been carried out in relation to this priority include,

At UHCW Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) has been a focus of the internal level 3 child protection training at UHCW and the Horizon team and CSE health specialist have supported these sessions. Throughout the upcoming year the safeguarding year plan to offer a wider exploitation training including modern slavery and county lines.

Within CWPT, there is a dedicated health professional based in Horizon who has a joint role in both operational/clinical work and supporting citywide strategic work. This practitioner's work includes supporting children who go missing on their return. There are 2 health professionals in the MASH who provide clinical health information for children who are at risk or who are being exploited.

There have been three significant CSE operations resulting in successful prosecution of multiple offenders.

Coventry City Council have co-located the Missing Co-ordinator with the CSE Horizon Team to ensure a joined up approach recognising the relationship between missing episodes and CSE risk.

The Horizon Team continues to provide awareness training, particularly in schools, and also to provide specialist multi-agency support to children at high and medium risk of CSE. 3 Risk of Sexual Harm Orders have been obtained.



Missing children and young people, and those at risk of child sexual exploitation, are protected by effective multi-agency arrangements

A holistic approach has been used to tackle CSE involving parks staff, licensing, environmental health officers and neighbourhood wardens. Information is regularly shared with place based agencies in the 'City tasking forum' and a number of disruption techniques have been utilised. The night time economy are engaged in respect of CSE with training being mandatory for all taxi drivers and all licensed premises receiving a CSE licensed premises guide on both application and during inspections.

More robust systems for recording and tracking episodes have been introduced and more return home interviews are now completed within the required timescales. Return Home interviews (RHIs) are collated and shared with social care workers and partners to reduce risks associated with missing episodes and to gather intelligence.

On a monthly basis all missing episodes are reviewed and young people who have complex and additional risks associated with their missing episodes are referred into either the Child Sexual Exploitation Operational group (COG) or the Missing Operational Group (MOG). This provides additional scrutiny of these cases at a senior management level.

Conclusion

We have continued to progress our previous good work in this area with professionals increasingly aware of and responding to CSE risk. Over the year it has become increasingly clear that there are other areas of exploitation including criminal exploitation and issues around 'County Lines' which are similar in nature to CSE and to which we also need to respond. We also need to do more to consider the needs of victims as they transition into requiring adult support services.



The profile of understanding of emotional abuse and neglect, including domestic abuse, is raised, that abuse is identified as early as possible, and that appropriate interventions are provided to prevent further abuse and harm.

We have continued to progress our work in this area, ensuring that the various agencies dealing with domestic violence work well together and the multi-agency arrangements are fit for purpose. This year this has included the launch of a new, citywide Domestic Abuse Strategy by the Police and Crime Board. This year the Board has also produced a Neglect Strategy, to ensure that partners take a collaborative approach to responding to neglect across the city. In addition, we have adopted Signs of Safety as the model of practice across the city which will allow a more focused response to emotional abuse and neglect. Other activity has included:

All domestic abuse contacts and notifications come into Council's initial contact team and those that require a MASH process receive one. The initial contact team dealt with over half of the contacts and provide advice and support as well as referral to domestic abuse support networks and to early help services. This ensures that victims and children receive the right level of support.

UHCW Maternity services continue to routinely screen women for DVA twice during pregnancy and there are regular audits undertaken to ensure this is happening

The CCG have organised and delivered a multi-agency conference around neglect which was well attended

The safeguarding leads have developed a neglect pathway which will be implemented in 2018 to ensure that the health elements around neglect and its implications are identified. Commissioning discussions are beginning and are linked to the role of the named safeguarding professionals.

The CCG are commissioning the IRIS domestic abuse programme in 30 primary care practices across Coventry in 2018/2019 with financial contribution from public health (nick text from CSAB)

Operation Encompass has been rolled out across the city during this year – meaning that Police based Domestic Abuse information is shared daily with schools across the city, enabling a more timely and supported response to children involved in or exposed to Domestic Abuse within the family



To ensure that missing young people and those at risk of sexual exploitation are protected by effective multi-agency arrangements.

The training for the understanding of emotional abuse and neglect was quality assured by Education in July 2017. A lot of schools have a member of staff who have taken part in this training and then disseminated it to other staff.

CPOMS is now used widely in most schools and is a great tool for seeing all the small pieces of the jigsaw which helps to build up a profile to help early identification.

Neglect can often be linked to parental drug and alcohol misuse. The Compass Aspires - Early Intervention Service offers support in relation to drug and alcohol misuse. For those referred for early intervention support the service delivers:

- evidence based interventions to break the cycle of addiction with those impacted by parental substance misuse
- holistic evidence based assessments to enable multi-agency care planning
- evidence based therapies such as cognitive behaviour therapy to support sustainable changes in behaviours and attitudes
- whole family support.

Public Health have launched a new Drug and Alcohol Strategy, and associated action plan. A newly commissioned service, CGL, launched on November 2017 with a commitment to working closely with parents and their children who have substance misuse issues.

In June 2017, a multiagency steering group was set up with parents and key statutory and non-statutory partners to develop a new parenting strategy for Coventry. The overarching aim was to develop the parenting strategy using a Coventry-wide approach, where everyone working within this area, including voluntary organisations and statutory agencies, clearly understood where their support fitted into the overall parenting support system.

Conclusion

We have taken some significant forward steps in this area, setting the direction for effective partnership working with the launch of strategies in relation to both neglect and domestic abuse and the roll out of Signs of Safety. There is still more to do to ensure the roll out of Signs of Safety Training and to ensure that we monitor the impact of neglect strategy on effectively responding to and having a positive impact on children and families.



The Board to work towards developing the safeguarding partnership and continue to look forward and improve in light of the Wood Report and Children and Social Work Act.

At a strategic level, partnership working in Coventry is strong, as evidenced by the good multi-agency engagement in the LSCB, Improvement Board, Health and Well-being Board and Children and Young People Strategic Partnership. Joined up, strategic thinking and planning is ensured by regular meetings between the chairs of key multi-agency boards and the officers who support them.

There are effective arrangements in place to manage joint commissioning. This includes a Joint Commissioning team funded by the Local Authority and Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group, and a Joint Commissioning Group attended by health, social care and education commissioners. The impact of these arrangements can be seen in the development of the new ASD pathway which will ensure effective triage so that children receive swifter support and diagnosis, the development of a new integrated Looked After Children mental health service and a strengthened specification for the Looked After Children health service which will ensure a consistent service for children placed out of city.

At an operational level, the Acting Early projects have helped to break down barriers between professional groups and share information more effectively, which is ensuring that families receive support more quickly.

We have collaborated with Boards across the region to develop a regional S11 template, which has been adopted by Board. This standardises the information that agencies are asked at each S11, reducing the burden for those agencies that cover more than one Board area and ensuring that comparisons can be drawn, providing greater opportunities to provide confidence in the conclusions we draw from our assurance activity.

In December we collaborated to produce a partnership wide response to the national consultation on Working Together 2018.

Conclusion

The safeguarding partnership has continued to mature and make improvements. We have keen and active partners who support the work of the Board and we are seeing this translate into more positive outcomes for children. As ever, there is still more that can be done. The Board need to ensure that there are arrangements in place that provide the required level of assurance that partnership working at an operation level is also effective. There is also work to be done in the coming year to ensure that the partnership is able to respond to the requirements of the new Working Together when it is published.



Statutory responsibilities



Statutory Responsibilities

Section 11 Audit

A biennial assessment of all LSCB member agencies and organisations, in relation to their duties under Section 11 Children Act 2004 is undertaken by the LSCB. This self-assessment reviews the effectiveness of the arrangements for safeguarding children at a strategic level. The Section 11 audit assesses each organisation against eight standards based on the requirements set down in the 'Statutory Guidance on Making Arrangements to Safeguard & Promote the Welfare of Children under Section 11 Children Act 2004' (pages 13-17). Our Section 11 audit is currently being completed and will be published in September 2018 and included in our annual report for 2018/19.

S175 & S157 Schools Audit

The LSCB undertakes an annual assessment of all schools. This self-assessment reviews the effectiveness of the arrangements for safeguarding children in relation to their duties under S157 and S175 Education Act 2002, Keeping Children Safe in Education 2015 and Working Together 2015. It provides a generic picture of safeguarding policy and practice in schools across the city. The Safeguarding in Education Officer, working within the City Council, keeps an intelligence log for all schools which includes information about training attendance, designated safeguarding leads (DSL) briefing attendance and audit compliance. It also includes alerts from the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), OFSTED and the Department for Education about the quality of safeguarding practice in individual schools.

Regular meetings between the School Improvement Partners and the Safeguarding in Education Officer allow for a collective approach to be taken to support school improvement, where such a need is identified. The key areas of strength and for development are summarised in the table below.





Areas of Strength

All schools self-assessed as either good or outstanding in their safeguarding work, painting a positive picture of the work being done in schools in Coventry. All schools identified that they have appropriately trained people involved in recruitment, meaning the likelihood of inappropriate staffing is low, and all schools were clear about the safeguarding responsibilities of their Governors and could show how these were being met.

All Coventry schools scored highly around their safeguarding policies and procedures, could name them and identify how they are used to keep children safe on a day to day basis. Schools also evidenced keeping excellent records of issues relating to both staff and children, and many referenced making good use of specific safeguarding software to ensure records were safe and sensitive information protected.

The audit evidenced that primary schools had made considerable improvement around their teaching of online safety, meaning Coventry children are learning how to stay safe both at school and at home. Secondary schools had not made similar improvements, and so there is a plan to share good practice within the secondary arena to allow schools to learn from each other's successes.

The voice of Coventry children was clear throughout the assessments: some schools identified how their children feed back to them via groups such as student councils, giving them an opportunity to inform and shape their own school policies. There were some excellent examples of the support given to children with additional needs such as learning difficulties or with language support requirements to ensure that all children are inclusively safeguarded and given consistent messages around how to keep themselves safe.

Areas for Development

Only 93% of schools completed the audit within the defined time limit, and those that did not included all of Coventry's independent secondary schools. This indicates some support may be required to certain establishments and that the new Keeping Children Safe in Education (which makes the audit mandatory for schools to complete) will require good publicity to ensure schools are aware of their obligations.

There was a lack of understanding around the LSCB escalation process, and it is not clear whether this was around ambiguity in the question asked or whether schools are choosing to manage professional differences 'in-house' without making use of the guidance. A presentation around this guidance will take place with DSLs in July 2018, and next year's audit will ask the question differently to ensure clarity of answer and improved opportunity for schools to showcase what they do well, and areas in which they would benefit from increased support.

It is clear that DSLs do not always have regular and formal supervision to support them in the safeguarding aspect of their role. This appears to be more prevalent amongst primary DSLs as they are often head teachers and so do not have an obvious supervisory mechanism available on site. Various ways to improve this are under consideration, including reciprocal head to head supervision and Governor lead supervision, and these will be piloted during 2018 to support DSLs in this crucial aspect of their work within schools.



Where there are areas of development for specific schools they are supported by the City Council's Safeguarding in Education Officer to improve. Assurance on progress is provided on a regular basis to the LSCB Effectiveness and Quality Subgroup, ensuring that development does take place and is monitored, and that schools which require ongoing support are able to receive it.

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) Annual Report

CDOP enables the LSCB to carry out its statutory functions relating to child deaths. The summary is:

Coventry had a total of 28 child deaths reported this year, fitting well within the median of expected and historical reporting of annual deaths.

As expected, the majority of deaths reviewed in Coventry were from neonatal cases. Interestingly upon further examination of child death linked to prematurity, there was a statistically higher than average amount of maternal smoking, with it being identified as the most common modifiable factor within Coventry CDOP.

Another trend that could be established was that 11% of the deaths within Coventry could be attributed to consanguinity. This was identified as modifiable in each case.

The full CDOP Annual Report for 2017/2018 can be found here http://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/download/3942/cdop_annual_reports

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) Report

The LSCB has a statutory function to ensure policies and procedures are in place to deal with allegations against people who work with children. These procedures include a requirement for the Local Authority to appoint a

designated officer (LADO) to be involved in the management and oversight of allegations against people that work with children, as defined in Working Together 2015. The headlines from the LADO annual report include:

- A Risk Management Co-ordinator took up post in April 2018. This role incorporates the LADO function alongside a wider role to build on and strengthen partnership responses to safeguarding and children at risk of exploitation.
- Between April 2017 and March 2018, 386 referrals met the threshold for LADO involvement. This means that the risk was such that it could not be safely managed without active intervention and oversight by the LADO. 12% of referrals progressed to a Position of Trust (POT) meeting. This is lower than the regional average of 15% conversion
- The low conversion rate in 2017/18 is in part attributable to the time dedicated by the LADO to giving advice and guidance on the 88% of referrals and is also reflective of the inappropriate application of thresholds. As a result the figures for 2018/19 will show and increase in conversion rates as meetings have been scheduled in retrospect and there is a marked increase in referrals deemed as meeting the threshold where LADO involvement is necessary.
- The number of contacts into the LADO are significantly higher than the number of referrals. The LADO provides advice, guidance and signposting on over a thousand contacts a year by e mail and telephone. These are not captured in the 2017/18 data but will be captured moving forward, as this figure provides a more accurate picture of the LADO role and scope of service delivery.



The graph below outlines the source of referrals:

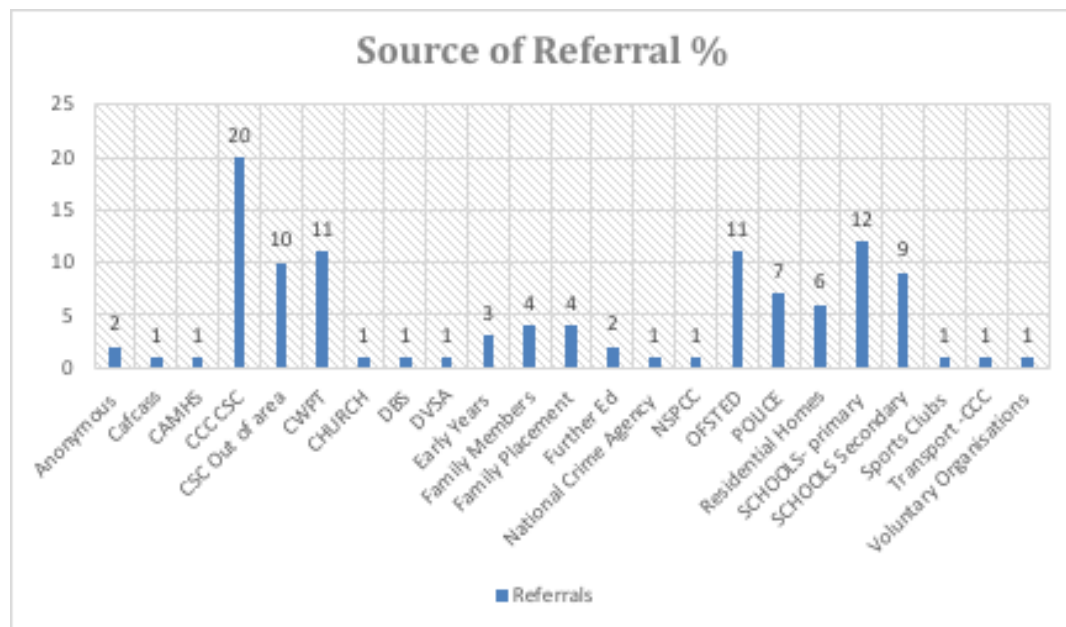


Figure 9: Source of referrals

- The largest proportion of referrals come from within education settings. The available data indicates that levels of referrals remain consistent. The majority of these referrals relate to conduct issues, followed by allegations of physical abuse by teaching staff and learning support workers. A high number of advice, guidance and, 'run something by you,' contacts originate with education providers

The full LADO Annual Report for 2017/2018 can be found here http://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/download/5381/lado_report_2017-2018e





Board development, learning and improvement



Board development, learning and improvement

Board development

This year our development work has focused on supporting the work of Improvement Board, led by Children's Services. The Board's role is to ensure that the partnership supports the improvement work required to raise the standards of safeguarding practice across the city.

Enquiry Panels

We have carried out three enquiry panels focusing on three thematic areas. Enquiry panels look at areas of recognised good practice and are an opportunity to identify what works within our multi-agency practice and to share that knowledge across the partnership. Following each panel the good practice is collated and shared on the website and through our newsletter.

• Homeless 16 and 17 year olds

Effective processes are in place to identify homeless 16 & 17 year olds. The majority are then classified as looked after children and can then access a wide range of support from the through care team. The city are proud that there are no young people accommodated in bed and breakfast accommodation. City College play a key role in identifying and responding to young people at risk of homelessness, citing the most common reason for this being family breakdown. They work closely with the Cyrenians, Bardsley Youth Project and the YMCA to provide support to young people struggling with family problems

to improve relationships and prevent homelessness. Discussions broadened to talk more generally about families becoming homeless who have children who are 16 & 17 and it was clear that there was some more understanding required about the processes followed in Housing Options and through Whitefriars, to refer families for Early Help to prevent homelessness occurring.

• Forced Marriage

The key learning from the panel was that when forced marriage is identified as a concern there is an efficient and effective response. There is a good level of awareness training linked to domestic abuse training, staff are well informed about forced marriage and vigilant. The emerging trend was that identification of forced marriage was most likely where staff across the partnership demonstrated a high level of professional curiosity. The evidence provided by the school represented on the panel demonstrated that having good knowledge of a family and good connections with the wider community made it easier to triangulate information and assess risk. The police have made good use of training and risk assessment tools from Karma Nirvana (charity supporting victims of honour based violence and forced marriage) which may have a wider application by other agencies to assist in the identification of forced marriage.



• Female Genital Mutilation

The Enquiry Panel found that overall there was a much greater focus on prevention rather than enforcement activity. There was a mature understanding that dealing with FGM was a long term issue that required sensitive cultural handling and support of women who have had the procedure to encourage them not to seek for the procedure to be carried out on their own children by educating them about the risks and the fact that it is illegal in this country. There was also an acknowledgement that prevention work also needed to be carried out with men and community elders.

Signs of Safety

The Board have formally adopted Signs of Safety as the model of social work and early help practice across the city. To support this partners have completed a training needs assessment to identify which roles require training and at what level of detail that training is required. All of those staff that have been identified as requiring the standard level of training have now received that training. The introduction of signs of safety is seen as being a significant factor in achieving both practice improvements and improved outcomes for children. More work is therefore required to evaluate the impact of the roll out.

Right Help Right Time

The Board have a key role in ensuring that partners fully understand and can consistently apply the thresholds for intervention. Evidence from our audit work, serious case reviews and OFSTED inspections showed that our previous guidance was inadequate to deliver clear and consistent decision making. The Board launched a multi-agency task and finish group to identify the key feature of guidance that would be effective and they have developed the Right Help

Right Time Guidance, which is available here http://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/file/27130/right_help_right_time_guidance

The Right Help Right Time Guidance makes it much easier for professionals to assess the risk facing a child, to determine what the appropriate support would be to improve their outcomes and makes it clear what action should be taken and by whom. In order to assess the impact of this some evaluation work will be undertaken in the coming year.

Neglect Strategy

During 2017/2018 the Board have developed a Neglect Strategy to be published on our website. The strategy sets out a set of clear strategic objectives with measurable outcomes, that will ensure, among other objectives, that neglect is identified and acted on early and that there are improvements to the evidence base used in making assessments. The Board will carry out a piece of assurance work in the coming year to measure the extent to which the strategic objectives have been met and identify any further work required.

Early Help

The Board has been actively involved in shaping and progressing the work across the partnership to develop a new early help assessment that is aligned to Signs of Safety practice and the Right Help Right Time Guidance. When this is launched in the coming year it will streamline the assessment process and also ensure that it is more closely linked to social work systems to prevent work being lost when it is escalated. The Board will also be keen to ensure that with a more streamlined and simple system that a wider range of professionals are holding the lead professional role in delivering Early Help.



Learning & Improvement Framework

Our Learning and Improvement Framework outlines all the ways in which disseminate and embed learning across the partnership. In the last year we have published a revised framework to reflect the more mature understanding of learning and improvement by Board Members.

The Board has also continued to develop its communication with professionals across the partnership. A newsletter is published regularly which has a wide readership at strategic and operational levels across the partnership. The Board makes regular use of Twitter and the website to promote its work and share information. At a deeper level the Board has also started to focus on key areas through 'Themed Questioning' at Board meetings. Additionally there has been a continued commitment to sharing of learning from serious case reviews and multi-agency audit work. For more detail see **Serious care reviews** below, and **Quality Assurance and Audits**.

Serious Case Reviews

Over the last twelve months work has continued on several serious case reviews, although none have been published. You can see the work from previous reviews on our website http://www.coventry.gov.uk/info/206/coventry_local_safeguarding_children_board/2524/serious_case_reviews_children which is where the serious case reviews currently being completed will also be published. Learning themes have included the ability to provide the right help at the right time in an effective way, and the need to build on the previous work of other professionals. These have been incorporated into our improvement work.



Quality assurance and policy development



Quality assurance and policy development

Quality assurance and audits

Over the last year the rolling audit programme has included audits on missing children and neglect.

Missing Children

This audit reviewed the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements for supporting children and young people who go missing in Coventry as it is understood that this group can be vulnerable to harm and often have complex additional needs which results in their missing status. The main focus of the audit was the impact of being missing on children and young people using an in depth examination of 6 cases. There was also a focus on the quality of assessment and risk management, and levels of compliance with legislation and protocol.

The findings told us that there was a lack of early help provision for young people who went missing and limited active agency involvement until situations had escalated to crisis. The quality of responses was variable, and the use of information from Return Home Interviews was not routinely used to inform planning and interventions to children and young people. There was limited evidence of the voice of the child in case files, and information sharing was disjointed and led to silo working and a lack of coordinated responses to children. There appeared to be a 'culture' of normalisation in responding

to missing episodes particularly in relation to older males, and the use of intelligence from RHI did not translate into care plans or interventions with children and young people. Overall, there was not a consistent response across the services to young people who went missing. However, there was a willingness to improve services and recent changes

Recommendations included:

- Improving early multi-agency work, including prevention work, and involving residential homes in this to prevent repeat episodes in Looked After Children.
- Improving the quality of RHI and including the voice of the young person in all assessments
- Reversing the trend to normalise any missing periods, particularly amongst boys
- Improving the quality and frequency of multi-agency information sharing
- Reviewing the local Missing policy and procedures to ensure a holistic and co-ordinated response for all young people.



Neglect

The purpose of this audit was to identify the prevalence of neglect as a form of abuse in Coventry and examine inter-agency working around risk to children. The main focus of the audit was on 10 children and young people and the impact of neglect on them. There was also a focus on the co-ordination of work between agencies, and the voice of the child or young person within their own plan. The findings told us that the voice of the child was often absent, and that the lack of SMART objectives within plans and assessments meant that plans could drift and interventions could get lost. The difference between neglect and emotional abuse was still not widely understood, and there was a need for a greater understanding of the specific needs of disabled children and of adolescent neglect. Many practitioners needed greater confidence to challenge one another and to challenge families when appropriate. The Local Authority need to do greater assessment into withdrawing from or downgrading families as risk reduces, and to providing feedback and sharing information with partners. Practitioners felt they would like more time to reflect on work, both in supervision and with partners, and they would like a recording template to help them ensure all key information goes onto case files. A need for a Board risk register was identified, along with greater inclusion of GP information to give a clear vision of how Health manages safeguarding. Positively, partners were receiving referral feedback more regularly, neglect was being identified early and the use of interventions to prevent escalation of issues was evident. Multi-agency working is effective, and plans are updated regularly to reflect changes in risk. Where the voice of the child featured in work it did so centrally, and practitioners prevented parent attempts to disrupt the work or systems.

Recommendations included:

- Increasing the use of SMART objectives in plans
- The Board to create and manage a risk register

- Board to make available guidance to chairing core group meetings to ensure all partner voices were heard
- Board to consider producing training around adolescent neglect
- All agencies to follow the new Right Help, Right Time guidance to ensure thresholds are correctly met

In addition, the creation of a new LSCB Neglect strategy has also been completed to support Coventry partners in identifying and managing risk in this area.

The results of all audits are reported to Board and appropriate action plans agreed to implement any recommendations. The implementation of these is then monitored by the Effectiveness and Quality Subgroup. Our findings are also shared with frontline practitioners through dissemination via attending partners of the E&Q subgroup, and are published on our website. Updates are also publicised through our newsletter. As a result of this work we now have a clearer understanding of how well we are safeguarding children in Coventry and are able to share the good practice and any learning that emanates from our audit activity.

Policy Development

Following last year's comprehensive revision of our policies and procedures we have continued to review them when required, especially in the light of learning from serious case reviews. This has included the launch of guidance for working with families who refuse to consent or engage, or who demonstrate disguised compliance and revising our threshold document in the form of online guidance entitled, Right Help Right Time. For more detail on Right Help Right Time see **Board Development section**.



Over the last twelve months we have partnered with Warwickshire Children's Safeguarding Board to develop shared policies and procedures. This will make the operational delivery of safeguarding practice simpler for our partners who work across geographic boundaries.

Our policy and procedures can be found http://www.coventry.gov.uk/info/206/coventry_local_safeguarding_children_board/2495/coventry_safeguarding_children_board_policies_and_procedures and our advice on providing the right help and the right time http://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/file/27130/right_help_right_time_guidance



Safeguarding training



Safeguarding training

The LSCB quality assures single agency training, and delivers a programme of specialist multiagency training and development. It has good information about agency participation in its multi-agency training and it regularly evaluates the impact of such training on practice.

Evaluating impact

Our multi-agency training programme is regularly evaluated to ensure that the impact on practice is understood. The evaluation includes an analysis of end of course and post course feedback specifically linked to impact on practice and evidence of how training has resulted in better outcomes for children.

The courses we have evaluated during the period April 2017 to March 2018 include:

- Level 3 Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Children
- Level 3 Child Abuse Images and Grooming on the Internet

Level 3 Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Children

Those who responded to the evaluation reported that the training had increased their confidence in dealing with this subject and improved their understanding of the depths of violence experienced by families. Professionals felt more aware of what to look for and more confident in

spotting signs. Additionally, they were confident to offer appropriate support and felt they had a better understanding of the victim's perspective and impact on children.

Evidence of better outcomes for children included:

- Early Years staff had involvement in the day to day care of a child, forming a good relationship and helping them to settle into nursery and play with peers. This was confirmed by their manager, who said that they had built an excellent relationship with the child and generally had increased knowledge and confidence when working with families.
- A Children and Families worker has helped parents to understand the impact of domestic violence their children.
- One school was able to raise concerns with a family in a sensitive manner. As a result the children have been monitored closely and made aware of how to ask for support. The parents are also confident in asking for support. This has led to a referral being made for extra support for one child. More generally, the school have delivered workshops for pupils in assemblies and PSHE sessions and train other staff.
- Work based learning provider was more able to identify and address concerns and also developed their policy and procedure to make it more robust.



Level 3 Child Abuse Images and Grooming on the Internet

Those who responded to the evaluation reported that the training had increased their confidence in identifying and dealing with issues and improved their knowledge – primarily around the motivation of offenders but also the implication of grooming on children.

Evidence of better outcomes for children included:

- One school now has greater vigilance of their most vulnerable children. They have also reviewed their internet safety curriculum.
- CRASAC staff have helped to empower and educate parents about on-line safety and grooming.
- Professionals from the Positive Parenting programme now use the information when delivering sessions for parents who are dealing with difficult teenage behaviour issues.
- One worker in Early Help had the confidence to talk to a young person and their parents about their concerns regarding grooming. They were then able to make a referral for the young person to give further support and reduce the risk.

Evaluation of course impact on practice continues to consistently show that participants become more effective by drawing on what they have been taught in the Board's multi-agency courses.

Multi-agency training participation

Agencies provide some in-house single and multi-agency training of their own. Agencies are responsible for advising staff, depending on job role, on which training they should attend. The training year runs from April to March. The tables and charts below show the overall take up of LSCB provided training. A full breakdown of training participation data can be found in **Appendix 1**.

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Numbers trained 2016-17	499	108	668	1275
Numbers Trained 2017-18	271	157	366	794

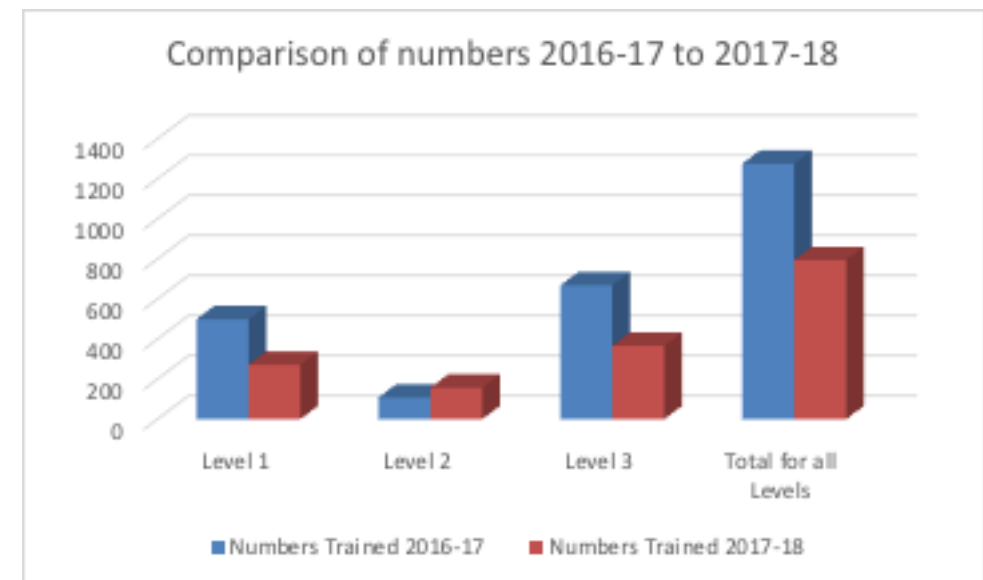


Figure 10: Multi-agency training participation

In the last year 794 professionals attended multi-agency training, this is a significantly lower number than last year. This is partly to do with the way figures have been counted. Last year the figures included professionals who attended the conference and a series of SCR learning sessions. There was no conference held this year and one-off learning events and briefings are no longer included in the figures. There have also been changes to the type and frequency of courses offered, however waiting lists are short and the Board is assured that we remain able to meet demand for training.



Common Assessment Framework (CAF) Training

The provision of CAF training is the responsibility of the Local Authority. During the last year there has been a reduction in available training, in preparation for a move to a new Early Help Assessment that is due to be introduced in 2018/2019. Lead Professional and CAF Awareness courses have not been available in the last year. Training in the use of the eCAF system has continued, to support users of the system across the city. eCAF is the current electronic recording system for the Early Help Assessment. Training is offered to professionals who have completed Lead Professional or CAF awareness training. It is delivered by the Coventry eCAF Coordinator. Drop in sessions for support and general queries are also run.





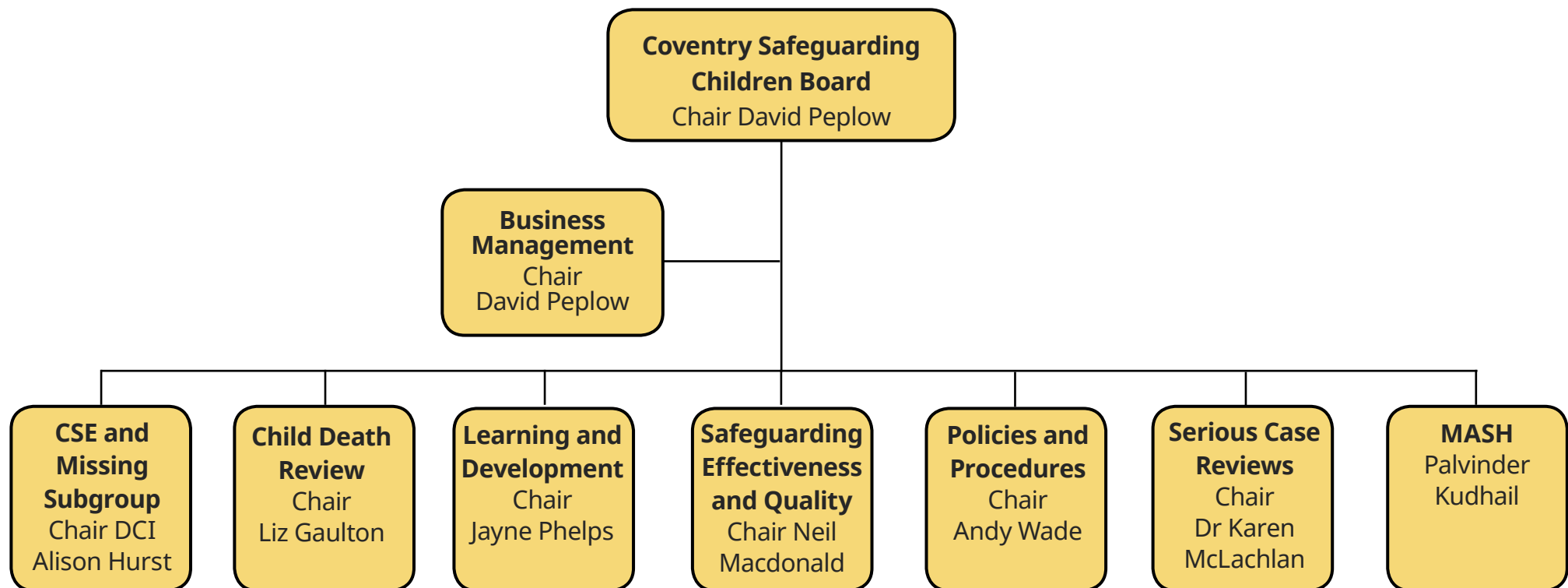
Governance and Accountability



Governance and Accountability

Board structure and membership

The requirements for LSCB membership are set out in Working Together 2015. The members of the Coventry Board and their attendance at Board are detailed in **Appendix 2**. Attendance is good, although there Independent Chair has challenged some agencies to ensure they demonstrate continued commitment to the work of the partnership through their attendance. The Board structure is detailed below.





The Coventry LSCB sub-groups and panels have work plans which support those of the main Board and will be maintained to operate under the direction of the Coventry LSCB Business Management Group. Each subgroup has a distinct purpose and terms of reference.

Effectiveness and quality

The effectiveness and quality subgroup is responsible for meeting the statutory function in monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of single agency and inter agency safeguarding processes, assessing the quality of work undertaken and enabling learning to be shared with all relevant agencies.

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

The panel investigates the deaths of children in the area and use the findings to take action to improve the health and safety of children and prevent other deaths.

Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing

This group ensures an effective response to children and young people who are missing from home or care; children and young people who are at risk of child sexual exploitation or those that are being abused via child sexual exploitation.

Policy and procedures

This group reviews and revises existing policies and procedures in the light of local and national priorities and changes; drafts new policies and procedures as required; and resolves issues arising in the day to day safeguarding processes.

Serious Case Review

This subgroup is responsible for ensuring the board meets the statutory functions, in relation to serious case reviews. This includes making recommendations to the Chair as to when a review should be carried out, carrying out reviews and ensuring the learning is shared across all partners, so that improved outcomes for children can be achieved.

Learning and development

The learning and development subgroup monitors the quality of multi and single agency safeguarding training and ensures that there is appropriate training available for, and accessed by, all staff who require it.

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

This group is responsible for the strategic management and review of the Coventry MASH and ensures that there are appropriate multi-agency arrangements in place for effective information collation and sharing, in relation to referrals to social care. .

The Board also has a virtual communications sub-group. This group includes partners from a wide range of organisations who share learning, agree joint approaches to campaigns and media issues and ensure information is cascaded effectively within partner organisations.

Coventry LSCB does not work in isolation in its aim to improve outcomes for children across the city. The work of other strategic boards also direct and influence the experience of children. There is a governance process between the LSCB, Coventry Safeguarding Adults Board (CSAB), the Police & Crime Board, the Health and Well-being Board, the Improvement Board and the Children and Young People Partnership Board to ensure effective working together. Lead officers for each board meet quarterly to support this. They review work plans, priorities and future plans to ensure synergy and manage



overlaps, and agree a lead Board where overlaps do occur. This group will also review the effectiveness of the way in which the Boards are able to work together. The chairs of each strategic board meet quarterly to discuss challenges in areas of mutual interest and to review reciprocal membership arrangements. This enables greater collaboration when there is a shared agenda. This has been particularly evident in the development of the Coventry City Domestic Abuse Strategy.

Budget

The Board operates a joint budget supporting the work of the Coventry Safeguarding Children’s Board and the Coventry Safeguarding Adults Board. In financial year 2017/18 the expenditure budget was £501,000. The actual expenditure was £400,000. Consequently there was an underspend of £101,000. This was as a result of vacant posts and lower number of independent chairing and authoring costs. A breakdown of the expenditure can be seen opposite.

Agencies have continued to contribute to the operation of the Board. 73% of funding for the Board is provided by Coventry City Council, 18% by Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group, 8% by West Midlands Police and 1% by probation services. There is also a small contribution from CAFCASS. All agencies contribute by hosting meetings, including organising tours of their buildings and facilities and hosting learning events.

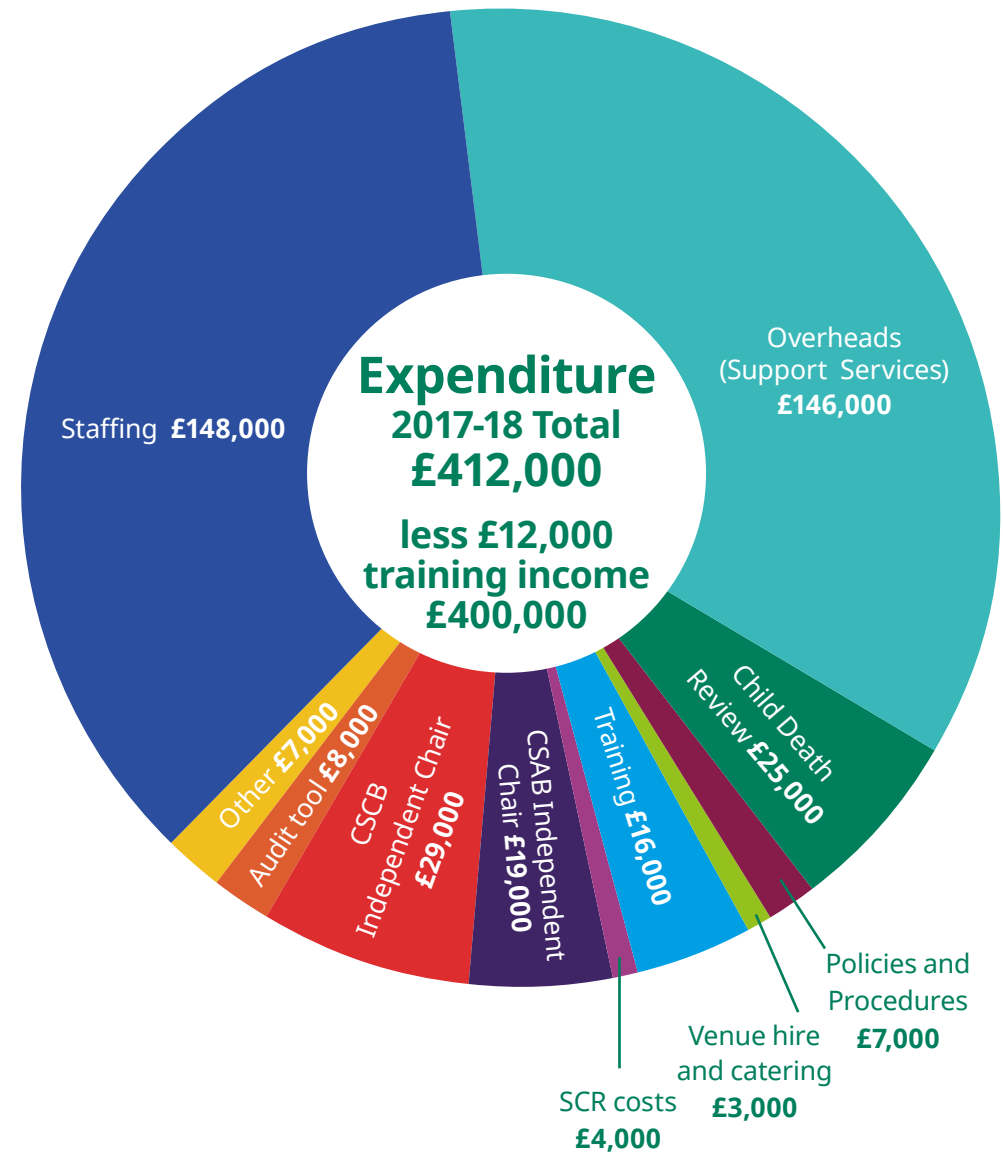


Figure 11: Total expenditure for 2017-2018



Priorities for 2018 / 2019



Priorities for 2018/19

This report outlines clearly the progress that has been made in improving safeguarding in Coventry. Board partners are now committed to a shared set of priorities and there is a genuine willingness for partners to work together. To ensure that partners are able to build on this strong foundation of effective partnership working the Board have agreed to maintain our current priorities. However there is a need to respond to the broader emerging issue of criminal exploitation and County Lines. Therefore, our priorities for 2018/19 will be to ensure that:

Our plan on a page provides more detail about how we will progress and achieve our priorities and can be found in **Appendix 3**.

1	Children and young people who are looked after have equal opportunities to other children and young people.
2	Early help services, including mental health support, are available to children and young people and are resulting in positive outcomes.
3	Missing children and young people, and those at risk of child exploitation, are protected by effective multi-agency arrangements.
4	The profile of understanding of emotional abuse and neglect, including domestic abuse, is raised, that abuse is identified as early as possible, and that appropriate interventions are provided to prevent further abuse and harm.
5	The Board to work towards developing the safeguarding partnership and continue to look forward and improve in light of the Wood Report and Children and Social Work Act.



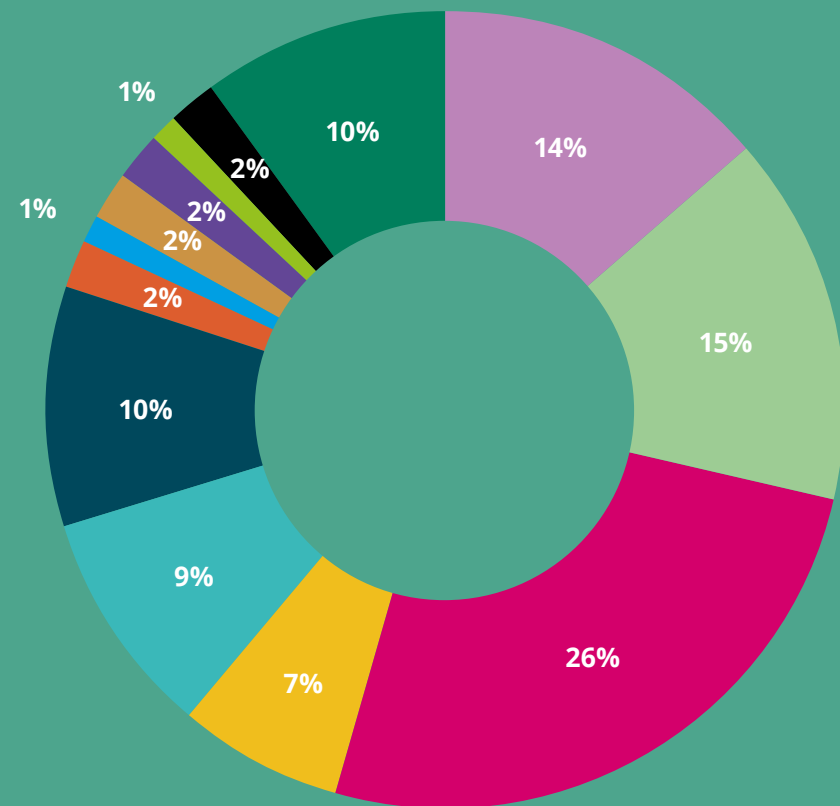
Appendices



Appendix 1: Multi-agency training statistics

Total trained

Category	Total trained in 2017/18 (April to March)	%
Primary Schools/Secondary/Academies	115	14%
CWPT	120	15%
Early Years Providers	203	26%
Social Care	54	7%
Vol/Indie/Private Sector	68	9%
Other	78	10%
Local Authority (other)	12	2%
Children & Families First Team	6	1%
UHCW	15	2%
Children Centres	17	2%
FE Colleges	0	0
Youth Services/YOS	2	0
Police	2	0
Public Health	5	1%
Coventry and Rugby CCG	0	0
CRC Probation	0	0
Private/Voluntary/Independent Schools	12	2%
National Probation Service	0	0
CAFCASS	0	0
Faith Groups	83	10%
NHS England	2	0
WMAS	0	0
Total	794	

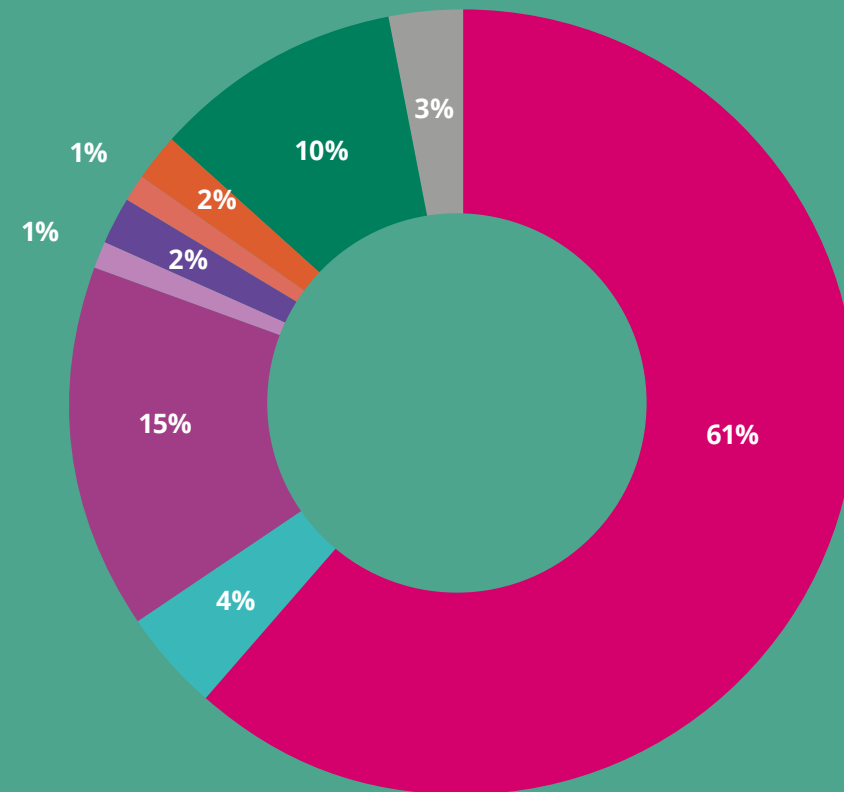


* Some Early Years organisations fall within the Local Authority but for these figures they are included in the separate category so that the whole range of Early Years organisations can be counted together. Those which are separate to Local Authority include private and voluntary nurseries, child-minders and crèches.



Level 1

Category	Total trained in 2017/18 April to March	%
Early Years Providers	166	61%
Vol/Indie/Private Sector	10	4%
Other	42	15%
FE Colleges	0	0%
Social Care	1	0%
Children & Families First Team	0	0%
Primary Schools/Secondary/Academies	3	1%
Children's Centres	6	2%
Youth Services/YOS	0	0%
CWPT	0	0%
UHCW	0	0%
Coventry and Rugby CCG	0	0%
WMAS	0	0%
NHS England	2	1%
Public Health	0	0%
Local Authority (other)	6	2%
National Probation Service	0	0%
CRC Probation	0	0%
CAFCASS	0	0%
Police	1	0%
FAith Groups	26	10%
Private/Voluntary/Independent Schools	8	3%
	271	

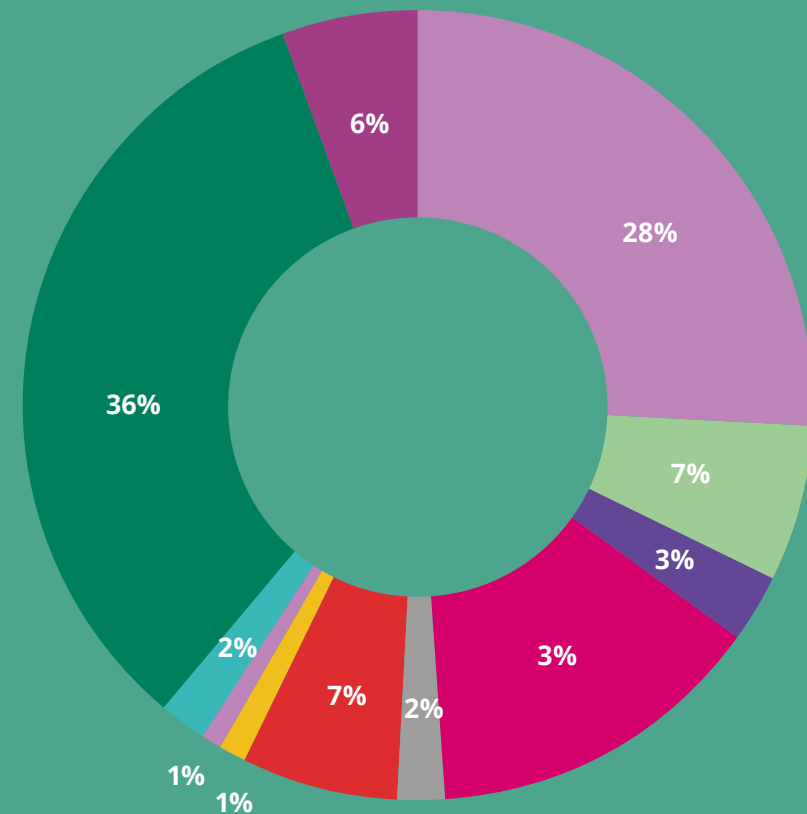


N.B. Some organisations deliver their own in-house training which is equivalent to Level 1 training.



Level 2

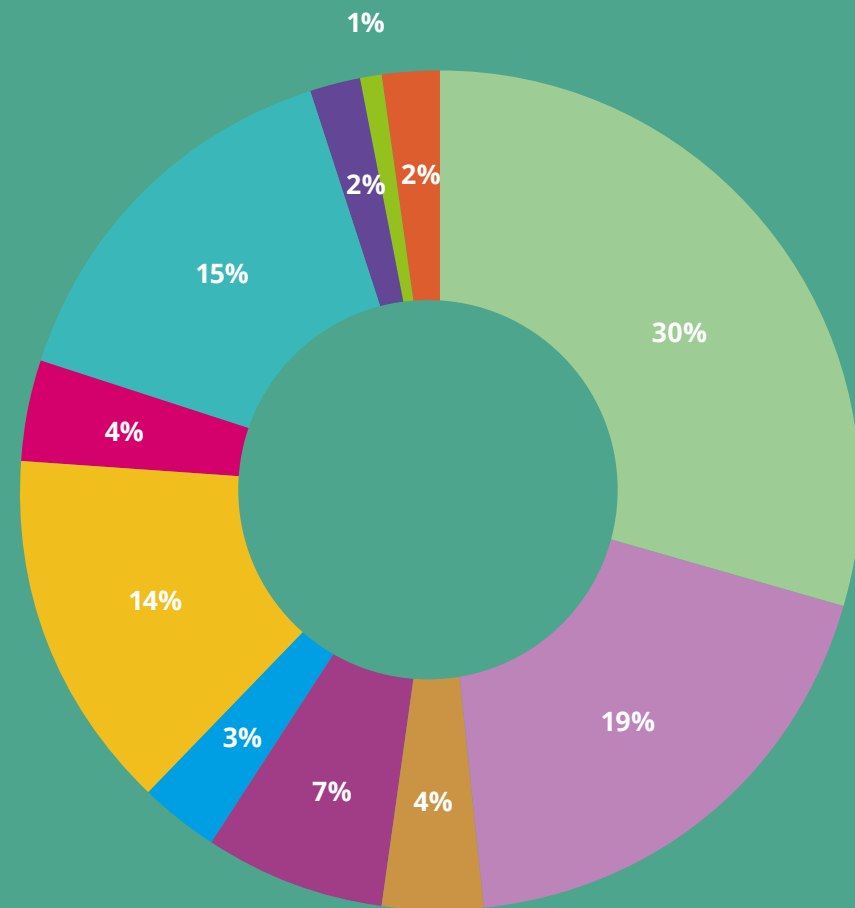
Category	Total trained in 2017/18 April to March	%
Primary Schools/Secondary/Academies	44	28%
CWPT	11	7%
Children's Centres	4	3%
Early Years Providers	23	15%
Private/Voluntary/Independent Schools	3	2%
UHCW	0	0%
Coventry and Rugby CCG	11	7%
WMAS	0	0%
NHS England	0	0%
Social Care	2	1%
Children & Families First Team	0	0%
Public Health	0	0%
Local Authority (other)	0	0%
Youth Services/YOS	1	1%
Vol/Indie/Private Sector	3	2%
National Probation Service	0	0%
CRC Probation	0	0%
CAFCASS	0	0%
Police	0	0%
Faith Groups	57	36%
FE Colleges	0	0%
Other	9	6%
Total	157	





Level 3

Category	Total trained in 2017/18 April to March	%
CWPT	109	30%
Primary Schools/Secondary/Academies	68	19%
UHCW	15	4%
Other	27	7%
Children & Families First Team	12	3%
Social Care	51	14%
Early Years Providers	14	4%
Vol/Indie/Private	55	15%
Children's Centres	7	2%
Public Health	5	1%
Police	1	0%
National Probation Service	0	0%
CRC Probation	0	0%
FE Colleges	0	0%
Local Authority (other)	6	2%
Youth Services/YOS	1	0%
Coventry and Rugby CCG	0	0%
WMAS	0	0%
NHS England	0	0%
CAFCASS	0	0%
Faith Groups	0	0%
Private/Voluntary/Independent	1	0%
Total	366	





Appendix 2: Coventry LSCB board membership and attendance

The table below lists the current membership of the LSCB. Correct as of 14 June 2018.

Board Member	Title/Organisation
David Peplow	Independent Chair, Coventry Safeguarding Children Board
Tracey Wrench	Vice Chair, Director of Nursing and Quality, CWPT
Gail Quinton	Executive Director, People Directorate, CCC
Kirston Nelson	Director of Education, CCC
John Gregg	Chair of Effectiveness and Quality Subgroup, Director of Children's Services
Mike O'Hara	Chief Superintendent, Policing, West Midlands Police
Jo Galloway	Chief Nursing Officer, NHS Warwickshire North and NHS Coventry and Rugby CCG
Andy Wade	Chair of Policies & Procedures Subgroup, Head of Service, West Midlands, National Probation Service
Carly Manning	Lead of Safeguarding, West Midlands Ambulance Service
Carmel McCarthy	Director of Housing Operations, Whitefriars Housing
Paul Green	Headteacher, Lyng Hall Secondary School
Kobina Hall	Head of Coventry/Solihull, The Staffordshire & West Midlands Community Rehabilitation Company Limited,
Dr James Burden	Safeguarding Lead GP, NHS
Cllr Patricia Seaman	Cabinet Member, Children & Young People, CCC
Cllr Tony Skipper	Cabinet Member, Children & Young People, CCC
Laura Davies	Community Lay Member
Alison Talbot	Associate Director of Nursing (Women & Children's/Safeguarding)/ Head of Midwifery, UHCW



Name	Title/Organisation
Liz Gaulton	Interim Director of Public Health
Gill Mulhall	Headteacher, Little Heath Primary School
Debbie Newman	Headteacher, Corpus Christi Primary School
Michelle Horn	Primary Care Lead Nurse, Coventry & Rugby CCG
Jayne Phelps	Chair of Learning & Development Subgroup Designated Nurse, CCG
Peter Turgoose	Service Manager, Coventry NSPCC
Janice White	Team Leader – People Team Legal Services, CCC
Neil Macdonald	Strategic Lead Quality Assurance and Safeguarding, People Directorate CCC
Dr Jo Gifford	Consultant Community Paediatrician, Interim Designated Doctor, Coventry & Rugby CCG & Named Doctor for CP, CWPT
Jo Lawrence	Assistant Principal Student Experience
Vacant	Strategic Lead, Children's Services, Coventry City Council
Alison Hurst	DCI Inspector, West Midlands Police
Douglas Jones	Watch Commander, West Midlands Fire Service
Linda Cane	Enhanced Service Manager, CAF/CASS
Officers to the Board	
Eira Hale	Business Manager, Safeguard Children & Adults Boards
Mandeep Grewal	Business Support, Safeguarding Children Board (Minuting)
Anne Pluska	Training Officer- Children's & Adults Board
Abigail Jones	Quality Assurance Manager



Board attendance is summarised in the table below. There is an agreement in place for NHS England and West Midlands PPU to attend as required.

Organisation	22/06/17	25/09/17	06/12/17	22/03/18	Meetings attended	Meetings expected at	%
Independent Chair LSCB					4	4	100
Coventry & Rugby CCG					4	4	100
Coventry & Rugby CCG (Designated Doctor)					2	4	50
CWPT					3	4	75
UHCW					3	4	75
GPs					4	4	100
NHS England	N/A		N/A	N/A	1	1	100
Public Health					2	4	50
West Midlands Police - Policing					3	4	75
West Midlands Police - PPU					1	1	100
Local Authority (Executive Director)					3	4	75
Local Authority (Children's Services)					4	4	100
Local Authority (Safeguarding)					4	4	100
Local Authority (Education and Inclusion)					4	4	100
Local Authority (Early Years)					1	4	25
Primary Schools					4	4	100
Secondary Schools					3	4	75
Further Education					4	4	100



Organisation	12/10/16	24/11/16	26/01/17	22/03/17	Meetings attended	Meetings expected at	%
Community Lay Member	VACANT	VACANT			2	2	100
Councillors (participant observers)					4	4	100
Community Rehabilitation Company					2	4	50
National Probation Service					4	4	100
NSPCC					3	4	75
West Midlands Fire Service					2	4	50
WM Housing					1	4	25
West Midlands Ambulance Services			N/A	N/A	2	2	100
South Warwickshire Foundation Trust					2??	2	100
Legal Services					3	4	75
CAFCASS	N/A			N/A	2	1	100
Officers to the board							
Business Manager, LSCB					4	4	100
Training Co-ordinator					4	4	100
Quality Assurance Manager	VACANT	VACANT	VACANT		1	1	100
Administration					4	4	100



Priority	Why	Metrics	Outcomes
1. The Board to ensure that children and young people who are looked after have equal opportunities to other children and young people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure equality of opportunity for all children in Coventry The full picture for children who are looked after is not clear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data set has to be compared with children who are not looked after and OOC looked after children Number of placement breakdowns Percentage of moves to permanency Health assessments Dental health checks Quality of health assessments Educational attainment and NEET Disproportionality around missing and child exploitation Youth justice and criminality figures Virtual school data 	Children who are looked after have equal opportunities to children who are not, and information is used to support and care for children and young people in a way that meets their needs.
2. The Board to ensure that early help services, including mental health support, are available to children and young people and are resulting in positive outcomes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that early help is given both to children and to young people experiencing challenges To ensure that early help supports families to build strength and to overcome challenges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of children in care, LAC, CP plans, Early Help ((including repeat Early Help), re-referrals Appropriate attendance at health screening Response to children who demonstrate distress e.g. self-harm Healthy height and weight Number of CAMHs referrals Reduced referrals to social care Number of early help assessments Pre and post diagnostic support for children and young people with autism and ADHD Autism and ADHD diagnosis waiting times Results from Ignite Project 	Children live in nurturing and supportive homes.
3. The Board to ensure that missing children and young people, and those at risk of criminal exploitation, are protected by effective multi-agency arrangement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good progress has been made in Coventry, but good practice is not sufficiently embedded to be business as usual There are further areas for development, particularly in relation to long-term support and police understanding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Missing children data- number, episodes, frequency and patterns, location CSE numbers and risk levels, then risk reduction Content of return home interviews and how these are used to inform practice (e.g. review 2 RHI every month) Referral source Use of blame language recorded by professionals reduces 	Children are protected from abuse and exploitation and enjoy their childhood.
4. The Board to ensure that the profile of understanding of emotional abuse and neglect, including domestic abuse, is raised and that abuse is identified as early as possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCRs have identified that children are too frequently left in neglectful situations for long periods of time Neglected children are at risk of other sources of harm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in domestic abuse incidents Increase referrals for time to talk Reduced CP plans where the abuse category is neglect or emotional abuse Early Help plans 	Children have positive relationships and feel safe at home.
5. The Board to work towards developing the safeguarding partnership and continue to look forward and improve in light of the Wood Report and Children and Social Work Bill.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The context for safeguarding Board arrangements is changing and the Board needs to ensure that CSCB structures are fit for purpose To ensure that all relevant partners are engaged 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance at Board meetings Attendance at sub group meetings Challenge tracker Multi-agency training 	That safeguarding activity is maintained through the transition process and that regulations outlined in legislation and guidance are complied with. That the Board is responsive and flexible to changes locally and nationally