



1. Chair's introduction

- 1.1 The Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) across Conwy & Denbighshire has a crucial role to play in ensuring children's welfare is safeguarded and, as necessary, children are protected from significant harm
- 1.2 The LSCB holds to account partner agencies and partnerships in delivering the safeguarding and child protection agendas. It sets standards for performance and monitors their effectiveness.
- 1.3 The LSCB has begun to think differently about working in partnership to safeguard children. The child protection system used to ask us to 'spot it and pass it on', but safeguarding is not a referral process. The new approach is a challenge to all services to prevent it happening, reduce the risks faced by a child, and facilitate an improvement in circumstances for the child and family. This approach recognises that a large portion of potentially concerning circumstances are predictable and build over time, and that a whole system approach is needed to address a child's developmental needs, parenting capacity and family and environmental factors.
- 1.4 Safeguarding is a shared responsibility; and it is broader than protection from significant harm. Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare involves sharing information, collaboration and understanding, and constructive relationships between all agencies. This different approach is reflected in this year's annual report, which places greater emphasis on the work done by all agencies and partnerships with safeguarding responsibilities to contribute to keeping children safe.

2. Summary

- 2.1 This year the annual report is in two sections:
 - **Section 1** of the report provides a brief overview of the functioning of the Conwy and Denbighshire Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), including its governance and financial arrangements. The report also provides a summary of the lessons learned from reviews and consultation, the LSCB's key priorities for 2012-13, and its achievements against those priorities. The challenges remaining for 2013-14 and the LSCB's priorities for that year are outlined, and Section 1 closes with a brief summary of progress to date for 2013-14.
 - **Section 2** provides a summary of the safeguarding children progress and challenges reported to the LSCB by its partners, and by the other strategic partnerships with safeguarding responsibilities, as one of the mechanisms for providing support and challenge to the agencies and partnerships who share the responsibility for keeping children safe from abuse and neglect.

A glossary is provided at Appendix 5 to the report. This explains the common terms and abbreviations used throughout the report.

SECTION 1

~*~FUNCTIONING OF THE LSCB~*~

3. Key priorities 2012-13

3.1 The Executive Board, sub-group Chairs and representatives from strategic partnerships with safeguarding responsibilities considered a range of issues before deciding on the LSCB's priorities for 2012-13. The issues were taken from partners' annual reports to the LSCB, the results of staff consultation, performance information from partners, regional and national issues, and the results of the Welsh Government's Self Assessment and Improvement Tool (SAIT). Following wide discussion of these items, and the issues members brought on the day, the following priorities were identified for 2012-13:

Priorities 2012-13

- 1 Children exhibiting Inappropriate Sexualised Behaviour are identified early and offered help, and children at risk of harm from other children are protected
- 2 The LSCB is assured that all available actions have been taken to reduce risks to children from unsafe staff
- 3 A common understanding of thresholds for intervention supports vulnerable families and helps identify children in need of protection
- 4 Children are safer because partnerships with safeguarding responsibilities work together to safeguard children

And, continuing from 2011-12

5. Children experiencing difficulties due to their parents'/carers' drug & alcohol, mental health or domestic violence problems are identified so that concerns do not escalate from safeguarding to child protection issues
 6. To ensure that the direction, work and review of the LSCB is informed by consultation and participation with children, young people, their parents and carers
- 3.2 Actions were allocated to the LSCB's various task groups and included in the 2012-13 business plan. Information about the progress the LSCB has made against its business plan can be found in paragraph 7 of this report.

4. Governance and Accountability Arrangements

- 4.1 Current membership of the LSCB meets or exceeds the membership prescribed for LSCBs in the Welsh Statutory Instrument 2006 No. 1705 (W.167). In addition to the prescribed and recommended members of the Board, the two Lead Elected Members for Children from Conwy and Denbighshire sit on the Board.
- 4.2 In 2009-10, the LSCB Board set itself a target of 75% attendance at Board meetings. Attendance for statutory members, including agreed senior deputies, is shown in Table 1, below. Ten of the seventeen statutory Board members achieved over 75% attendance during the year; however, the average attendance rate was 68%. Poor attendance from Housing in both Conwy and Denbighshire contributed to this result. The Chair writes to all members each year regarding their attendance.
- 4.2 The structure of the LSCB remained stable during 2012-13, and is shown at Appendix 1. The Board's statutory partners are represented on the sub-groups, in addition to good support from voluntary and non-statutory agencies. For the LSCB's subgroups, average attendance in 2012-13 was 69%. This is an improvement compared to 2010-11 and 2011-

12, with statutory agencies achieving an average attendance rate of 60%, and 62% respectively in those years. . Attendance by agency is shown in the table below.

Table 1: Attendance at LSCB sub-groups by agency (ranked by percentage attendance)

Statutory Agency	Number of Representatives	Possible Attendances	Actual Attendances	Percentage Attendance
CCBC Education	2	21	19	90%
PHW	1	16	14	88%
BCUHB	10	50	41	82%
CCBC Youth Service	2	10	8	80%
CCBC C&FS	11	59	42	71%
DCC C&FS	8	42	27	64%
DCC PR	1	5	3	60%
NW Police	2	30	17	57%
DCC Education	1	3	1	33%
YJS	3	15	5	33%
Probation	3	13	4	31%
Total	44	264	181	69%

4.4 The LSCB offers support and challenge to its partners to account via:

- an annual audit against the requirements of section 28 of the Children Act 2004
- annual reports on their safeguarding activities from partners and relevant partnerships. Section 2 of this report summarises what was said in the reports that came before the Board's scheduled meetings during 2012-13.
- quarterly monitoring of an agreed set of safeguarding performance indicators provided by each partner.

4.4.1 The Board considers the information provided via these mechanisms and takes action as appropriate. Information on children in the child protection system showed:

- there has been a steady increase in the number of children on the child protection register since March 2011. Conwy shows a more stable picture when viewed over the longer term, from 2004. however, over this longer time period Denbighshire shows an increase of 8%.
- during 2012-13, 'emotional harm' was the most frequent category for children to be registered under across Conwy and Denbighshire. This differs from the picture for Wales as a whole where neglect is the most frequent category of registration.
- the most frequently identified risk faced by children on the register, as identified at initial child protection conferences, is domestic abuse, followed by alcohol misuse, then adult mental health and lack of basic parenting skills.

4.5 On 18th of October 2011, the Welsh Government released a written statement from Gwenda Thomas, Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services. Included in this statement was reference to reducing the number of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs), and matching them to the proposed Public Service Delivery footprint of six. The statement also said:

'In advance of the legislation, my expectation is that LSCBs will begin planning for the change and move onto a collaborative model as soon as possible.'

4.5.1 The Association for Directors of Social Services (ADSS) Wales Safeguarding Policy Group and Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) agreed that two areas should pilot regional LSCB models in order to inform the writing of guidance following the enactment of the Social Services Bill in 2013. Accordingly, a pilot Regional Safeguarding Children Board was established in January 2013, ahead of the Welsh Government's requirement to do so. The pilot regional board did not affect the functioning of the LSCB during 2012-13.

5 Financial arrangements

5.1 The LSCB adopted a revised, reduced expenditure plan for 2011-12, in recognition of the financial constraints on partner agencies, and this plan was maintained for 2012-13. The revised expenditure plan included just enough to cover the costs of the Business Manager, part-time administrative support, and the delivery of the Training Programme. In 2012-13, planned expenditure was expected to exceed the expected income from contributions by around £2,000, and this shortfall was to be met from the contingency fund, however, expenditure was less than planned, and the contingency fund did not need to be used for this purpose. The contribution requested from each partner was calculated using a formula developed during 2010-11, which set a percentage contribution for each of the LSCB's contributing partner agencies, and which was based on the average contribution made to English LSCBs. Table 2, below, shows the percentage contribution and the amount requested from each partner for 2011-12 and 2012-13.

Table 2: Partners' Contributions to the LSCB.

LSCB Partner	Percentage contribution 2011-12	Financial Contribution 2011-12	Financial Contribution 2012-13
Denbighshire Social Services	12.50%	£7,633	£7,500
Denbighshire Education	12.50%	£7,633	£7,500
Conwy Social Services	12.50%	£7,633	£7,500
Conwy Education	12.50%	£7,633	£7,500
Betsi Cadwaladr Local UHB	36%	£21,982	£21,600
North Wales Police	11%	£6,714	£6,600
Probation	3%	£1,832	£1,800
Total	100%	£61,060	£60,000

5.2 After some negotiation with BCUHB, all agencies did agree to contribute the amount requested, apart from Wales Probation Trust. As in the previous year, Wales Probation advised the LSCB that their level of contribution was set nationally at a payment equating to 2.5% of our actual budget up to a ceiling of £2,500, and that they were unable to pay more than £1,527. This meant that Wales Probation's contribution to the LSCB was £273 less than requested.

5.2 In return for their contribution, partners received:-

- assurance of the quality of safeguarding practice through multi-agency audits,
- regular performance information
- the driving through of the business plan, reflecting partners' priorities
- the delivery of a multi-agency training programme. Partners have not been charged for places on these training courses since 2011/12.
- Information on the activities/challenges within individual agencies in Conwy & Denbighshire in fulfilling safeguarding responsibilities as well as joint performance information
- Collective opportunity to influence and develop policies, procedures and practice
- Collective opportunity to ensure coordinated responses, for Conwy & Denbighshire, to safeguarding issues arising in Wales and across the UK

5.3 The LSCB closed the year with an underspend of £9,089, which included an underspend of £7,972 against salaries and staffing costs. Expenditure on salaries was less than expected because the post of administrative assistant was vacant for most of the year, and also as a result of changes to the essential car user and mileage allowances. The money set aside for training was also slightly underspent. The underspend was carried over into the 2013-14 contingency fund, which will be used to support an agreed 8% reduction in contributions to the LSCB. The costs for a pilot Child Practice Review were met from the contingency fund, which reduced from £42,802 at the start of the year to £36,185 as at 31st March 2013. Table 3 summarises the LSCB's finances for 2012-13.

Table 3: 2012-13 Operating resources and outturn

Fund	2012-13 planned Expenditure	2012-13 Actual expenditure	Balance as at 31 March 2013
	£	£	£
General fund	53,559 ¹	46,180	7,292cr
Training fund	10,000	8,203	1,797cr
Contingency fund	0	6,617	36,185

6 Key areas of progress/achievement

6.1 Training and Workforce Development

6.1.1 During 2011-12, the LSCB began to work towards creating a picture of all staff in the area for whom safeguarding training is relevant, and which of those had received single-agency training. The same exercise was repeated in March 2013; however, the response was not sufficient to be able to create an understanding of the safeguarding children workforce. The exercise is now being taken forward on a regional basis. .

Table 4: LSCB Training Courses and Attendance by Agency

	BCUHB	CCBC all departments	DCC all departments	NW Police	Probation	YJS	NW Fire & Rescue	Private Schools/Collages	Third Sector & Sport & Leisure	CAFCASS - WAG	Totals
Child Protection	0	88	7	0	1	2	1	12	99	0	210
Compromised Parenting	22	15	14	4	2	3	0	5	10	0	75
Hidden Harm	18	12	15	0	0	4	0	2	10	1	62
Safeguarding Sexually Exploited Children	7	13	18	5	0	1	0	5	20	1	70
LSCB Annual Conference	4	18	23	1	2	3	0	4	23	4	82
Totals	51	146	77	10	5	13	1	28	162	6	499
Percentage	10%	29%	15%	2%	1%	3%	0%	6%	32%	1%	100%

6.1.2 The number of professionals attending LSCB training courses was 499, slightly more than 2011-12, when 486 LSCB training places were filled. Table 4 shows that the LSCB continued to support safeguarding training in the Third/ Voluntary Sector, with 32% of attendees on our training events coming from this sector; last year 30% of attendees came from that area.

6.1.3 We asked everyone who attended an LSCB event to complete an evaluation form, however a new evaluation form was introduced part-way through the year. The questions asked in the new form are shown in Table 5, below, together with a summary of the responses. The summary only includes those courses using the new evaluation forms, which excludes the first five 'Introduction to Child Protection' courses. The overall results and those of individual courses are considered by the LSCB's Training & Workforce Development subgroup.

Table 5: Attendee evaluation of LSCB training / events

	Strongly Agree & Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree & Strongly Disagree
Q1. The course met my training/development needs	94.70%	3.43%	1.87%
Q2. I have learnt something new at this event	95.95%	3.43%	0.62%
Q3. My day to day practice will improve as a result of attending this event	86.29%	11.21%	2.49%
Q4. I was satisfied with the presentation style	96.26%	3.12%	0.62%
Q5. There was enough time for discussion	95.63%	3.44%	0.94%
Q6. I would recommend this course to colleagues	95.02%	4.05%	0.93%
Q7. The event was well organised	97.51%	1.56%	0.93%
Q8. The course met good standards of equal opportunities	93.15%	6.23%	0.62%

6.1.3 During the year, the LSCB Training Group worked with Flintshire and Wrexham LSCB to develop an impact assessment process for LSCB training events. The introduction of the impact assessment was tied to the introduction of a new attendee evaluation form which was introduced part-way through the year. Just those events that used the new evaluations forms are included in the summaries given below.

We asked the managers of 141 staff who had attended LSCB events two questions, which are shown in Table 6, below, together with a summary of the results.

Table 6: Impact assessment of LSCB training and events

We asked managers if, following the training event	The employee has demonstrated a greater understanding of the subject		The employee uses the relevant learning from the event in their day to day practice	
Managers responded to the statement	agreed and /or strongly agreed	disagreed ¹	agreed and / or strongly agreed	disagreed ¹
Introduction to Child Protection / Refresher (3 events assessed)	93%	0%	91%	2%
Compromised Parenting	97%	0%	90%	0%
Hidden Harm	91%	3%	88%	6%
Safeguarding Sexually Exploited Children & Young People (4 events)	100%	0%	97%	3%
Average for all impact assessed events	95% ²	1% ²	91% ²	3% ²

¹ No one 'strongly disagreed'

² Figures do not add to 100%: the remaining percentage neither agreed nor disagreed with the statements.

6.2 Audit and Quality Assurance

6.2.1 Practitioners from the LSCB's partners agencies undertook an audit to look at ten cases from each County (twenty in total) where the recommendation from the initial assessment was to proceed to a 'section 47' enquiry and the decision from the enquiry was to close the case with no further action. A 'section 47' enquiry is undertaken if there concerns that a child may be at risk of actual or likely significant harm, and the enquiry determines what, if any, action is needed to promote and safeguard the welfare of a child. Managers in Conwy & Denbighshire Children's Services agreed to take back the results of the audit and see how practice could be improved

6.2.2 All of the LSCB's partner agencies who are represented on the Board are asked to complete an annual 'section 28' audit. Section 28 of the children Act 2004 places a duty on key people and bodies to make arrangements to ensure that their functions are discharged with regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The LSCB's annual audit provides a useful checklist for agencies to help ensure that they fulfil their duties under the Act, and it assures the LSCB that its partners are meeting their responsibilities. Bearing in mind the move towards regional working, and the need for a coordinated North Wales request for information, the LSCB made the decision to review the responses to the 2012 audit from partners, rather than ask them to undertake a full audit. However, for the first time, independent schools operating in the two counties and commissioned voluntary organisations were asked to undertake a full audit. Feedback has been sent to all agencies.

6.3 Practice Development

6.3.1 The Practice Development Group sets up task groups, as necessary, to deliver the LSCBs priorities. In many instances, partner agencies set up task groups in response to their own identified needs. Where a partner's new or existing task group addresses an LSCB identified need, the Practice Development Group will continue monitor progress and ensure that the issue is addressed from the LSCB's perspective. During 2012-13, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) led a task group on Sexually Harmful Behaviour, and progress made there was reported back to the LSCB.

6.3.2. During 2012-13, the Practice Development Group set up a task group to look at safe employment, and the task group reported to the Board in December 2012 on its 'cradle to grave' approach, and the work it had undertaken on recruitment.

6.3.3 The Practice Development Group also ensured that progress was made on improving the procedures for allegations against professionals; implementing the 'Framework For Analysis' case management tool across the two counties; responding to Welsh Government consultations on new and revised safeguarding procedures; and developing and monitoring action plans in response to the audits undertaken by the Audit Subgroup .

6.4 Communications and Consultation: the interface between practitioners, the public and the LSCB.

6.4.1 In January 2013 the LSCB's webpages were revised to create separate pages for parents, children and professionals. Unfortunately, a change in the regulations during 2012 has meant that we are unable to meaningfully compare the numbers of visitors to the LSCB's webpages with previous years. Conwy County Borough Council, the host authority for the webpages, informs us that within the Children and Families section, the LSCB's pages are the most viewed, along with the fostering pages. The LSCB also spread its message via facebook and twitter accounts.

6.4.2 The LSCB raised awareness of its role and the importance of safeguarding through having a presence at various events during the year, including distributing lip balms bearing the LSCB logo and NSPCC childline number at young people's pop concerts, and having a stand at the Denbighshire baton handover point of the white ribbon (domestic abuse) relay run. The LSCB's poster, giving the message that safeguarding is everybody's business, was printed and distributed to a wide variety of locations including doctor's surgeries, libraries, schools and supermarkets. Two newsletters were produced during the year and were circulated to all partner agencies for wide circulation within their organisations.

6.4.3 Consultation with children and families who had been through the child protection process took place in both counties. The consultation found that fathers felt excluded from the child protection process, and that the best outcomes for the child are achieved when practitioners are able to form a good and respectful relationship with the parents.

6.4.4 A 'Feeling Safe' survey was developed for use in schools, and the LSCB took part in a North Wales-wide e-safety consultation exercise. The surveys found that children were worried about bullying, and they also felt unsafe in the community around adults who are drunk or who swear. Consultation with staff took place at the annual conference in March 2013: staff were concerned that thresholds for intervention were too high, and that they did not have enough time to spend with children and families. Although all the planned consultation took place, several activities were delayed, which meant that the results of the consultation could not be acted upon as planned.

6.4.5 Two 'post-it/share-its' were received during the year. The 'post-it/share-it' is the LSCB's 'whistleblowing' mechanism, but is also a vehicle for sharing good practice: both 'post-it/share-its' shared good practice. The first was from a Health Visitor in Llandudno sharing positive feelings about joint working with a Conwy CBC Children's Social Worker, and the second from CAIS (a Voluntary Organisation working with drug and alcohol problems), noting the excellent joint working with Denbighshire Children's Social Services.

6.4.6 The LSCB set up two multi-agency Panels to hear complaints about conference decisions which the Chairs of the conferences had been unable to resolve. The panels in both cases found that the correct procedures had been followed. However, in one complaint, the Panel concluded that the category of registration ought to be reconsidered, therefore this aspect of the complaint was upheld and the Panel recommended that a conference be reconvened to reconsider the registration category. In the second complaint, which related to historical proceedings, the Panel decided to partly uphold the complaint on the basis that there had been no progress between conferences.

6.5 Child Practice Review (previously Serious Case Review (SCRs) and Child Death Review

6.5.1 The Welsh Government introduced a new process for learning from cases in January 2103. The LSCB's Child Practice Review sub-committee manages this process, including the action plans arising, and also considers and monitors partners' relevant Internal Management Reviews (IMRs) and action plans.

6.5.2 One Concise Child Practice Review was completed during the year; the subject of which was the tragic suicide of a young person. The review was conducted as a pilot for the revised Child Practice Review process. No failings of multi-agency working were found, and there were many examples of good practice. Nevertheless, there were also opportunities for learning from the case and for improving practice.

6.5.3 Conwy & Denbighshire LSCB's **Child Death Review Panel** operates as a subgroup of the Child Practice Review sub-committee. Three panel meetings were held to discuss the deaths of children which took place within Conwy and Denbighshire between April 2012 and March 2013. A total of 18 deaths were discussed. 7 of which were brought for further consideration to the Child Practice Review Group. Table 7, below, summarises the child deaths considered.

6.5.4 Meetings were chaired by the Named Doctor Safeguarding Children BCUHB and were attended by North Wales Police, representatives from Education (Conwy and Denbighshire), Child Protection Co coordinators for both counties, Senior Nurse Safeguarding Children, Safeguarding Nurse for Ysbyty Glan Clwyd, Lead Doctors Child Protection Conwy and Denbighshire, Welsh Ambulance Service, Designated Nurse Public Health Wales.

6.5.5 Although the Procedural Response to Unexpected Death in Children (PRUDiC) process was only officially launched across North Wales on May 1st 2013, Conwy and Denbighshire agreed to run the PRUDiC process during 2012/13. The PRUDiC process was implemented in 7 times and involved 9 children and their families. Each PRUDiC process involved three meetings (initial information planning meeting within 24 hours, case discussion meeting within 5 days and final case discussion meeting after receipt of the final post mortem results 3 – 6 months.) In all cases the multiagency partners felt that the PRUDiC process had been worthwhile and had assisted in the smooth running of the case and the care and provision of support to both the bereaved family as well as staff members.

Table 7: Children discussed at Child Death Review Panel 2012-13

Causes of death	Number of cases	Comments
Extreme prematurity <30 weeks gestation	5	
Severe congenital abnormalities	2	
Terminal illness	2	Final care pathway plans in place
Infection	1	PRUDiC implemented
House fire	3	PRUDiC implemented & considered by Child Practice Review Sub-committee
Overlay/co-sleeping	3	PRUDiC implemented & considered by Child Practice Review Sub-committee
Road Traffic Accident (pedestrian)	1	PRUDiC implemented
Suicide	1	PRUDiC implemented and Child Practice Review undertaken

7. Progress against the Business Plan

7.1 The Business Plan End of Year Update is attached at Appendix 2 to Section 1 of this report. Table 8, below, shows the number and percentage of actions completed/ slightly behind schedule/ where no progress has been made at the end of the year, and compares 2012-13 performance with that of previous years. Performance has mainly been affected by the delay in carrying out the planned consultation exercises.

7.2 At the end of 2012-13 five actions remained incomplete. 74%% (14) of the LSCBs actions were complete and marked as Green, 21% (4) were underway and were marked as amber. No progress had been made on one planned action: Business Plan reference 5a. " By December 2012, the Board will be provided with the information it needs to make recommendations to improve provision for domestic abuse". The report is behind schedule. The Practice Development group tried to progress this action via the MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference for domestic abuse) Steering Group, but this did not progress beyond discussion as the Steering Group felt that this fell beyond its remit. All incomplete actions have been carried over for continued attention during 2013-14.

Table 8: Progress against the Business Plan

RAG status	Status	2009-10 Business Plan		2010-11 Business plan		2011-12 Business plan		2011-12 Business plan	
		Number of actions	Percentage of actions	Number of actions	Percentage of actions	Number of actions	Percentage of actions	Number of actions	Percentage of actions
Green	Completed	27	43%	23	79%	26	84%	14	74%
Amber	In progress/ slightly behind schedule	15	28%	5	17%	4	13%	4	21%
Red	No progress / significantly behind schedule	17	29%	1	4%	1	3%	1	5%
Total		58	100%	29	100%	31	100%	19	100%

8. LSCB effectiveness

8.1 The Welsh Government expects all LSCBs to conduct an annual self-assessment against the agreed self assessment and improvement tool (SAITv6). The self assessment tool considers performance against five dimensions:

- establishing the Board's strategic direction;
- establishing effective governance;
- building capacity;
- delivering outputs; and
- improving safeguarding outcomes for children.

Within the SAIT's dimensions are 21 standards, and each standard has graded bands of achievement, from 0 to 3. The LSCB scores itself according to which band it falls into, allocating a fractional score, as relevant, if a band is partially achieved.

8.2 Conwy & Denbighshire LSCB conducted its fourth self-assessment in November 2012. The scores are shown in Table 9, compared with previous years. This shows that the LSCB has consistently improved year on year.

a) No scores were reduced compared to 2011.

b) For 16 of the 21 standards, the LSCB showed an improved score compared to 2011. Five standards scored the same as in 2011:

- i. terms of reference for the LSCB: this already scored 3.
- ii. membership of the LSCB: this was not scored more highly because of poor attendance at some sub groups.
- iii. systems to ensure safe recruitment: although the LSCB is undertaking work in this area, we have not yet developed a safe recruitment strategy.

- iv. having a robust process for reviewing and learning from SCRs - although we meet all the criteria to reach standard 3, changes to the SCR process are not reflected in the SAIT, and we still have scope to improve our CPR processes.
 - v. roles and responsibilities of the Chair: proposals for reviewing the role of members and the Chair were considered by SMG, but it was not felt that the Board was sufficiently mature at the time to proceed with the proposals.
- c) Three standards scored less than 2:
- i. safe recruitment, see b iii, above
 - ii. resourcing the Board – although the LSCB has produced a funding formula, it has not been agreed by all partners,
 - iii. demonstrating improvements to the outcomes for children receiving child protection services – the LSCB had no sub-group with responsibility for systematically auditing outcomes for children who have received a core assessment and those subject to a child protection plan.

The three standards scoring below 2 were identified as priorities for action for the LSCB for 2013-14.

Table 9 – Self Assessment and Improvement Tool Scores 2009-12

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total Score	23	33.25	41.50	52.05
Percentage of standards band 2 or above	10%	38%	67%	86%
How confident do you feel about the prospects for the LSCB to become more effective? (group response)	Not recorded	Moderately	Moderately	Moderately

9 Risk

9.1 The Board keeps its risk register under regular review, and a revised register, which identified three new risks, was agreed at the end of 2011-12. One further risk was added in December 2012, the risk “that unsafe employment practices put children at risk from adults who work with children”. A safe employment task group is helping to address the risk.

10 Priorities for 2013-14

10.1 Priorities for 2013-14 were discussed at the LSCB’s Away Day in November 2012, taking into account:

- issues raised via partners’ and partnerships’ annual reports to the LSCB,
- the results of the SAIT exercise (paragraph 8) and of the Section 28 audit (paragraph 6.2.2),
- staff consultation,
- issues raised by representatives on the day.

10.2 Those attending the away-day identified their priorities from the issues presented to them, and those issues with the greatest support were accepted as the LSCB's priorities for the 2013-14 financial year. The identified priorities directed the LSCB's 2013-14 business plan. Priorities for 2013-14 are shown below:

Priorities 2013-14

- 1 Children exhibiting sexually harmful behaviour are identified early and offered help, and children at risk of harm from other children are protected due to improved identification and intervention. (continued from 2012-13)
- 2 Children who have lived, or who are living with domestic abuse have improved experiences and outcomes because a local domestic abuse action plan is developed which addresses their needs.
- 3 Children who are vulnerable or at risk of child sexual exploitation are better safeguarded due to greater awareness, improved multi-agency information gathering and sharing, and more effective responses.
- 4 Home educated children are safeguarded through improved shared information and monitoring
- 5 Children at risk from offenders / parents who have viewed child abuse images are safeguarded
- 6 That the business plan also addresses issues raised via the SAIT process, in particular where performance falls below band 2
 - a) To continue resourcing the Safe Employment task group
 - b) To address the LSCB's long-term funding issues
 - c) That SMG consider how best to demonstrate improvements to the outcomes for children receiving child protection services
 - d) That the LSCB maintains an issues log.

11. 2013-14 update

11.1 A significant feature of the first half of 2013-14 has been the continuing development of regional approaches to the work of the LSCB. The pilot Regional Safeguarding Children Board, dropped the term 'pilot' from its name in response to a Welsh Government request that progress be made towards establishing the regional Boards ahead of the legislation, and is now referred to as the RSCB.

11.2 At the beginning of August, members of the North Wales Local Safeguarding Children Boards met with the consultant commissioned by the Welsh Local Government Association in order to consider the issues around the establishment of a regional board. An away-day is scheduled for early October, when it is hoped that the RSCB will gain further clarification of the differing expectations of agencies that operate across North Wales compared to those that operate within local authority boundaries, and a view on how the structures and functions of the Local and Regional Boards will complement each other.

11.3 The LSCB has recognised that the regional Safeguarding children board structure reduces the clarity around who is ultimately accountable for the safety of children, and may not best support the statutory Directors of Social Services in the discharge of their core accountabilities. A new risk has been entered on to the LSCB's risk log to reflect this, and Denbighshire's statutory Director of Social Services has arranged a meeting to 'stress test' regional structures. The outcomes from this meeting will inform further regional development.

11.4 The Regional Safeguarding Children Board (RSCB) quickly agreed four areas of work that could benefit from a regional approach, and decided that regional subgroups should be established to take this work forward. The regional subgroups are:

- Child Practice Reviews
- Communications and Consultation
- Policies and Procedures
- Training and Workforce Development

Regional subgroups have been meeting during 2012-13. Local subgroups have also continued to meet, although where relevant, local work has gradually migrated over to the regional subgroups for them to take forward on a regional basis. However, many local subgroups are continuing to deliver local projects. Local Training subgroups have been asked to continue until March 2014 in order to deliver their local training plans, as a regional training plan will not be in place before then. Priorities 1 to 4 of Conwy & Denbighshire LSCB's 2013-14 priorities (see paragraph 10.2, above) are being taken forward regionally, and the LSCB receives regular reports on progress.

SECTION 2**•••PARTNERS AND PARTNERSHIPS CONTRIBUTIONS TO SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN•••**

(Partners reporting during the 2012-13 reporting schedule).

12. Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB)

- 12.1 Health professionals –particularly GPs, health visitors, school nurses and those working in maternity, child and adolescent mental health, adult mental health, alcohol and drug services and unscheduled care settings – are in a unique position to identify and, where appropriate, support those children and families with safeguarding issues.
- 12.2. Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) has a Safeguarding Training Strategy to ensure that all staff receive safeguarding training at the appropriate level in line with the Intercollegiate Training document. The strategy includes not only child protection but also domestic abuse and POVA (Protection of Vulnerable Adults) training covering all areas of safeguarding in line with Welsh Government guidance and documents. All training is evaluated and changes are made as appropriate. Individual Clinical Programme Groups (CPGs) are responsible for ensuring compliance of staff members with the training strategy.
- 12.3. BCUHB has a Safeguarding Children Supervision Procedure in place for staff. The six monthly supervision of Health Visitors and School Nurses is audited annually.
- 12.4. In accordance with the All Wales Child Protection Procedures and internal policy, six cases of suspected Professional Abuse were investigated.
- 12.5. Recruitment into the Safeguarding Team structure is well underway. It is anticipated that all posts will be appointed to by end of 2013. This will include additional senior safeguarding posts as well as a new domestic abuse post. These posts are designed to support the CPGs with their responsibilities regarding compliance with the National as well as Local Safeguarding agenda. In addition to this there is representation from all of the CPGs at the BCUHB Safeguarding Children Operational Forum and the Safeguarding People at Risk Subcommittee.
- 12.6. BCUHB's annual report made reference to the key objectives for safeguarding within the health board. These are measurable and have attached timescales. BCUHB is fully compliant with Welsh Government Healthcare Standard 11 – Safeguarding for which it has a separate action plan which measures compliance and effectiveness.

13. Children and Young People's Partnerships (CYPP)

13a. Conwy CYPP

13.1 Priority Area 11 of the Children and Young People's Partnership Plan is "Safeguarding for all Children and young people" Core Aim Group 3 (CAG 3) is the lead group for this priority. The CYPP took the following actions in support of the LSCB's priorities during 2012-13:

- a) Revised the 'Safeguarding Audit Tool for Voluntary Organisations and Community Groups' in response to feedback from a 'Learning Exchange' event, and in light of the new Protection of Freedom Act May 1st 2012.
- b) Developed a mechanism for reporting the training delivered and planned by the LSCB training sub-group to the CYPP's Core Aim 3 group.
- c) Raised awareness of positive and safe internet use for children and young people.
- d) Developed resources to highlight inappropriate sexualised behaviour to young people, including a DVD produced by Ysgol Emrys Ap Ewan, and delivered sessions by Hafan Cymru to 1,471 young people
- e) Worked towards establishing the Team Around the Family, which will act as a one stop shop for families to access information, advice, services or childcare
- f) Commenced service delivery under a pilot Integrated Family Support Service (IFSS) – which will provide integrated health and social services 2support to families where there are drug, alcohol, domestic abuse or violent behaviour, or mental health problems.
- g) Funded specific projects through Conwy's Families First programme, to develop new ways of working to support vulnerable families, including a project which looked at where preventative substance misuse and alcohol services should target their services. The initial recommendations were to work with Team Around the Family and focus support at the 'trigger' points such as bereavement or separation.
- h) The Chair of the CYPP's Core Aim Group 3 took part in a meeting to discuss the '10,000 Safer Lives' project, which aims to ensure all relevant service providers and organisations are able to identify the signs of domestic abuse and are able to effectively support individuals who experience domestic abuse. The project is aimed at medium to standard risk domestic abuse cases, which do not reach the threshold for services delivered via the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process.
- i) Promoted positive and safe internet use' training delivered by 'Wisekids' arranged jointly by Conwy Voluntary Services Council (CVSC) and the CYPP. The training focused on raising awareness of internet safety and literacy issues such as online grooming, cyber bullying, inaccurate information, etc and the knowledge and strategies to manage these issues.
- j) Set up a group to work on actions in the The Welsh Government's ' "Talk to Me" Action Plan to Reduce Suicide and Self Harm'.
- k) Completed a training strategy for the delivery of Emotional Health and Wellbeing training for professionals.

13.2 The CYPP asked for more clarity around what the LSCB expected from the partnership.

13b. Denbighshire CYPP

13b.1 Denbighshire delivered the following actions in support of the LSCB's priorities:

- a) The Youth Support consortia, within Denbighshire's Families First programme, includes a healthy sexuality post, whose remit includes awareness raising and the promotion of safer practices in relation to sexual health.
- b) Families First implemented safer employment practice in contracts for all commissioned elements. In addition, the Voluntary Sector Safeguarding Self-assessment Toolkit, which includes a section on safe employment, was shared generously with partners.
- c) The 'Families Matter' and 'Hidden Harm' strands of the Conwy and Denbighshire Children and Young People's Substance Misuse Service contribute towards the LSCB's priority to support children who are affected by their parents' ability to parent being compromised by problems with alcohol, drugs, domestic abuse or mental health.
- d) The Families First programme is part of the solution to prevent harm happening reduce the risks and facilitate an improvement in circumstances for families. It is an holistic approach and therefore all providers of Families First services, commissioned or otherwise, have a responsibility to identify children experiencing difficulties. The Team around the family, Family Support and family resilience consortia in particular have a role to play here. The Family resilience consortia for example are able to offer to support to a variety of families including those experiencing domestic abuse in the home or parents suffering with mental health problems.
- e) The Families First programme supports vulnerable families. The Families First Panel identify a co-ordinated package of support for identified families via the commissioned Families First consortia. More vulnerable families are referred to the Team Around the Family. If the needs of the family are serious enough and/or there is a child protection concern the case will be referred via the appropriate child protection routes. A clear map of support available to vulnerable families is provided within the Families First Action Plan. A process map sets out the referral process and the thresholds for intervention within the programme.
- f) Seven out of nine strategically commissioned Families First elements (play; income maximisation; parenting; young carers; childcare; youth support) have been delivering since April 2012. Delivery of the Family Support element commenced November 2012. The two remaining elements are due to be out for tender in December 2012 – they are (3) Buddy Service and (4) Home/Community Based Play Development for disabled children.

13b.2 The CYPP also informed the LSCB of the work it had done on the multi agency Anti Bullying strategy and work underway to improve the response to childhood injuries and the Welsh Government's "Talk to Me" suicide and self-harm reduction strategy.

13b.3 The partnership drew the Board's attention to the potential impact of partnership re-structures and delivery mechanisms locally, as several partnerships across both counties were being reviewed.

13b.4 The CYPP had identified the needs of young carers as a priority area to be addressed in the coming year.

14. Adult Services

Local authorities provide services to adults who may have caring responsibilities for children who may be in need. Children may be caused distress or be harmed in families where the adults have mental health problems, misuse substances or are in a violent relationship. This means that when staff are providing services to adults they should be asking whether there are children in the family and considering whether the children need help or protection from harm.

14a. Conwy County Borough Council Adult Services

14a.1 Conwy Adult Services reported in December 2013, and provided the following information:

- a) Child protection awareness training is mandatory for all staff in adult Services. The Transitional Team, who deal with young adults moving from receiving children's Social Services to Adult Services as they turn eighteen, undertake a more in-depth course on child protection.
- b) Cases of concern are discussed at the Protection of Vulnerable Adults (POVA) multi-agency committee, and any links with child protection issues are discussed and reviewed.
- c) There had been closer working between Adult Services and Children's Services due to an increasing number of cases where joint input is required, in particular in relation to cases where parents have a substance misuse or learning difficulty.
- d) Conwy undertook an internal management review of a case involving Adult Learning Disabilities services and Children's services, in order to learn how to improve the relationship between the two services. The review found that practitioners in adult services were not always fully conversant with the processes within Children's Services, and this made appropriate input difficult at times.
- e) The IT system had been further developed to allow linkages between cases known to Adult Services and Children's Services
- f) There had been joined-up working around children with parents who have a Learning Disability.

14a.2 Conwy Adult Services was continuing to undertake the following work in support of the LSCB's priorities:

- a) Working with organisations in Third sector to identify the increased risk of trafficking of vulnerable young adults.
- b) Continuing to work closely with Community Development Services in relation to Children in Transition who may require physical intervention strategies due to the level of challenge.
- c) Promoting e-safety with young adults with autism
- d) Monitoring the numbers of repeat referrals for young adults who may be being targeted for sexual exploitation due to their vulnerability. Working with professionals from Health around behaviour Management strategies where false reporting occurs to minimise the impact of this on others.
- e) Providing self harm training as part of the 'Talk To Me' suicide reduction campaign.
- f) Engaging in the discussions around Integrated Family Support Service (IFSS) in respect of Adult Service's response to parents who have alcohol or substance misuse, mental health, or domestic abuse problems, which results in compromised parenting
- g) Participating in the pre-birth and post-birth assessments for parents with a learning disability by using Parent Assessment Manual Software (PAMS), agreement all adult Learning Disabilities workers will be PAMS trained by 2015.
- h) Ensuring that adult services where appropriate are working closely with Children's services to ensure safeguarding issues are addressed.

14a.3 Conwy Adult Services considered that the benefits of working with a family as a whole need to be addressed strategically.

15b. Denbighshire County Council Adult Services

15b.1 Local authorities provide services to adults who may have caring responsibilities for children who may be in need. Children may be caused distress or be harmed in families where the adults have mental health problems, misuse substances or are in a violent relationship. This means that when staff are providing services to adults they should be asking whether there are children in the family and considering whether the children need help or protection from harm. The LSCB asked Adult Services in Conwy and Denbighshire to report to the Board on the actions they were taking to safeguard children. In September 2012, Denbighshire Adult Services reported to the LSCB on its long standing priorities in relation to safeguarding children. The priorities had been identified mainly via lessons learnt both locally and nationally from case examples ranging from serious case reviews to ongoing issues raised through day to day practice. In addition, the service provided information on the actions it was taking in support of those priorities. The priorities and actions were as follows:

- a) • Safeguarding of children whose parents have mental health issues or are dependant on drugs and / or alcohol. - Adult Services looked forward to the new, revised, North Wales protocol for supporting children when working with parents with severe mental illness and / or substance misuse becoming available. The ' Supporting Children, Supporting Parents: A North Wales Multi-Agency Protocol' was reviewed in December 2012.
- b) • Parents with a learning disability and the tension between the needs of the child and the parents' needs. - Work had started to look at the development of a protocol for joint working in relation to parents with a learning disability. A working group is looking at developing a model for using with parents who have a learning disability, which incorporates an agreement with parents - with clear links to safeguarding any children involved.
- c) • Young carers – it was recognised that there was a need to develop a joint approach to meet the needs of the adult and child within the family. - A draft protocol had been developed in relation to the Assessment Process for Young Carers
- d) • The development of adult placement schemes and their interface with fostering placements. - An agreement had been developed in relation to sharing risk assessments between adult placements and foster placements in order to safeguard both children and vulnerable adults, where both schemes operate within the same household and share the same carers The agreement is being closely monitored by respective team managers and issues arising are dealt with promptly.

15b.2 Denbighshire Adult Services recognised that whilst there had been areas of progress as indicated above, there were remaining challenges and further work was needed to review and ratify protocols as well as monitor their implementation.

16. Education /Lifelong Learning

Educational settings, including independent schools, have a crucial role to play in identifying welfare concerns, additional needs and indicators of possible abuse and neglect, at an early stage. Denbighshire Lifelong Learning reported in December 2011, so their report is not included here.

16a. Conwy County Borough Council Education

16a.1 Conwy County Borough Council Education department gave an account of its safeguarding work to the LSCB at its meeting in July 2012. The Education Social Work Service reported that it was focussing on the following actions in support of safeguarding children:

- a) to identify all new staff coming into Education Services and for them to attend Child Protection Training over and above what we already offer as a rolling programme of training to all staff.
- b) to undertake Criminal ~Records Bureau (CRB) checks for all nominated Child Protection (CP) Governors.
- c) to improve the quality of referrals to Children's Social Services where there are concerns about a child suffering abuse or neglect
- d) to offer specific training to all school CP Co-ordinators in respect of investigations into allegations against a professional ('Part 4 Investigations').

16a.2 The Education Social Work (ESW) Service noted the difficulties faced by schools staff when trying to arrange cover in order to attend safeguarding training. The service also noted the financial restraints that limited the amount of training they could provide for schools.

16a.3 In the year ahead, the ESW service planned to work with the Conwy Domestic Abuse Forum to identify how many children with a history of domestic violence were being supported by agencies, including Education, particularly in rural areas. The service also planned to analyse the frequency of referrals to school counsellors which have an element of domestic abuse.

17. Youth Services

In common with educational settings, the youth Service is well placed to identify welfare concerns, additional needs and indicators of possible abuse and neglect at an early stage.

17a. Conwy County Borough Council Youth Service

17a.1 Conwy Youth Services reported to the LSCB that it had considered two of the local and national priorities namely internet safety and the sexualisation of children and young people. This had led to the following activity:

- a) a planned programme of sessions to be delivered in schools and youth clubs to young people on keeping safe on the internet and safety in the use of social media.
- b) a programme of training for staff with 'Wisekids', an organisation that promotes positive and safe internet use, was completed during 2011/12.
- c) staff attended training on the sexual exploitation of young people.
- d) staff received training by Social Services on the protocols associated with the referral of young people in danger of sexual exploitation.

17a.2 Conwy CBC Youth Service identified the following areas for improvement, for attention in the coming year:

- a) Include safeguarding as a separate standing item from health and safety on team meeting agendas.
- b) Improve on the dissemination of serious case reviews highlighting key themes and issues with staff.
- c) Extend our child protection training to include ancillary staff – administrative and cleaning staff.
- d) improve its internal monitoring of referrals to Social Services and/or appropriate agencies and track the results.
- e) in partnership with the newly established Young Persons Substance Misuse Service (YPSMS) [Barnados] provide training for staff on the latest information on substances in the area, and ensure that all staff are conversant with the YPSMS assessment and referral tool following training.

17b. Denbighshire County Borough Council Youth Service

17b.1 Denbighshire Youth Services reported their concerns over the access to drugs and alcohol for 14-17 yr olds (Llangollen, Rhyl). They reported that access to cannabis seemed common and attitudes to using were accepted and casual. New and emerging drugs in Rhyl were also accessible and in use by young people. Youth Work programmes raised awareness of substance misuse and alcohol in terms of having healthier lifestyles. Youth workers engage with young people regarding legal highs and challenge young people use, and alcohol and tobacco kits had been purchased for use in each locality.

17b.2 The Service reported that bullying of young people by young people remained a general issue. This also included young people's behaviour that may not be recognised as bullying behaviour. Youth workers address bullying with young people who present as either victims or perpetrators. Denbighshire Youth Service was involved in the new Prestatyn community bullying strategy, and aimed to consult young people on a county-wide strategy.

17b.3 Another concern related to some young people who have low self esteem which may be related to situations where they self harm. The Service recognised that it is difficult to link these behaviours with causes, but recognised challenging family / domestic circumstances can be contributory factors.

17b.4 Denbighshire Youth Services informed the LSCB of its activities aimed at encouraging young people to have safer relationships, in order to support their informed choice around sexual activity. The Service had also implemented the Rhyl Football League as a positive diversionary activity to support engaging young people who otherwise may be at risk.

18. Conwy & Denbighshire Youth Justice Service (YJS)

18.1 Youth Justice Teams are responsible for the supervision of children and young people subject to pre court interventions and statutory court disposals. Given their multi agency membership, they are well placed to identify those children and young people known to relevant organisations as being most at risk of offending and to undertake work to prevent them offending. Children and young people sentenced or remanded to custody often have a diverse range of complex needs. Conwy and Denbighshire YJS feel that specific consideration must therefore be given to safeguarding this particular group.

18.2 A number of children who are supervised by the YJS will also be children in need and some of their needs will require safeguarding. It is therefore necessary for there to be clear links between YJS, children's services, Education and the LSCB both at strategic level and at a child-specific operational level.

18.3 The YJS has a 'high risk and safeguarding' procedure. A internal multi agency panel meets twice monthly to review children and young people who are a risk to others and a risk to themselves in terms of their vulnerability. Operational managers chair the panel and they co-sign the Risk of Serious Harm Assessment and Plan or Vulnerability Management Plan. The panel reviews all documentation and may decide to refer up to other forums, for example the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), which manage offenders; or the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), which manages high risk domestic abuse cases, as appropriate.

18.4 Sexually harmful behaviour remained a priority for the YJS, and they reported that they were working closely with all relevant agencies to address ongoing cases. Just as importantly, they were also trying to form a prevention strategy to help identify problematic behaviours at the earliest opportunity and address those behaviours in a constructive manner. The YJS sit on a number of local and regional sub groups mapping out this agenda and hoped to make significant progress during 2013. Inappropriate sexualised behaviour still remains an issue for schools, particularly around how young people use technology such as face book and pictures messages. YJS also reported that they had had a number of cases where young women said they had not given consent for sexual activity, but young males believed that they had. A majority of these cases are dropped by the police. However, YJS suggested that specific work needed to happen within schools around legalities and consent amongst adolescents.

18.5 YJS also drew the LSCB's attention to changes in legislation, which had resulted in stricter criteria having to be met before young people could be remanded. In addition, when a young person is remanded, they become 'Looked After' by the local authority, and as such are entitled to 'leaving care' support after 13 weeks. YJS advised that although restricting young people entering custody on remand is a good measure, the likely effect is an increase in the number of children remanded to local authority accommodation. A further significant change from the 1st April 2013 will be that the cost for any youth Remand will fall onto the local authority.

19. Conwy & Denbighshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP)

19.1 Risks to children associated with parents who misuse drugs and alcohol, and the emotional and sometimes other abuse suffered by children living with domestic abuse are amongst the most common risks faced by children on the child protection register. Conwy & Denbighshire CSP is the lead partnership on drugs, alcohol, domestic violence and safer communities. The community safety partnership reported to the LSCB in July 2012, and reported that it had identified the following priorities in support of safeguarding children:

- a) To deliver/maintain the Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (IDVA) Service
- b) To promote attendance at the MARAC
- c) To deliver the Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA) Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour Based violence (DASH) Risk Identification Checklist (RIC) training
- d) To continue to support financially, and monitor the performance of the Safer Homes initiative, which aims to increase the security of the homes of survivors of domestic abuse, and reduce the fear of repeat incidents.
- e) To raise awareness, and deliver events and training on drug abuse / substance misuse
- f) To ensure that there is adequate provision of Substance Misuse services for young people In Conwy and Denbighshire.
- g) To launch the new dedicated Children and Young People Substance Misuse service in Conwy and Denbighshire.
- h) To support the work of the Prevent And Deter (PAD) team within the Youth Justice Service (YJS)- to financially support the work of the teams to prevent youth offending in Conwy and Denbighshire, and to monitor the youth offending rates in both counties.
- i) To continue to support the work of Dangerpoint in preventing accidents at home and preventing crime and criminal damage.
- j) To ensure that all service providers commissioned by the Substance Misuse Action Team (SMAT) have appropriate safeguarding arrangements in place. This has been identified as a priority due to the production of Welsh Assembly Government National Core Standards for Substance Misuse Services in Wales. In particular Standard 16 'Organisations comply with national child protection guidance within their own activities and in dealing with other organisations'

19.2 The CSP noted their concern relating to the number of children and young people who were abusive to their parents and carers. Although this issue was considered by the LSCB Board at its business planning day, other, more pressing priorities were chosen as the issues to be addressed by the LSCB during 2013-14.

19.3 The LSCB was concerned that there appeared to be no overarching strategy for domestic abuse, which brought together the various projects and initiatives in place. The Board agreed that the development of a local Conwy & Denbighshire Domestic Abuse Action Plan should be a priority for the Board during 2013-14.

20. North Wales Fire & Rescue Service

20.1 North Wales Fire & Rescue Service delivers approximately 30,000 Home Fire Safety Checks each year, many of these are at premises where there is potential vulnerability of both children and adults, and personnel are in a good position to spot children who may be at risk of abuse or neglect.

20.2 Fire & Rescue educationalists visit all schools at 3 key stages. Amongst others, there are schemes to educate young persons (3-11) who have developed an unhealthy attraction with fire and for older children who have been identified as fire starters (11-17)

20.3 The Service reported its safeguarding children priorities for 2012-13:

- a) To continue with all current education delivery in relation to fire safety in the home and consequences of deliberate fire setting.
- b) To set up a robust timetable for visiting youth clubs in hot spot areas to deliver training/awareness sessions.
- c) To ensure all relevant personnel have the necessary security checks
- d) To produce a Service policy in relation child safeguarding.
- e) To deliver training to the entire Service in relation to the policy, especially the method of referring any form of child neglect or abuse. Most training had taken place, and the Service reported that referrals had been made since the inception of this policy.

20.4 The Service reported that deliberate fires/anti social behaviour remained an issue across North Wales. Often these fires are caused by young people. The Service asked if the LSCB could assist with highlighting the young persons earlier, and it was agreed that contact should be made with the Integrated Family Support co-ordinator, who would be able to advise and support further.

21. NSPCC

21.1 The NSPCC had identified the following priorities for 2012-13:

- a) Working with children, young people and their families who have lived with or witnessed Domestic abuse. This work is delivered through the Domestic Abuse Recovering Together programme (DART) . Through the DART programme 16 mothers and their children were able to reframe their relationship and unpack their experiences of Domestic Abuse.
- b) Working with perpetrators of domestic abuse and family conflict through our parent education programme CDSC (Caring Dads Safer Children). This programme also has an element for Partner support & children's assessment attached to it to ensure that behavioural change is monitored and substantiated by partners & children as well as what's observed within the 17 week programme. Caring Dads Safer Children received 19 referrals from the Conwy and Denbighshire area during the year.
- c) Supporting children and young people who are experiencing difficulties due to their parents and carers suffering from mental health issues. This work is done through the Family SMILES group work programme.
- d) Working with Parents /Carers who suffer from mental health issues. This will be through the Family SMILES. As above this programme is also evaluated
- e) Support and listen to children and young people who Looked After are including children who are in Kinship care. This is done through the NSPCC's Connecting with Children in Care: Face to Face programme
- f) To continue to work in partnership with local agencies to ensure safeguarding responsibilities work together to support vulnerable children and young people
- g) To continue to ensure that staff are highly trained in safeguarding children, young people and their families by providing training through the NSPCC's National Training Centre.
- h) To continue to recruit staff safely and ensure that the necessary actions are taken to reduce the risks to children. All staff employed by the NSPCC (Services for Children and Families) are Registered Social Workers and/or Qualified Registers Therapists who are all CRB (Enhanced) checked every 3 years.
- i) in partnership with BCHUB to continue to deliver the Non Accidental Head Injury Service that educates new parents on the impact of Baby Shaking Syndrome and preventing Non Accidental Head Injury. Working together with BCHUB the NSPCC inducted over 350 Midwives and health care professionals across North Wales in the Non Accidental Head Injury Programme during the year.
- j) To continue to provide joint services to vulnerable families across Denbighshire as part of Families First Consortium. This will continue until March 2014.

21.2 The NSPCC reported that there was a gap in service for children and young people who have been abused, and that there was a risk that current staffing levels could not meet the demand: for every 9 referrals made to the service, only 5 could be accepted.

21.3 Looking ahead, the NSPCC intended to look at how they could better support children living with domestic abuse and ensure that they could access a distinct service. A new therapeutic service for post sexual abuse recovery work ' Letting the Future In'. the service will be available for children and young people aged 4 to 17 who are affected by sexual abuse, and who have been the subject of a single or multi-agency investigation, or where children's services have taken protective action although a child may have chosen not to make a formal statement to the police.

22. Public Health Wales

22.1 The work of the staff in Public Health Wales (PHW) may take them into schools, communities and homes, but differs from the work of other NHS organisations in that there are no in-patients or long-term clients, but staff are involved in screening, health protection, research and the promotion of good health. Recommendations from Serious Case Reviews across Wales are shared with the Named Nurse Safeguarding Children by the Safeguarding Children Service. The Named Nurse then addresses any identified training needs within Public Health Wales.

22.2 Public Health Wales has a Safeguarding Children Training Strategy which specifies that training is mandatory for all staff and which has included training to the Board. In addition, multi-agency training is made available to staff via the Named Nurse webpage, the e-bulletin and is cascaded to link staff in teams where training is deemed appropriate.

22.3 PHW also reported that the following policies and protocols were in place or were being developed:

- a) A Safeguarding Children Strategy and Training Strategy have been approved.
- b) A Safeguarding Children Policy has been developed, as have supporting procedures in: Recognition, Referral and Record-Keeping, Case Conference and Clinical Safeguarding Supervision.
- c) A Professional Abuse Policy has been developed and is about to go out for consultation.
- d) A Protocol for Staff working with Sexually Active Young People is being developed.

23. Wales Ambulance Service Trust (WAST)

23.1 The ambulance service comes into contact with children and families during critical incidents. When staff are trained to be aware of safeguarding issues, they can identify children in need of safeguarding and pass this information on to children's social services.

23.2 The Trust has a safeguarding team, which supports Trust staff in the operational aspects of safeguarding, and the Head of Safeguarding takes the organisational strategic lead on all safeguarding related matters. The Safeguarding Team strives to support WAST staff in achieving both their individual responsibilities and that of the organisation in safeguarding people. This has been achieved by sharing topical information in regular safeguarding bulletins in addition to education and training programmes. The Trust provided the LSCB with a summary of training delivered and the percentages of staff in different positions who were trained in child protection awareness and more specific safeguarding issues such as children who pose a risk to themselves and domestic abuse. The Trust's Safeguarding Team also provides supervision for staff on safeguarding matters, on a needs-led basis, for example, following the death of a child.

23.3 WAST's Safeguarding Team looked into 37 'adverse incidents' – where an occasion for safeguarding a child did not go as well as it could have - during 2011-12. The team shared the learning from these events across WAST via information bulletins in addition to staff and managers with a tailored approach to individual learning. Where appropriate, education packages were amended to reflect the necessary changes required to improve practice.

23.4 Across Wales the Trust made 2311 referrals to children's social services in 2011-12. In North Wales, the number of safeguarding children referrals per 10,000 population from WAST was highest in Denbighshire, followed by Flintshire and then Conwy. Across Wales, and also reflected in the North Wales data, alcohol misuse was the most significant feature of referrals, although the data was not able to distinguish between children who had been drinking and children who had been put at risk by adults drinking. In response to the large number of referrals relating to children who had been drinking, the Trust had developed a supporting guidance tool, which helped staff identify which children needed to be referred and which did not. Domestic abuse was the second highest identified concern for safeguarding children in referrals from WAST.

24. Wales Probation Trust (WPT)

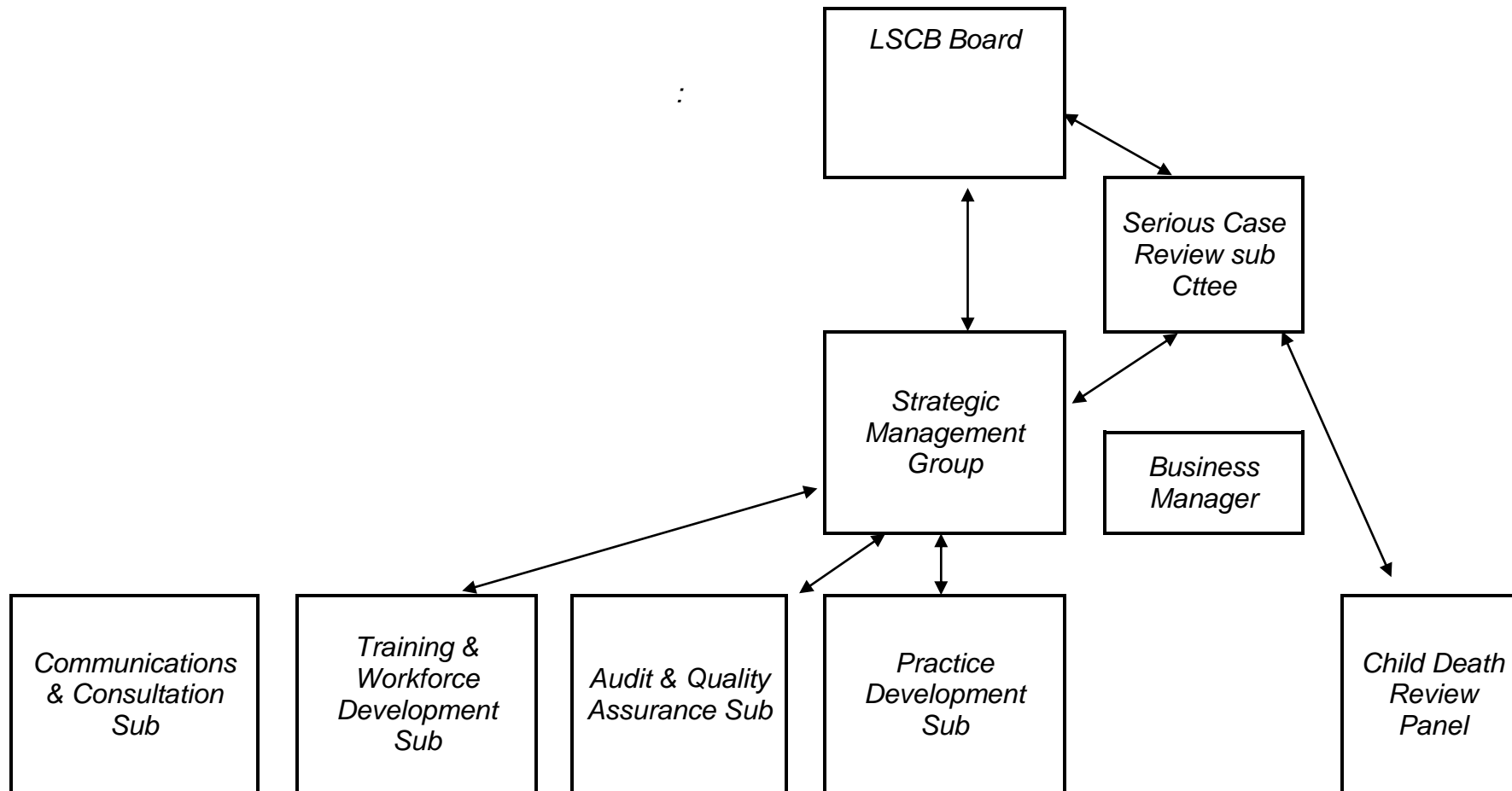
24.1 While Probation Trusts are primarily responsible for working with adult offenders, they need to give careful consideration to provision and services that may also involve children. Where an adult offender is assessed as presenting a risk of serious harm to children, a risk management plan and supervision plan are developed which contain specific objectives to manage and reduce the risk of harm to children. Probation also considers how planned interventions might bear on parental responsibilities and whether the planned interventions could contribute to improved outcomes for children known to be in an existing relationship with the offender.

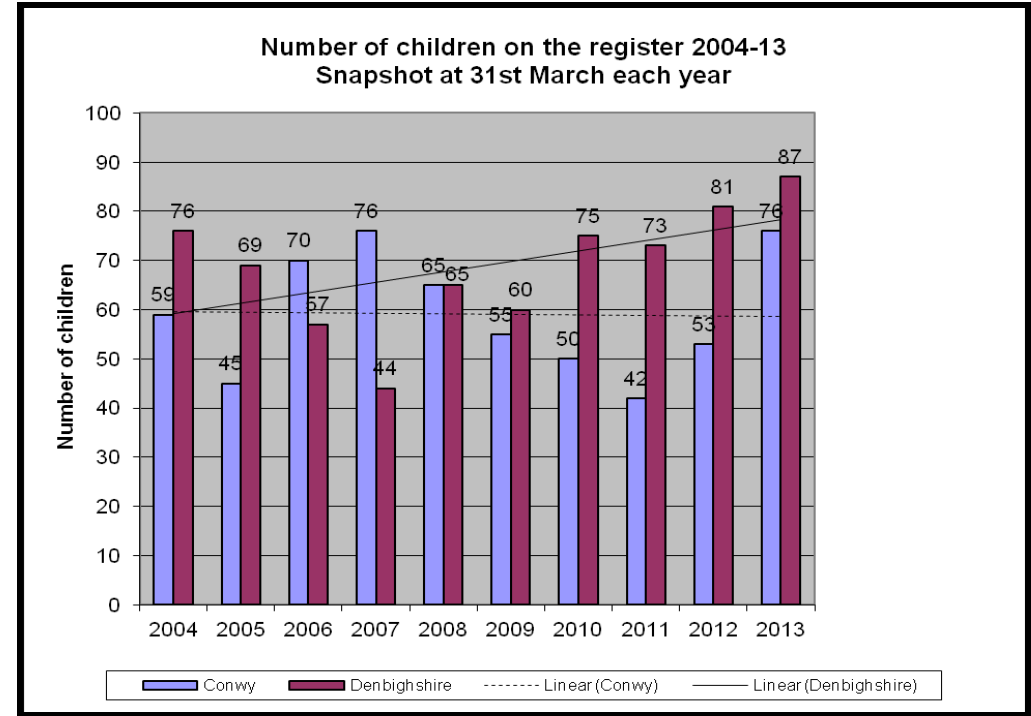
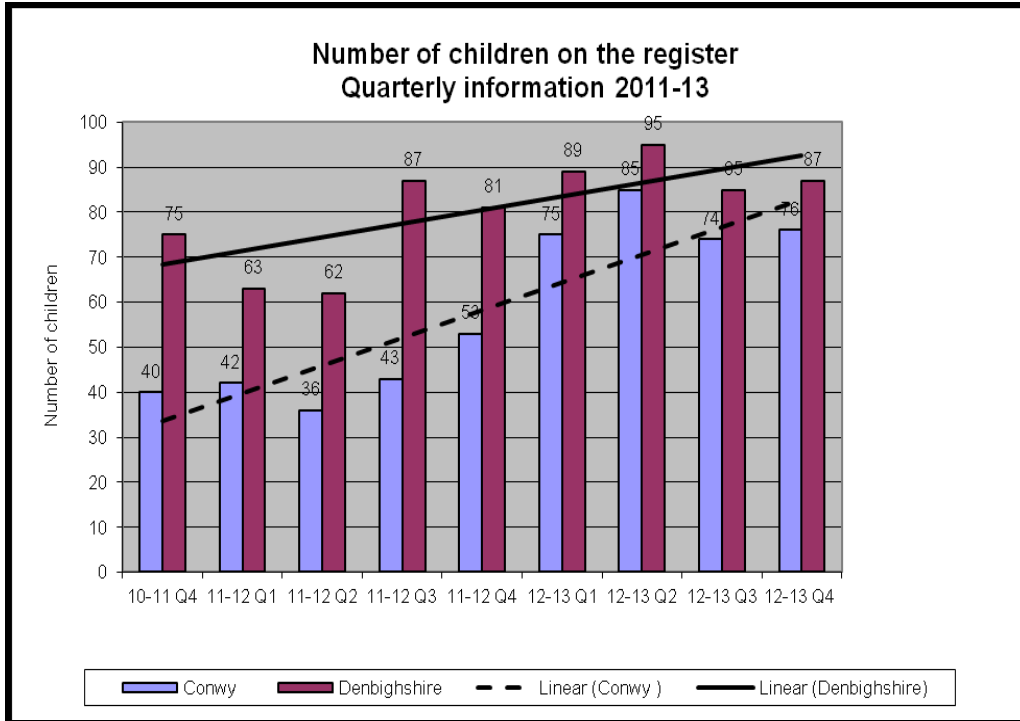
24.2 All Serious Further Offences (SFOs) are subject to a rigorous review by the Wales Probation Trust which is overseen by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) Offender Management and Public Protection Group. On a local basis serious further offences involving the safeguarding of children are reported to the LSCB. The lessons from serious further offences investigations are disseminated throughout Wales via an SFO Newsletter and local action plans. Learning from SFOs was incorporated into a Trust-led all Wales project entitled "Excellence in Rehabilitation and Public Protection" of which there is a Safeguarding Children workstream.

24.3 The Safeguarding Children workstream is planned to encompass the following areas of practice:

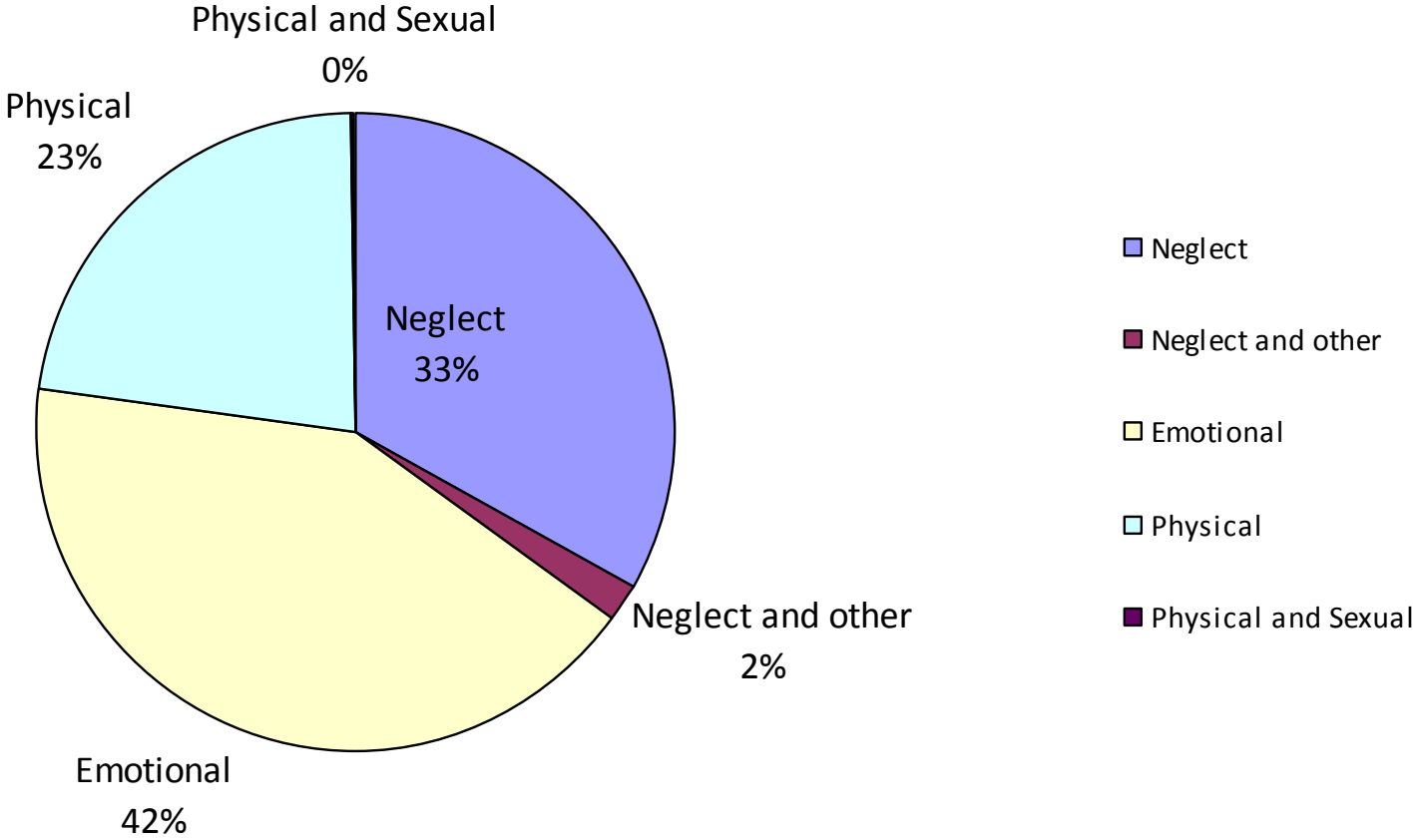
- a) Ensure that the safeguarding Practice Direction, including good quality delivery of safeguarding practice, is implemented consistently across Wales in order to demonstrate a high quality standard of working
- b) Develop a package of safeguarding training material for all staff and management
- c) Ensure that staff fully understand and implement their responsibilities for safeguarding
- d) Attend consistently at LSCBs and Adult Safeguarding Boards, working with other agencies to promote the safeguarding agenda
- e) Ensure Wales Probation is meeting its statutory obligations and duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults across Wales
- f) Ensure that WPT takes a consistent approach to furthering the development of Integrated Family Support Services (IFSS) by contributing to establishing IFSS across Wales, including establishing Boards, Integrated Family Support Teams, and working with stakeholders and partners to promote good practice, reducing costs to statutory services and wider communities
- g) Ensure WPT is contributing to the Troubled Families agenda, including working with children and families affected by parental imprisonment and to contribute to an evaluated community support model for the children and families of offenders
- h) Work with the prison estate to reduce the likelihood of reoffending and revolving door culture through working with children and families affected by parental imprisonment
- i) Ensure that Wales Probation is prepared for the new legislation being introduced in 2013 to support the protection of vulnerable adults
- j) Adapt the learning from serious case / child practice reviews, Domestic Homicide and POVA reviews to develop and ensure good practice

24.4 The report from the Local Delivery Unit noted that a key challenge in the coming year would be to ensure effective collaboration between the North Wales Regional Safeguarding Children's Board and the sub- regional LSCBs and their sub-groups. The report noted that there were tensions around ensuring inclusive representation at an appropriate level, efficiency of attendance, and the pooling resources / budgets whilst ensuring that local agendas and differences are recognised..

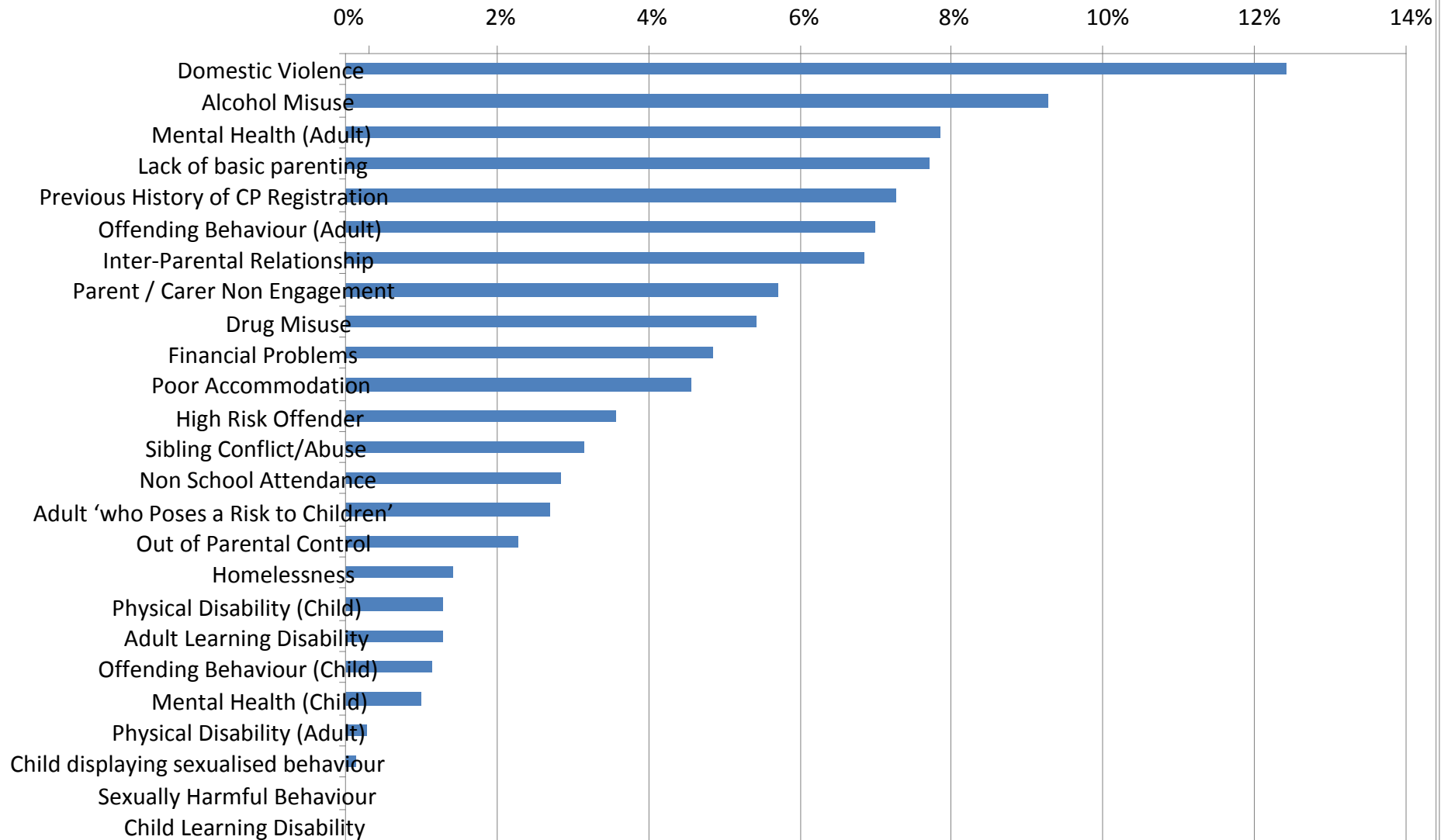




Conwy & Denbighshire Category of Registration 2012/13



Conwy & Denbighshire: Risks faced by children as identified at initial child protection conferences during 2012-13



Progress against the Business Plan 2012-13

Priority 1 - Children exhibiting Inappropriate Sexualised Behaviour are identified early and offered help, and children at risk of harm from other children are protected. SAIT standard 2.				
Ref	Actions & Milestones	Resources	Progress	status
1a	<p>The LSCB resources a task group which will consider current provision for children exhibiting Inappropriate Sexualised Behaviour, and to develop a model for future provision</p> <p>By April 2012, a revived task group is established.</p> <p>Report to Board by December 2012,</p> <p>March 2013, actions included in LSCB partner agencies' annual reports.</p>	<p>Youth Justice Service / CAMHS plus other representatives</p> <p>PD subgroup*</p>	<p>Report came to December Executive Board meeting. Action continues into 2013-14.</p>	GREEN

Priority 1 - Children exhibiting Inappropriate Sexualised Behaviour are identified early and offered help, and children at risk of harm from other children are protected. SAIT standard 2.

Ref	Actions & Milestones	Resources	Progress	status
1b	<p>The LSCB ensures that children at risk of harm from ISB from other children are protected.</p> <p>From July 2012, partnerships with safeguarding responsibilities inform the Board what actions they are taking to help all children protect themselves from ISB via their annual reports</p>	<p>CYPP link Board Members</p> <p>HSCWB link Board Members</p>	<p>The CSP report to the Board July 2012 contained the following relevant references:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teenage Relationship & Sexual Violence: Partnership working between the CSP and Ysgol Emrys Ap Iwan. The School drama group produce and deliver educational plays based on sexual crime to help raise awareness amongst their peers. Currently working with local Youth media group to produce Welsh Language version with the potential to incl in future SLO education within schools. • Reduce offending amongst under 18s • Management of the night time economy • Controlling the night-time economy, ensuring that the insidious supply of alcohol to those already drunk, and that all the risk associated with 'binge drinking culture are mitigated accordingly • School Community Police Officer : Continuous engagement within Schools. As part of the core programme, Officers deliver sessions to all pupils on the impact of anti-social behaviour and crime. <p>Actions addressing ISB/ Sexually Harmful Behaviour are included in the Conwy CYPP and Denbighshire CYPP reports to the December Board meeting.</p>	GREEN

Priority 2- The LSCB is assured that all available actions have been taken to reduce risks to children from unsafe staff. SAIT standard 10				
Ref	ACTIONS & MILESTONES	RESOURCES	PROGRESS	STATUS
2a	<p>The LSCB monitors partner agencies' procedures for safe recruitment and employment</p> <p>By July 2012, the Board is provided with information arising from in-depth consideration of partners' s28 audit responses around safe recruitment which allows the Board to be assured that procedures are in place and complied with, or that action plans are in place.</p>	A &QA sub-group	The Board considered a report on the section 28 audit at its meeting of 26 th September 2012.	GREEN
2b	<p>The LSCB resources a task group which will identify best practice in safe recruitment and employment , including commissioned/ contracted services</p> <p>By April 2012, a task group on safe employment is set up</p> <p>By December 2012 , the Board is provided with the information it needs to be able to make recommendations on improving safe recruitment and working practice (to include Part IVs) .</p> <p>By March 2013, LSCB partner agencies' annual reports have begun to include information on what they are doing to respond to the Board's recommendations on safe employment</p>	Safe employment task group Practice Development subgroup	The Board considered a report from the safe employment task group at its December 2012 meeting, and agreed the focus of the group's work. Work is ongoing. Although good practice is being shared amongst agencies, the Board's target to make recommendations on improving safe recruitment and working practice has not been met.	AMBER

Priority 2- The LSCB is assured that all available actions have been taken to reduce risks to children from unsafe staff. SAIT standard 10

Ref	ACTIONS & MILESTONES	RESOURCES	PROGRESS	STATUS
2c	<p>The LSCB works with the C&YP Partnerships to improve safe employment practices in the voluntary sector</p> <p>From September 2012, via their annual reports, the C&YP partnerships inform the Board about the actions they are taking to help the voluntary sector improve its recruitment and employment /volunteering practices.</p>	<p>CYPP link Board Members CYPP co-ordinators</p>	<p>The LSCB has worked jointly with the Children and young People's partnerships in both counties to further develop the 'Voluntary Sector Toolkit' , which was launched in March 2012. The revised document is to be re-launched via two events in October.</p> <p>Actions addressing safe employment were included in the Conwy CYPP and Denbighshire CYPP reports to the December Board meeting.</p>	<p>GREEN</p>

Priority 3 - A common understanding of thresholds for intervention supports vulnerable families and helps identify children in need of protection SAIT standard 2 & 21

Ref	ACTIONS & MILESTONES	RESOURCES	PROGRESS	STATUS
3a	<p>The LSCB resources a task group which will identify thresholds and access to different tiers of services (universal, targeted, statutory SSD) and the actions needed to develop a common understanding of them</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By April 2012, the task group is established. • By September 2012, the Board is provided with the information it needs to be able to make recommendations on developing a common understanding of thresholds • By December 2012, LSCB partner agencies' annual reports have begun to include information on what they are doing to respond to the Board's recommendations on thresholds. 	<p>Operational Manager/ Denbighshire C&FS /Practice Development subgroup</p>	<p>The Framework For Analysis has been rolled out across Conwy & Denbighshire, and training on its use has been provided for partners.</p> <p>The Framework For Analysis tool is a suite of documents comprising of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Pathways to Services' - 'Graded Care Profile' - 'Assessment Tools - what to use when' - 'Parental Attributes - Potential For Change' Model <p>The tool provides a framework that frontline workers in agencies can reference when considering how to respond to concerns they have identified. It provides clarity about the ways in which families are able to gain access to the appropriate level of support they need across a range of services and attempts to demystify the process and professional judgement making when social services respond to referrals. The tool aims to better support the multi-agency network in the assessment, care planning, intervention and review cycle throughout the duration of concerns being held about a child / family. It does this by providing a framework for multi-professional evaluation and decision making.</p> <p>The need for further training for partners, including the voluntary sector, has been identified.</p>	GREEN

Priority 3 - A common understanding of thresholds for intervention supports vulnerable families and helps identify children in need of protection SAIT standard 2 & 21

Ref	ACTIONS & MILESTONES	RESOURCES	PROGRESS	STATUS
3b	<p>The LSCB ensures that there are mechanisms in place to identify and support vulnerable families, children in need, and children in need of protection</p> <p>By March 2013, the Children & Young Peoples' Partnerships, via their annual reports or another mechanism, will have reported on how Families First / IFSS is supporting vulnerable families and helping to identify children in need of protection</p>	Board link CYPP members	Both the Conwy CYPP and Denbighshire CYPP reports to the December Board meeting included an update on Families First /IFSS.	GREEN

Priority 4 - Children are safer because partnerships with safeguarding responsibilities work together to safeguard children SAIT standard 21				
Ref	ACTIONS & MILESTONES	RESOURCES	PROGRESS	STATUS
4a	<p>The LSCB brings together key people from partnerships with safeguarding responsibilities, and including Adult Services, from both counties to discuss safeguarding issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By June 2012 the meeting is arranged • By December 2012, the Board is provided with the information it needs to make recommendations on how partnerships can work together to safeguard children • Partnerships with safeguarding responsibilities report to the LSCB on their safeguarding activities via the annual rolling programme • By March 2013, partnerships' annual reports begin to include information on what they are doing to respond to the Board's recommendations. • The LSCB's annual report will include details on the collaborative joint events and common programmes of action undertaken with other Partnerships with safeguarding responsibilities 	LSCB Board	<p>The meeting took place on 7th September. A key decision from the meeting was that managers and co-ordinators from the partnerships should be invited to the LSCB's business planning day, and this was achieved at the meeting of 27th November 2012.</p> <p>Key issues and actions were included as an appendix to the SAIT and business planning report to the December Board meeting.</p> <p>The annual reports from both the Conwy CYPP and Denbighshire CYPP to the Board meeting of 19th December identified areas where they are supporting the LSCB's priorities.</p>	GREEN

Priority 5 Children experiencing difficulties due to their parents'/carers' drug & alcohol, mental health or domestic violence problems are identified so that concerns do not escalate from safeguarding to child protection issues SAIT standard 2

Ref	ACTIONS & MILESTONES	RESOURCES	PROGRESS	STATUS
5a	<p>The LSCB works with/ via the MARAC Steering Group to map current provision for domestic abuse, and develop a model for future provision</p> <p>By December 2012, the Board is provided with the information it needs to make recommendations to improve provision for domestic abuse.</p> <p>By March 2013, LSCB partner agencies' annual reports have begun to include information on what they are doing to respond to the Board's recommendations</p>	<p>Chair of MARAC / Practice Development sub-group</p>	<p>Closer ties have been established between the MARAC steering group and the LSCB</p> <p>The 1,000 Safer Lives project has been discussed at the Practice Development Group.</p> <p>The Practice Development group tired to progress this via the MARAC Steering Group, but this did not fall within its remit.</p> <p>The progress to date was discussed at the annual SAIT and business planning day, and it was agreed that this should continue as a priority for next year, with the Youth Justice Services Strategic Manager and domestic violence coordinator working with the LSCB and CSP to produce a Local Domestic Abuse Action Plan.</p>	RED
5b	<p>The LSCB ensures that staff are aware of, and confident in using the revised NW Mental Health and Substance Abuse Protocol.</p> <p>By March 2013, the Board is provided with the information it needs to assess the awareness and confidence of staff in using the revised NW Mental Health and substance Abuse Protocol.</p>	<p>Practice Development subgroup / Communications & Consultation sub-group</p> <p>Training sub-group</p>	<p>The revised Mental Health Protocol was ratified at the beginning of December and was circulated for information at the December Board meeting.</p> <p>The new protocol was launched at the LSCB's annual Conference on 15th March 2013. The Training sub group has also been requested to ensure that a series of workshops raises awareness of the protocol.</p> <p>The action remains on amber because the delayed ratification of the protocol has meant that training has been delayed and the assessment of the awareness and confidence of staff has not yet been possible.</p>	AMBER

PRIORITY 6 - TO ENSURE THAT THE DIRECTION, WORK AND REVIEW OF THE LSCB IS INFORMED BY CONSULTATION AND PARTICIPATION WITH CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE, THEIR PARENTS AND CARERS(SAIT standards 8 & 15)

Ref	ACTIONS & MILESTONES	RESOURCES	PROGRESS	STATUS
6a	<p>To review the results of consultation exercises with children and families who have been through the child protection process</p> <p>By September 2012, the results of consultation are reported to the Board.</p> <p>Issues concerning C&YP are taken into account when developing the LSCB's 2013-14 business plan.</p> <p>By December 2012, LSCB partner agencies' annual reports have begun to include information on what they are doing to respond to the Board's recommendations</p>	<p>Communications & Consultation sub-group</p>	<p>Children and families who had been through the child protection process were consulted during the year, and reports of the consultation produced. .</p> <p>The LSCB also conducted a survey in schools, asking how safe children felt in certain situations, and took part in a North Wales schools e-safety survey.</p> <p>A report on consultation and communication was considered by the Board at its March meeting.</p> <p>The consultation exercises were delayed for various reasons, and as a result, partner agencies have not been able to respond to the results of the consultation as planned.</p>	<p>AMBER</p>
6b	<p>To work with the C&YP partnerships to consult with children on the wider safeguarding agenda</p> <p>By September 2012, the Board will have sufficient information about the issues of concern to C&YP, their parents and carers to make recommendations that begin to address those issues</p>	<p>Communications & Consultation sub-group</p>	<p>The LSCB also conducted a survey in schools, asking how safe children felt in certain situations, and took part in a North Wales schools e-safety survey.</p> <p>The consultation exercises were delayed for various reasons, and the board has not been able to make recommendations to begin to address the issues raised.</p>	<p>AMBER</p>

7. THE LSCB CONTINUES TO IMPROVE ITS EFFECTIVENESS				
Ref	ACTIONS & MILESTONES	RESOURCES	PROGRESS	STATUS
7a	<p>The Board is assured that its members fulfil their duties under s28 of the Children Act 2004. (SAIT standard 7)</p> <p>By July 2012, the Board is provided with the information it needs to form a judgement on whether the s28 audit process gives the LSCB the assurance it needs that partners are fulfilling their duties</p> <p>The Board receives an annual report from each partner agency which outlines the agency's safeguarding priorities and any remaining challenges and issues, plus the contribution they have made to the LSCB's priorities.</p>	<p>Audit sub / the Board</p> <p>Audit sub-group</p> <p>All LSCB partner agencies represented on the Board</p>	S28 report was considered by the Board on 26 th September 2012.	GREEN
7b	<p>The Board is assured that policies and procedures are being implemented in practice. (SAIT standard 19)</p> <p>The Board is kept informed of any significant issues arising from multi-agency audits.</p>	Audit sub / the Board	SMG have not identified any significant issues to be brought to the Board's attention. The results of audits have been passed to the Practice Development Group, which has developed action plans to address the issues raised.	GREEN

7. THE LSCB CONTINUES TO IMPROVE ITS EFFECTIVENESS				
Ref	ACTIONS & MILESTONES	RESOURCES	PROGRESS	STATUS
7c	<p>The Board is active in informing all members of the community of the role they can play in making their community safer. (SAIT standard 17)</p> <p>By December 2012, the Board is provided with the information it needs to allow Board members to make a judgement on how well the community is informed about their role in making their community safer</p>	<p>Communication sub-group</p>	<p>A revised poster has been produced for wide distribution Pages for children, and for parents and carers, have been created on the website The LSCB now has a facebook page and twitter account. The LSCB has had a presence at summer fairs, open days and concerts</p> <p>A report from the Communications and Consultation sub group is on the agenda for 4th March.</p>	GREEN
7d	<p>The LSCB actively promotes feedback to and from frontline staff about safeguarding policy and practice. (SAIT standard 18)</p> <p>By December 2012, the Board is provided with the information it needs to make a judgement on how well this objective has been achieved</p> <p>By March 2013 the LSCB's annual conference has been delivered</p>	<p>Communication sub-group</p> <p>£2.5k</p>	<p>Report on the agenda for 4th March 2013.</p> <p>The LSCB's 2nd annual conference is scheduled to take place on 15th March 2013. Opportunities for feedback from frontline staff have been built in to the conference format.</p>	GREEN

7. THE LSCB CONTINUES TO IMPROVE ITS EFFECTIVENESS				
Ref	ACTIONS & MILESTONES	RESOURCES	PROGRESS	STATUS
7e	<p>Key training/learning events are identified and delivered for all levels of staff</p> <p>By May 2012, the Board is provided with the information it needs to determine whether the LSCB's training programme meets the requirements of working together.</p> <p>The LSCB's 2012-13 Training programme is delivered</p>	<p>Training sub-group</p> <p>£7.5k</p>	<p>The Board considered the Training Annual Report and Training Strategy at its meeting on 24th May 2012 .</p> <p>The large event on 'Compromised parenting' took place on 19th September 2012.</p> <p>Barnardo's have been commissioned to deliver three training events on Safeguarding Sexually Exploited Children and young People. They have also been commissioned to deliver a large event on Hidden Harm.</p> <p>Training events have proceeded as planned, with additional training on Child Sexual Exploitation also taking place.</p>	GREEN
7f	<p>The LSCB has a robust process for learning</p> <p>The Board is regularly updated on any reviews underway, progress against action plans, and learning</p>	<p>Serious Case Review Sub-committee, PD , C&C subgroups</p>	<p>The Board considered the action plan update at its meeting on 24th May 2012. Learning from NW LSCB's SCRs was reported to the board in July 2012.</p> <p>Learning from SCRs was included in the LSCB's newsletter.</p> <p>The LSCB has conducted a pilot Concise Child Practice Review</p> <p>The SCR/ CPR sub-committee considered a report from the first 'Case of Special Interest' in February 2013.</p>	GREEN
7g	<p>Areas for collaboration and integration with the other NW LSCBs are identified and progressed.</p> <p>The WG is satisfied with the progress made towards integration and collaboration.</p>	<p>LSCB Chair and Vice Chair</p>	<p>The Board considered a report on North Wales Integration and Collaboration at its meeting on 24th May 2012.</p> <p>A NW Integration task group has met twice. Draft Terms of Reference have been discussed.</p> <p>An update report was provided for the December Board meeting. A further update is on the agenda for the March Board.</p>	GREEN

No	RISK	Risk Owner	Impact / consequence	SCORE without controls	Controls to manage risk	SCORE with controls
1	The risk that a Serious Case Review finds failure of multi-agency working	LSCB Board Board Executive Lead from each agency	Possible avoidable serious harm to child. Loss of reputation for agencies involved. Damaged public trust.	C1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single and Multi-agency audits • Staff training & LSCB multi-agency training • Communication and promotion of policies and procedures • Holding agencies to account for their safeguarding activities • Cases of Special Interest procedure 	C1
2	The risk that the Board fails to hold member agencies to account, and the functioning and effectiveness of the LSCB is jeopardised by partners' unreliable commitment / excessive dependence on one or two partners	LSCB Board	<p>Failure in a member agency affects the reputation of the LSCB and all its members. The LSCB fails in its statutory duty. Loss of reputation and public confidence. A child suffers avoidable significant harm.</p> <p>Multi-agency perspectives on issues is not achieved. Protocols and procedures are not suitable for all agencies, and may not be followed. Training courses do not meet all agencies requirements. Children and Families may not receive the services and support they need because practitioners do not know about services and procedures, or because they are not as good as they could have been with multi-agency input.</p>	B2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners' annual reports to the Board • Section 28 audit • Annual SAIT exercise • Trust and challenge • Monitoring of attendance at LSCB meetings 	C2

LSCB Risk Register

Appendix 4

No	RISK	Risk Owner	Impact / consequence	SCORE without controls	Controls to manage risk	SCORE with controls
3	The risk that the Board is unable to agree the relative roles and responsibilities of the various partnerships with safeguarding responsibilities, and the risk that this is exacerbated by the different arrangements for the CYPP in the two counties	LSCB Board / Board members with partnership liaison responsibilities	There are gaps in the safeguarding children agenda, as partnerships assume other partnerships are responsible for the missing area of service/policy. There is overlap in service/ policy and resources are wasted. Practitioners and the public are confused about where to go and who is responsible for what. Opportunities for shared projects are missed. Poor inspection results.	B2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnerships' annual report to the Board • Implementation and review of the Overarching Safeguarding Policy • Joint projects with other strategic partnerships 	C3
4	The risk that Partners are unable to agree a permanent budget to support the work plan.	LSCB Board	The objectives in the work plan are not achieved. Multi-agency working does not progress as quickly as it could. Sub-groups do not take place as planned. The business plan, attendance, the budget, etc. are not monitored and fall behind. SAIT standards are not met. Training courses are not delivered.	B2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early identification and notification of the LSCB's required budget • Report (2010) showing research and basis for formula used for calculating partners' contributions. 	C2

LSCB Risk Register

Appendix 4

No	RISK	Risk Owner	Impact / consequence	SCORE without controls	Controls to manage risk	SCORE with controls
5	The LSCB is unable to demonstrate progress	LSCB Board	The objectives in the work plan are not achieved. Multi-agency working does not progress as quickly as it could. Sub-groups do not take place as planned. SAIT scores remain static. Progress takes place but there are no mechanisms in place to demonstrate this. Poor inspection findings	C2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-groups report to SMG every 2 months • Quarterly reports to the Board against the Business Plan • Performance indicators monitored over time 	D2
6	The risk that poor co-ordination of sub-groups and lack of clarity over key tasks/ the outcomes sought hinders progress (new)	SMG	The LSCB's business plan is not delivered. Training courses do not take place, or training does not meet the Board's requirements. Audits are not conducted and the Board does not know about the quality of practice. People remain ignorant of the Board and its role, and safeguarding is not promoted in the community. Good practice is not shared, opportunities for improving practice are missed.	C2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-groups report on progress against their workplans to SMG every 2 months • Sub-group Chairs report issues for clarification or direction to SMG every 2 months 	D2

LSCB Risk Register

No	RISK	Risk Owner	Impact / consequence	SCORE without controls	Controls to manage risk	SCORE with controls
7	The risk that agencies' ability to respond to safeguarding/ child protection is compromised as a result of budget reductions'	LSCB statutory agencies	A child suffers avoidable significant harm. Failure in a member agency affects the reputation of the LSCB and its member agencies.	C1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standing item on the Board agenda • Regular updates from agencies to Practice Development Group. 	D1
8	The Board is unable to demonstrate improved outcomes for children (new)	Board	The changes that the LSCB makes do not have a positive effect on children's lives, but the LSCB does not know this because it has no mechanisms for demonstrating improved outcomes. The Board continues acting ineffectively. Or the changes made by the LSCB do have a positive effect on the lives of children, but the LSCB is unable to demonstrate this. Poor inspection results. Poor SAIT scores.	B3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance information is reported regularly to the Board and to the Practice Development Group 	C3

LSCB Risk Register

Appendix 4

No	RISK	Risk Owner	Impact / consequence	SCORE without controls	Controls to manage risk	SCORE with controls
9	The risk that progress against the LSCB's business plan is disrupted as the regional integration and collaboration agenda diverts LSCB time from its core activities and delivery of its business plan. (new)	Board	The objectives in the business plan are not achieved. Multi-agency working does not progress as quickly as it could. Sub-groups do not take place as planned. SAIT scores remain static. Poor inspection findings	B2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move at a pace that we can deliver and that does not cause disruption to the core business. 	C2
10	The risk that the interface between Adult Mental Health and Children's Safeguarding services presents a barrier to identifying and supporting children in need/ in need of protection	Board	Children affected by adult mental health issues are not identified and suffer serious harm or neglect as a result	B2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult Mental Health and Children's Services interface meetings to take place regularly Re-launch of the North Wales Protocol on Mental Health and Substance Abuse 	C2
11	The risk that unsafe employment practices put children at risk from adults who work with children	Board	Employment practices are below best practice and children are put at risk from adults who are not adequately supervised or screened.	C1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe employment task group established Best practice shared amongst partners 	C2

LSCB Risk Register

No	RISK	Risk Owner	Impact / consequence	SCORE without controls	Controls to manage risk	SCORE with controls
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The risk that the regional structure reduces the clarity around who is ultimately accountable for the safety of children, and will not best support the statutory Directors of Social Services in the discharge of their core accountabilities, and exercise of their influence and leadership in relation to wider multi-agency safeguarding issues.'</i> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>the work of safeguarding children is compromised</i> <i>the motivation to safeguard children is diluted by accountability being unclear or shared.</i> <p>NEW RISK</p>		<p><i>the role of the Statutory Directors of Social Services is considered by the RSCB and directly addressed in any future RSCB constitution or terms of reference.</i></p>	





Risk model: Denbighshire County Council corporate risk assessment model

Risk Assessment Criteria

LIKELIHOOD	Event is almost certain to occur in most circumstances	>70%	Almost Certain	A					
	Event likely to occur in most circumstances	30-70%	Likely	B					
	Event will possibly occur at some time	10-30%	Possible	C					
	Event unlikely and may occur at some time	1-10%	Unlikely	D					
	Event rare and may occur only in exceptional circumstances	<1%	Rare	E					
					5	4	3	2	1
					Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Very High
Service Performance	Minor errors or disruption	Some disruption to activities / customers	Disruption to core activities / customers	Significant disruption to core activities. Key targets missed	Unable to deliver core activities. Strategic aims compromised				
Reputation	Trust recoverable with little effort or cost	Trust recoverable at modest cost with resource allocation within budgets	Trust recovery demands cost authorisation beyond existing budgets	Trust recoverable at considerable cost and management attention	Trust severely damaged and full recovery questionable and costly				

LSCB Risk Register					
Financial Cost (£)	<£50k	£50k - £250k	£250k - £1m	£1m - £5 m	>£5m
IMPACT					

Corporate Risk Severity Key

	<i>Minor</i>	<i>Risk easily managed locally – no need to involve management</i>
	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Risk containable at service level – senior management and SLT may need to be kept informed</i>
	<i>Major</i>	<i>Intervention by SLT and / or CET with Cabinet involvement</i>
	<i>Critical</i>	<i>Significant CET and Cabinet intervention</i>

Annex 5 - Glossary

Term	Explanation
ADSS	Association for Directors of Social Services BCUHB – Betsi Cadwaladr University Local Health Board
BCUHB	Betsi Cadwaladr University Local Health Board
CAADA	Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA) Risk Identification Checklist (RIC)
CAADA – DASH RIC	Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA) Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour Based violence (DASH) Risk Identification Checklist (RIC)
CAFCASS	Children & Families Courts Advisory and Support Service
CAIS	CAIS is a registered charity and voluntary sector provider of drug and alcohol services in Wales. CAIS helps people who are having problems with their alcohol or drug use, as well as offering support and information to their families and friends
CCBC	Conwy County borough Council
Child/ children	A child is anyone who has not yet reached their 18 th birthday. ‘Children’ therefore means ‘children and young people’ throughout. The fact that a child has become sixteen years of age, is living independently, is in Further Education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital, is in prison or a young offenders institution does not change their status or their entitlement to services or protection under the Children Act 1989.
CP / Child Protection	Child Protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity which is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm as a result of abuse or neglect.
CPG	Clinical Programme Group (BCUHB)
CPR	Child Practice Review
CRB	Criminal Records Bureau check
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
CSSIW	Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales.
CYPP /CYPSP	Children and Young People’s Partnership / Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership.
CVSC	Conwy Voluntary Services Council
DART	Domestic Abuse Recovery Together, NSPCC project working with abused parents and children
DASH	Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour Based violence (DASH)
DCC	Denbighshire County Council
DVSC	Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council
ESW	Education Social Work
IFSS	Integrated Family Support Service, a Welsh Government scheme which brings together professionals from various backgrounds to provide intensive support to vulnerable families
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advocate
IFSS	Integrated Family Support Service
IMR	Internal Management Review
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board
MAPPA	Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements
MARAC	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
PAMS	Parent Assessment Manual Software
PAD	Prevent and Deter
Part 4	An investigation into an allegation of abuse of children by professionals/ staff

Term	Explanation
investigation	members
Partnerships	Term used to describe structures e.g. Health and Well Being, Children and Young People's Partnerships, Community Safety Partnerships.
POVA	Protection of Vulnerable Adults.
PRUDiC	Procedural Response to Unexpected Death in Children
SAIT	Self Assessment and Improvement Tool for LSCBs
RSCB	Regional Safeguarding Children Board
SCR / SCR sub	Serious Case Review / Serious Case Review sub-committee
Section 28 audit	Section 28 of the children Act 2004 places a duty on key people and bodies to make arrangements to ensure that their functions are discharged with regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The LSCB undertakes an audit of the actions taken by partners to fulfil their duties under the act.
Section 47 / s47 enquiry	A 'section 47' enquiry is undertaken if there concerns that a child may be at risk of actual or likely significant harm. The decision to undertake a section 47 enquiry is made at a strategy meeting involving social services, police and relevant agencies. The enquiry determines what, if any, action is needed to promote and safeguard the welfare of a child.
SMG	The LSCB's Strategic Management Group
WLGA	Welsh Local Government Association
WG	Welsh Government
YJS	Youth Justice Service