



Wiltshire
**Safeguarding
Vulnerable**
People Partnership

Wiltshire Safeguarding Vulnerable People Partnership Annual Report 2019-20

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Important Note: *The body of this report was completed before the current coronavirus pandemic. Its impact on both the local community and local services had not been felt when this was written. Safeguarding Partners in Wiltshire have already made some initial changes to the SVPP to ensure it is well placed to respond to the continuing changes in demand and service provision occasioned by the pandemic. They include commitments to:*

- *Continue with the current Independent Chair for the foreseeable future*
- *Recognise the increase in domestic abuse and bring the existing working group directly under the SVPP and for the chair to join the partnership*
- *Recognise the prevalence of criminal exploitation in our County by ensuring the Missing and Criminal Exploitation group reports to both the CSP and SVPP and developing more effective links with its counterpart in Swindon*
- *Review both the WSAB and CSP to explore the ability to develop greater integration in the safeguarding agendas including whole system approaches to case reviews, to workforce development and to user engagement*
- *SVPP will formally assume the role of monitoring and scrutinising partners ability to meet expected surges in demand as the lockdown eases over the coming months*

There will be further re-ordering of the priorities, commitments and timetable set out in this report as the effects of the pandemic continue to be assessed and addressed. SVPP has responded flexibly to the unprecedented changes of recent months and will continue to do so over the next period. The detail of those changes and responses made will be reported on in more detail in the next Annual Report.

Introduction and context

This is the first Annual Report of the Wiltshire Safeguarding Vulnerable People Partnership (SVPP). SVPP was formed in response to the changes set out in Working Together 2018 and in particular the need to step down Local Safeguarding Children Boards and replace them with locally arrived at partnership arrangements designed to safeguard children.

Wiltshire safeguarding partners approached the reforms positively and were one of the 'early adopters' as identified by the Department for Education. The Safeguarding Plan set out by the Wiltshire partners can be found [here](#) – the key features of it are:

- A belief that children, young people and adults live in families and local communities; these can be sources of support and safety or of danger and risk.
- The approach to safeguarding and protecting our community is focused around where people live and with whom – it's an approach which has 'Think Family, Think Community' at its heart.
- The plan covers work which sits across children and adult services and community safety.
- It is designed to work in the spaces 'between' those key partnerships described above and, in so doing, ensure that the safeguarding needs of children, young people and adults are both addressed in context and align one with the other.
- All safeguarding partners will make a shared and equal contribution to the quality and impact agenda in terms of leadership, culture setting, data production and evaluation of practice.
- Practice will be developed using a clear evidence base of demographic and population projections to plan and respond effectively.

- It will ensure that our collective approach to risk and risk management is aligned and explicit and will ensure that front line practitioners are enabled and supported to carry the risks they are presented with.

SVPP began formally meeting in January 2019. It is the view of all members that much of that time has been focused on embedding the new arrangements and understanding the role and contribution that SVPP can make – there is an awareness that we have set up something very different from the previous LSCB and from the arrangements many other areas are making. It is therefore understandable that it will take some time to realise the full benefits of our work.

That said, the year has been a busy one and during the course of it, the SVPP has:

- Invested in a Data Analyst who is making a significant contribution to the development of the local response to young people and criminal exploitation
- Supported the successful bid for Wiltshire to be one of the development sites for contextual safeguarding, working with the University of Bedfordshire
- Invested in a programme delivered through the voluntary sector-led children's centres to enable local families, known to social care, to be part of our quality assurance processes
- Completed and published a thematic review on Physical Abuse to Under 1yrs
- Completed one rapid review
- Published two SCRs: SCR Child K - death of a one-year old child in the context of neglect and previous suspected non-accidental injuries; and SCR Child L - significant non-accidental injuries sustained by a young baby
- Completed and published a thematic review on Physical Abuse to Under 1yrs, which provided a review of collective learning from local cases and led to work to improve early support, working jointly with FACT (Families and Children's Transformation Project)

As part of the new arrangements and to ensure a continued focus on the effectiveness of the safeguarding systems for children a Families and Children's Systems Assurance Group (FCSA) was established and within its first year has:

- Identified a number of priority areas for scrutiny: knife crime; non-accidental injuries in under 1s; health assessments for LAC; mental health support for children and young people; domestic abuse; early support
- Scrutinised the work relating to children missing education and elected home educated children and identified actions for improvement
- Supported the learning from practice reviews
- Maintained oversight of multi-agency safeguarding training and roll out of the NSPCC Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) assessment tool
- Continued to oversee the Walkabouts that constitute the Section 11 activity for the partnership with six walkabouts taking place: Adult MASH; a Minor Injury Unit; Stanley Park Sports Ground ; National Probation Service; Splitz Domestic Abuse Service and Virgin Care Single Point of Access
- Established a Data Analyst Group to use data and intelligence to inform the discussion and focus for the partnership

The new arrangements also bring together the work of Wiltshire's Safeguarding Adult Board (WSAB) and the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). Both established and active partnerships in their own right, a summary of their work during 2019-2020 is set out below:

The work of the WSAB has been focussed on quality assurance, voice and influence and prevention:

- Policies and Procedures Group continue to develop and review policies and guidance: including new Self-neglect Guidance, Organisational Abuse Procedures and Staff Guidance Policy
- Completed and published Safeguarding Adult Review Adult E and held a Learning Event on alcohol misuse in response to learning from a previous published SAR
- Joint Service Users and Carers Reference Groups brought together to inform the work of the Board and improve the engagement with service users and carers
- Supported and provided oversight of the newly created Adult MASH and developing role of Virtual Partners
- Annual Peer Assessment quality assurance process highlighted concerns in the system in relation to Liberty Protection Safeguards and discharge to which the WSAB is responding



The CSP has continued to work with partners to coordinate community safety activity at an operational and strategic level and has:

- Established a Swindon and Wiltshire Violent Crime Executive to provide a framework for a whole systems approach to tackling serious crime
- Commenced a Domestic Homicide Review following the murder of a teenager
- Raised awareness of coercive control through training and a Local Learning Review in which coercive control was a significant factor
- Developed a Substance Misuse Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan



Rapid Reviews

SVPP has completed 4 rapid reviews since the legislation changed in 2018: 3 during 2018-2019 and 1 in 2019-2020. They have all been well-received by the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and all agencies have shown a significant commitment to ensure they are completed within timescales and that the need to identify the learning is preeminent in all their thinking. SVPP is grateful to the work of the Practice Review Group under the skilled and expert leadership of Dr Fiona Finlay, Designated Doctor for Wiltshire.

These reviews have identified some key areas for consideration and learning for the local safeguarding system as set out below:

- Fathers are often invisible in practice and unassessed
- Effectiveness of early help support and assessments
- Impact of mental health and /or substance misuse of parents and understanding of addiction by practitioners
- Domestic abuse, both current and historic, and its impact on a mother's ability to make safe decisions for her children

This learning has been acted upon and fed back in the sector through:

- Commissioning of a [Thematic Review into Significant Physical Abuse to Under 1s](#) as referenced earlier under Priorities for 2020-21

- Learning Briefings produced and published on each case and disseminated to partners with oversight of how partners have considered the learning
- Review and launch of revised multi-agency guidance on responding to non-accidental injuries in children
- Multi-agency training courses
- Multi-agency workshops focussed on identifying barriers to effective early support and next steps in improving this part of the system
- Project established to develop an improved model of practice in engaging fathers

External Inspections

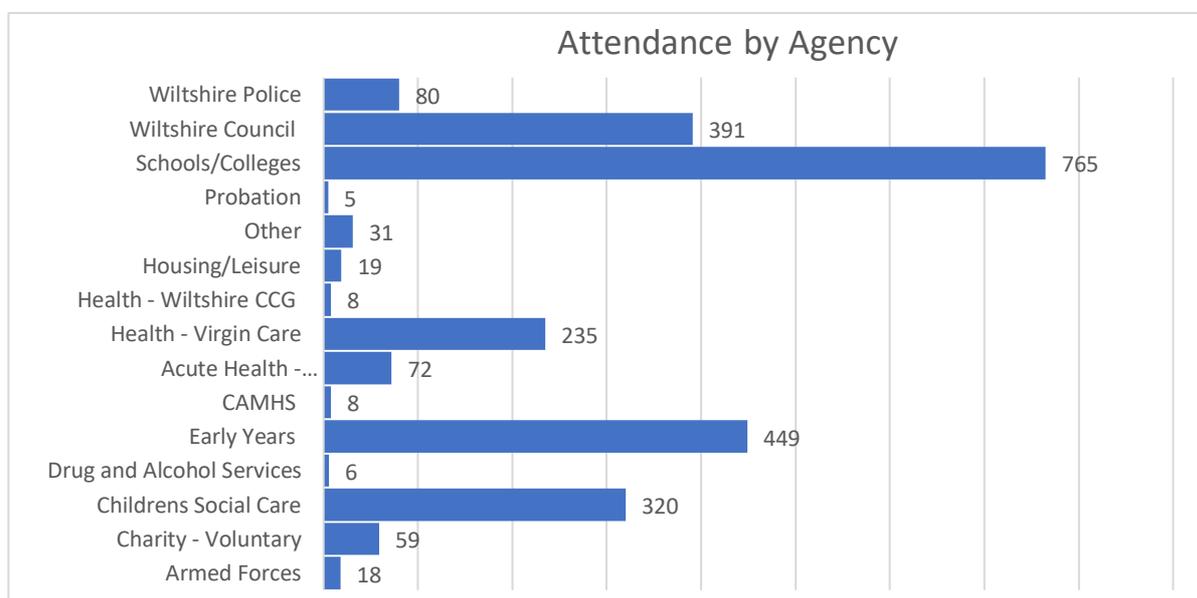
In July 2019 Ofsted published their report of their inspection into Wiltshire’s Children’s Services. Their conclusions were that overall effectiveness was Good and highlighted significant improvements since the last inspection. The inspection concluded that Wiltshire “... offers a consistently good response to families and children in need of help and protection. Senior leaderships have built strong partnerships that strengthen the response that families get when they are in crisis.”

The report also described Wiltshire’s new arrangements for safeguarding children as “forward-thinking” in considering both vulnerable children and adults.

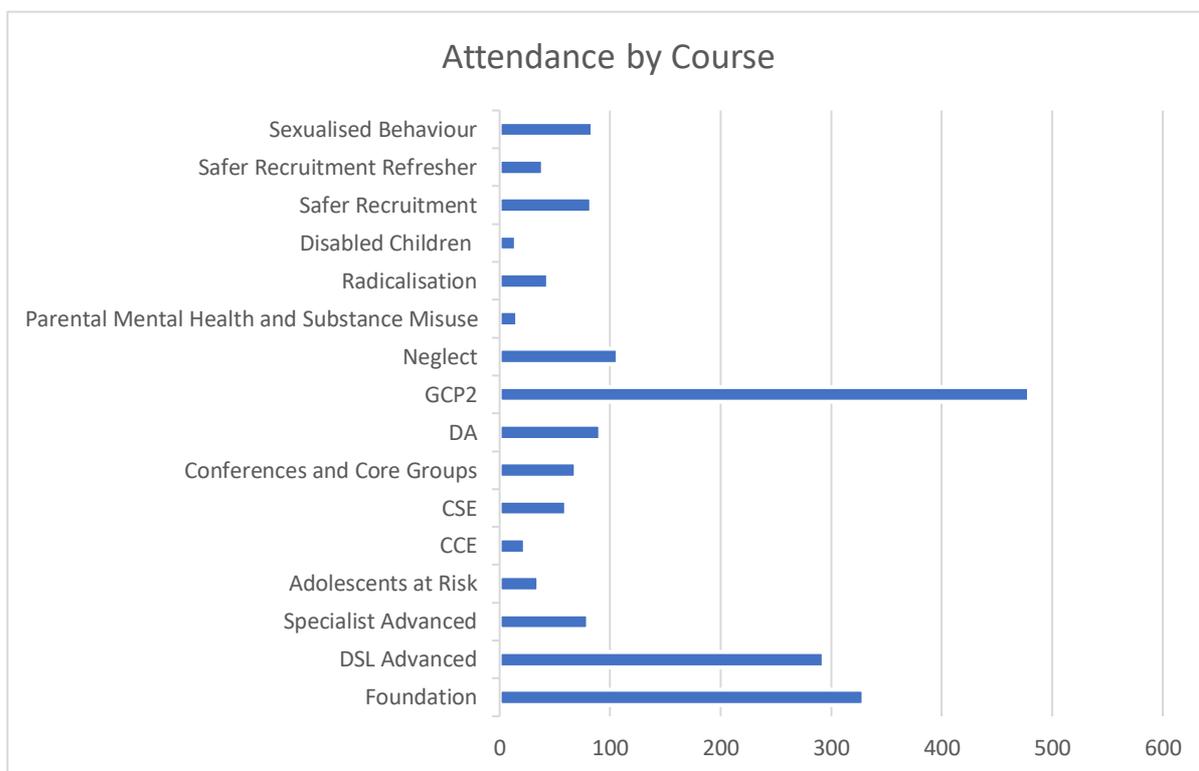
Wiltshire Police received a peer visit from the National County Lines Coordination Centre, which identified a number of strengths identified included safeguarding and good working relationships with partners. It highlighted the value of the Criminal Exploitation Analyst Post in Wiltshire in identifying children at risk with recommendations about how this role can be further developed to provide a collective partner, police response and ensure tasking of proactive resources could be focused towards vulnerability.

Workforce Development

During 2019-2020, 2466 members of staff from across the workforce access the multi-agency training provided by SVPP. This training continues to be well attended, with attendance increased by 41% on the previous year, and rated highly by delegates.



The Graded Care Profile (GCP2) course was added in spring 2019 in order to support the roll out of this assessment tool for neglect across workforce groups. In addition to the programme of courses the SVPP has also provided support and coordination to the Contextual Safeguarding Briefings that have been taking place.



As in previous years, attendance by schools and early years staff make up the majority of delegates across all courses and particularly on the ‘core’ foundation and advanced training. Overall education and early years make up 51% of all delegates accessing the multi-agency training.

Training also provides income to the partnership generated from attendance and non-attendance charges. The income for 2019-2020 was £68,000, an increase of 15% from the previous year.

Looking ahead: changes and developments in the structure of SVPP

The Safeguarding Partners met in February 2020 to review their work and to plan for 2020-21. A number of key decisions were made that impact on the governance and structure of SVPP

- SVPP will no longer function with an independent chair. There is a wide agreement that bringing that role into the responsibilities of the Safeguarding Partners will increase ownership and integration with core agency agendas. The Chair will rotate around the Safeguarding Partners and 2020-21 Chair will be Terence Herbert, Chief Executive Officer, People, Wiltshire Council.
- A programme of independent scrutiny will be set for the year. The commitment is to source the best scrutiny available whether from another area, an expert individual or a national body – the criteria will simply be the acknowledgement of expertise in the area(s) to be scrutinised
- The SVPP will remain as a small and senior group as currently constituted
- Relevant agencies will be more specifically engaged through the specific work of the SVPP – whether through one of the four priorities set for the year or through the scrutiny

programme. The value of the newsletter was acknowledged, and this will be maintained throughout the year

- In addition, biannual forums will be held for staff from across all agencies on key areas of safeguarding practice consistent with the SVPP purpose

Priorities for 2020-21

Safeguarding Partners have committed to the following for the coming year:

“SVPP needs to be unrelentingly focussed on practice and front-line service delivery. We must not allow ourselves to slip to an agenda which is characterised by processing of papers, receiving items for information or simply for noting”

Partners have also committed to a fundamental review of both the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and the Wiltshire Safeguarding Adults Board (WSAB) and it is likely that the outcomes of those reviews will impact the shape and content for the work of SVPP.

In advance of those reviews, the Partnership has anyway committed to adopt the following as key items in their forward plan for 2020-21:

- Under 1s Thematic Review – action plan illustrates how this might be responded to by the partnership with each action owned by an SVPP member
- Adolescents and Criminal Exploitation, including our approach to ‘transitional safeguarding’: The National Panel Report, [It Was Hard to Escape: Safeguarding children at risk from criminal exploitation](#), has within it a number of key challenges and questions for local partnerships and SVPP will want to ensure it is able to respond to them all
- How we work with families – recent changes in the senior management structure within Wiltshire Council has brought adult and children’s social care under one Executive Director and this offers the opportunity to develop a more whole family approach
- Early support and prevention – both are challenges within the work of all of the constituent parts of SVPP and whilst some of it must necessarily develop separately, there is an opportunity to explore and maximise the benefits of cross-sector initiatives, to be clear about overlaps and areas of added value

Funding and SVPP Support Structure

There will be some reduced funding for 2020-21 especially from the Council who have historically been the largest contributor. There will be further work on this as the partnerships within SVPP conduct their reviews as referenced above. There is a considerable carry forward of funds which can be used to help invest in the necessary supports to progress the work of SVPP or refunded, as yet to be determined.

For more information about the SVPP visit wiltshirescb@wiltshire.org.uk.

If you have any questions about this report please contact SVPP Business Support, SVPP@wiltshire.gov.uk