



Area Committee Improving Safeguarding and Integrated Working

Children Leeds

the Leeds Initiative

Local partnerships making things happen





Developments in Locality Working

- Established Children's Services Leadership Team in each wedge
- Developed the role of the Children's Champion and membership on the Children's Services wedge Leadership Teams
- Greater elected member involvement in clusters
- Revised locality governance arrangements for Children's Services local partnerships
- Currently revising local safeguarding board arrangements





Context – Going Forward

- New Children and Young People's Plan key priorities on:
 - Safeguarding
 - Enabling integrated working
- New national Ofsted inspection framework for children's services and schools – stronger emphasis on Safeguarding
- Unannounced inspection July 21/22 2009 Identified areas for priority action
 - Response to child protection referrals does not meet statutory guidance and does not ensure that children are adequately safeguarded
 - During the initial reading of records, children were identified as having been left at potential risk of serious harm
 - Inconsistent referrals from agencies
 - Inconsistent assessments by Children and Young People's Social Care





Responding to the Unannounced Inspection

- Review of 1600 child abuse and neglect cases since 1st April 2009 now complete- learning from this has supported the findings of the unannounced inspection and highlighted the need for further action by universal and preventative services in cases that were designated 'NFA'
- Revised S47 guidance issued 6th August 2009 and transmitted this through CYPSC and further threshold guidance for all services has been issued
- New leadership team - Jackie Wilson (Chief Officer), Sal Tariq, Ros Cheetham and Gail Faulkner (Heads of Service Delivery Fieldwork) to quality assure and risk assess local response.
- Management of field work services strengthened
- No cases now have a "No Further Action" from Social Care but are passed to the appropriate services for action and monitoring





Thresholds

- All partners received new Thresholds guidance to support decision making about what to do if you have concerns about a child
- All partners must have a local safeguarding contact for their staff to refer to for advice and guidance
- Clear distinction around the legal definitions of children and young people who are at risk or in need
- Social Care main focus on Section 47 – defining a child who is at risk of immediate harm
- Wider partner ownership of Section 17 – defining a child who is in need and who must have a response from the local authority





Integrated working

- Improving Safeguarding not just a Social Care responsibility
- All partners are accountable for improving outcomes and safeguarding the well-being of children, young people and families
- National evidence shows that integrate services improve the safeguarding of children and young people
- Integrated working will:
 - *Ensure children, young people and families get the right services at the right time*
 - *Embed consistent and shared approaches to the accurate assessment of need; and*
 - *Enable proper, swift responses to identified need for all children and young people*





A Local Framework for Integrated Working

- Better arrangements in place locally to drive and support integrated working
- Additional central resources to improve local integration
- Children's Services Leadership Team
- Four key elements to improving local integrated working
 - Accelerating the use of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF)
 - Integrated Service Leaders to work across clusters
 - Intervention Panels across clusters
 - Children Leeds Panel to work at wedge level





What Local Integrated Working Will Look Like

- **Integrated Services Leaders (ISL's)** to drive the integration of frontline services by embedding CAF, establish more responsive, needs led local teams, solution focused approaches and promote co location and joint working.
- **Intervention Panels** – local multi-agency group to complement CAF process when cases are not progressing or improving outcomes using the CAF and team around the child process
- **Children Leeds Panels** – wedge level senior leaders for complex cases when they are not progressing within targeted and/or specialist services
- Central project support to ensure these panels work effectively.





Areas to explore with the Area Committee

- Developing the role of the children's champion and their involvement with the Wedge Children's Services Leadership Team
- Developing the role of elected member in clusters
- Maximising the opportunities for responding locally to issues relating to children, young people and families e.g. through ALMO's Police relationships, Governing Bodies and through the Corporate Parent role
- Better use of local performance information to drive children's services improvement

