



BUSINESS PLAN ANNUAL UPDATE 2009 - 2010

“Keeping Children Safe and Healthy”

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE WARWICKSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (WSCB)

- The Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board ensures that sound arrangements to protect children are in place in Warwickshire.
- The Board safeguards children by contributing to the prevention of harm and the promotion of the welfare of children in Warwickshire.
- The Board achieves these objectives by promoting inter-agency cooperation and collaboration.

CONTENTS

Section	Page
1. Foreword by Chris Hallett	3
2. Progress Report on the Strategic Priorities of WSCB	5
3. Progress Reports from the WSCB Subcommittees	8
District Council	8
Health	8
Procedures and Guidelines	9
Quality and Information	9
Safer Employment	10
Schools, Learning and Education	11
Special Cases	12
Strategy and Communication	12
Training	12
Coventry and Warwickshire Safeguarding Children in Faith Groups Forum	14
4. Trends in Safeguarding Activity in Warwickshire (2008 -2009)	15
5. Public Service Agreement (PSA) Indicators	26

1. FOREWORD BY CHRIS HALLETT Chair of Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB)

Since publication last year of the first WSCB Three Year Business Plan (2008-2011), there have been momentous developments in the field of safeguarding children. The tragic death of “baby Peter” in Haringey, the subsequent publication of Lord Laming’s Progress Report on Child Protection in England (March 2009), and the government’s response to this have highlighted the high stakes involved in this complex and demanding area of work. These events emphasise the need to ensure that we are never complacent in our efforts to protect the most vulnerable children. A Warwickshire Action Plan is already in place and will ensure that the necessary steps are taken in the County to demonstrate our compliance with the government’s response to Laming. The changing relationship between Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board and the Warwickshire Children’s Trust Board lies at the heart of this Action Plan, which will move into full swing in the year ahead, and which like all the documents referred to in this annual update may be accessed via the WSCB web-site. We will be well placed to implement this Action Plan having received a very good assessment of the Safeguarding Board in the Warwickshire JAR, completed since publication of the 2008-2011 Business Plan.

Over the last year, important progress has been made in implementing the 5 Strategic Priorities of the Safeguarding Board, and details of this are given in the update. Our 9 subcommittees have also taken important strides in implementing their new terms of reference and achieving their key tasks. There have also been significant changes in the membership of the Board. We have said goodbye with grateful thanks to Phil Albutt (CAFCASS); Liz Bruce (Adult, Health and Community Services); Olwyn Ditchburn (Warwickshire Voluntary Community Sector); Liz Dunlop (Rugby Borough Council), and DS Graeme Pallister (Warwickshire Police). In their place we have welcomed to our ranks, representing the same agencies in corresponding order, Linda Crisp; Jez Millen; Richard Desjardins; Karen Stone, and DS Neil Hewison. We have also been pleased to welcome Helen Hipkiss from the Regional Strategic Health Authority, and Adrian Over who is the Warwickshire CAF Coordinator and represents children’s disability services.

I should like to make mention of two major events that the Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board hosted in 2009. A major training conference on Attachment and Child Abuse; Exploring the Multi Agency Response, welcomed more than 90 delegates from all the partner agencies represented on the Board. Managers and practitioners heard a powerful key-note presentation from Professor David Howe from the University of East Anglia in which he gave a fascinating insight into developmental attachment theory, its interplay with issues of child maltreatment and related practice implications. His material was linked to the findings of serious case reviews. I am grateful to Linda Village, our Interagency Training Officer, for all her hard work in making this conference such a great success.

Then, in May 2009, the 6th WSCB Annual Conference took place and delegates heard a key-note address from our own Director of Children’s Services, Marion Davis, on the impact of the Laming Progress Report and government response which had come out only a few days before. Members of the Board, its subcommittees and Associate Members, then completed the Challenge and Improvement Tool-Kit for LSCBs developed by the Department for Children, Schools and Families. This was the most comprehensive self-evaluation ever undertaken by the Board, and the action plan compiled in response to this activity will ensure that WSCB is well-placed to meet the considerable challenges that lie ahead.

There is a further observation I should like to make about the current climate in which professionals are operating to safeguard children. In common with our previous Business Plans, this update contains data about safeguarding activity for the period leading up to the end of

March this year. However, not even this does justice to the increased demands that are being made on professionals in the aftermath of the death of baby “P” in Haringey and the trial of his carers. There are currently 428 children who are the subject of a child protection plan in Warwickshire – a 10% rise over the last six months and 40% over the last five years. The data also included in this report relating to increased legal activity to safeguard children underlines these trends. No one should be in any doubt as to the scale of the task we face in keeping children safe and healthy. The Board values the dedication and skill that professionals across the County demonstrate on a day to day basis in meeting this challenge.

Finally I would like to thank WSCB Board members, Associate members and members of the various subcommittees as the progress made by WSCB in its business plan would not have been achieved without their dedication and diligent contribution to the activities within the plan. In addition we are so fortunate to have the skills and knowledge of Dr Vic Tuck and his team in keeping the work of the WSCB on track. Many thanks to you all.

Chris Hallett
Chair WSCB

2. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES OF WARWICKSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD.

In its 2008-2011 Business Plan, Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board identified 5 Key Strategic Priorities:

- Promoting the Safer Employment Agenda (Recruitment of Staff and Managing Allegations Against Members of the Children's Workforce);
- Implementing and Sustaining Arrangements for the Review of all Child Deaths in Warwickshire;
- Preventing Unintentional Injury in Childhood;
- Reducing the Incidence of Missing Children;
- Defining Thresholds for Professional Intervention.

Progress on the first of these priorities, **Safer Employment**, has been led by the WSCB Safer Employment Subcommittee. Details of this activity may be found in the Progress Report on the work of the subcommittee which appears in the next section of this update.

Child Death Review Processes are now well established in Warwickshire with the child death review panel meeting on a regular basis to consider child deaths in the County. Statistical data on the work of the panel is provided in section 5 of this update. Information on the numbers of cases reviewed and the application of preventability criteria are required by the government as part of the Public Sector Agreement (PSA) Indicators that relate to safeguarding children.

The Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Child Death Overview Panel which is tasked with promoting the effective operation of the system, bringing together the findings of all three review panels in the sub-region, and identifying any trends that may require preventative action, is also fully operational. It has endorsed a regional campaign to promote *Safe Sleeping for Infants* which is to be launched shortly.

Ensuring that all agencies provide information in a timely way that enables panels to complete reviews is an ongoing challenge, but the Coordinator of the scheme, Dara Lloyd, has ensured that child death review processes are now embedded within the work of WSCB and our LSCB partners in Coventry and Solihull.

Preventing Unintentional Injury in Childhood and **Reducing the Incidence of Missing Children** are priorities that WSCB identified as requiring the attention of two *Task and Finish Groups*. The progress of these task groups is as follows:

- (a) **Preventing Unintentional Injury in Childhood Task Group – Chaired by Jane Williams (Head of Children, Young People and Family Services, Warwickshire Community Health)**

Taking forward this objective, which was given initial impetus when the 2008 Annual WSCB Conference heard a key note address from Zoë Keddie, joint author of the Healthcare Commission and Audit Commission report "Better Safe than Sorry", has proved challenging. Engaging relevant partners has been the major focus of activity and this was assisted by a re-launch of the initiative in November 2008, when Zoë Keddie returned to Warwickshire to discuss strategies for implementation with our partners. The event was able to re-focus on the current incidence of unintentional injury in Warwickshire, with particular emphasis on road traffic accidents involving children, an issue that has also been of interest to the Warwickshire Child

Death Review Panel. Roger Harding of the Warwickshire Road Safety Intelligence Team delivered a key-note address on the subject. A further outcome of this event was a commitment by the Health Protection Agency to gather more data around accidents involving children in Warwickshire so assisting the task group in its attempts to scope the extent of the problem in the County.

Another significant step forward was taken in March 2009, when the Task Group decided that a permanent group should be formed to be known as the *Warwickshire Child Safety Partnership*. Representatives from a wide range of agencies agreed new terms of reference and undertook to send in reports about the activities their agency were leading on with regard to accident prevention.

One of the tasks for the new partnership will be to raise public awareness around the issues arising from child death reviews. The first campaign will focus on Sudden Infant Deaths (Cot Death). There have been four cot deaths reported in Warwickshire in the first year of the Child Death Review process. A small sub group has been established to consider ways to promote Safe Sleep messages. It is planned that the campaign will be launched at a joint event with Coventry Local Safeguarding Children Board in October 2009.

Despite a hesitant start, this strategic objective has progressed well though the enthusiasm and commitment from partners will need to be sustained. Quarterly meetings have been arranged and the main task for the future will be to develop a strategy for Warwickshire comprising key actions that will serve to reduce the number of unintentional injuries to children and young people in Warwickshire. The links the partnership has established with the coordinator of the Warwickshire Child Death Review Panel will also continue to be an important avenue of development.

(b) Reducing the Incidence of Missing Children Task Group– Chaired by Detective Superintendent Neil Hewison, Warwickshire Police

Last year over 400 Warwickshire children were reported as missing to the police, accounting for 58% of the missing person population. As many as a third of these children repeatedly go missing. Often they are extremely vulnerable: 1 in 6 sleeps rough and 1 in 12 will be hurt or harmed whilst they are away. Missing behaviour is known to be a symptom linked to other serious factors in a child's life.

These figures, allied to recognition that there is a need for a co-ordinated strategic approach across agencies to tackling the problem, have underlined the importance of this key strategic objective for WSCB. The introduction of National Indicator 71, established for local areas to assess whether levels of young people running away are accurately identified and responses are appropriate to meet their needs, and a recognition of the need to adequately identify and track all children born or moving in to Warwickshire, have also lent the work of this Task Group increased urgency.

Led by Warwickshire Police under the umbrella of the Board, the group has conducted an exercise to identify the scope of the problem in respect of children missing from home or care, missing from education, not registered for health services and other areas where children could be 'lost' such as the within the travelling community, asylum seekers and victims of criminality, for example, trafficked children, forced marriage and those hiding in fear. The group meets quarterly and has developed an Improvement Plan to drive forward the business and bring about the necessary improvements to services. This plan takes account of the government

Young Runaways action plan and developments required to improve our baseline assessment against NI 71.

Improvements have already been made to co-ordinate effective activity and close gaps in knowledge and practice. A framework that encourages sharing of information across agencies has been established and membership extended to a wide range of stakeholders, including the Children's Society. Warwickshire Police has introduced a comprehensive database recording missing reports and this will enable better analysis of the missing from home and care problem to focus resources on those at greatest risk through the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) process. This data will be linked into the work of the Board's Quality and Information Sub-Committee. A mechanism for information exchange has been established and referrals are now conducted on every missing child. The objective is to establish a co-ordinator post to oversee activity across agencies and to fund a specialist worker, through the voluntary sector, to conduct return interviews. This will improve the assessment of factors involved in a child going missing and enable us to better address causes of running away. It is proposed to utilise the Safer Schools partnership to raise awareness amongst children and build in further prevention and early intervention opportunities as work progresses.

The final strategic objective, **defining threshold for professional intervention**, has been led by the WSCB Quality and Information Subcommittee. Following detailed consideration of this complex and challenging issue, a new protocol has been developed for professionals to use when a threshold is contested. This protocol is part of a wider interagency "escalation" process designed to enhance the assessment and management of complex cases of child abuse and neglect. The full document may be accessed via the WSCB website.

An important aspect of this document is the introduction of an Enhanced Risk Assessment, which represents an additional component of the well established Warwickshire Risk Assessment Model. This new component seeks to provide a mechanism for promoting an assessment that is particularly suited to analysing the full history of complex and chronic cases. Considerable interest has been shown by other LSCBs in the Risk Assessment Model following publication of Lord Laming's Progress Report on Child Protection in England (March 2009), and this has resulted in training being delivered by WSCB to staff in these areas. We will shortly be welcoming Sir Roger Singleton, the government's chief advisor on safeguarding children, to Warwickshire to discuss the model. The assessment and management of risk has been identified by Sir Roger as one of the priorities for the new National Safeguarding Delivery Unit established by the government in response to Lord Laming's Report.

3. PROGRESS REPORTS FROM THE SUBCOMMITTEES OF WARWICKSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

The Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board has nine sub-committees, comprising representatives from the member agencies of the WSCB, which are tasked to complete work plans and report progress on these plans to the full Board when it meets. Subcommittees meet once every two months. Attendance by members of the full Board, and its subcommittees is now formally monitored with a new data base established for this purpose.

Each subcommittee has a strategic objective and terms of reference to guide their operation, which are reviewed annually. These encompass the ongoing responsibilities of the respective subcommittee. Each has also identified specific key tasks that comprise their work plans for the period 2008-2011. Full terms of reference and key tasks can be found in the WSCB 3 Year Business Plan 2008-2011, available on the WSCB web-site. Progress Reports on the work of the subcommittees appear below.

District Council Subcommittee

The last year has seen significant progress towards addressing the previously identified training shortfall within district and borough council frontline housing staff. Each council has now completed a Self Assessment Template, identified those staff requiring Level 1, Level 2 and Core Group training and put in place training plans to address the needs of existing staff.

The work plan for the coming year will build on this progress with a balance between strengthening operational practices e.g. through the launch of the joint housing/children's services protocol and by ensuring contractors and partner Registered Social Landlords have safeguarding reporting arrangements in place, and by embedding safer employment, training and safeguarding policy development within each council.

Health Subcommittee

Important progress has been made with regard to key tasks. Review pathways for communication and accountability in Health Trusts have been completed and will be the subject of review next year. Strengthened arrangements for the delivery of forensic medical examinations of suspected child sexual abuse, including arrangements for an out of hours service, continue to be a major focus with a regular weekly clinic provided for children needing the service across the Warwickshire & Coventry Health Economy. This is staffed by paediatricians from across the area, either trained or undergoing training. A review of competencies required for undertaking child sexual abuse medicals was undertaken in April 2009 and professional compliance with these was found to be satisfactory. Currently, the Police commission any out of hours service that may be required. Other significant activity and achievement has been:

- Ensuring that the child death review process is embedded in the practice of health professionals.
- Ensuring that Health Commissioning Contracts with service providers have a specific section on safeguarding children, which is continually reviewed and measured for robustness.

- Consolidating the existing child protection training programme for health staff, now including a 3 yearly training programme for General Practitioners and their Practice Staff (currently in its second cycle).
- Reviewing safeguarding children training for health staff generally as national guidance is awaited in the aftermath of Lord Laming's Progress Report (March 2009) on a new training programme across the health economy.
- Implementing recommendations arising from reports, serious case reviews or significant untoward incidents as required – further consideration to be given to ensure a robust "follow-up" process is in place to confirm implementation.
- Updated internal child protection procedures for health professionals in place and ready for revision when the next version of *Working Together to Safeguard Children* is published.

Procedures and Guidelines Subcommittee

The subcommittee has been engaged in three key areas of work over the last year:

- Completion of guidance relating to Child Death Review Processes, for inclusion in the WSCB Interagency Child Protection Procedures as a completely new section in the document. The intention of this new guidance, which is part of a protocol that can be accessed in full on the WSCB website, is to ensure that families receive a sensitive and effective response to the tragedy of a child death, and that professionals are fully supported in accomplishing this. The new procedure will also enable the Board to achieve its wider objective of identifying wider issues and trends that may need to be acted upon to prevent other child deaths.
- Revision of the subcommittee's terms of reference to ensure that partner agencies are held to account for the production of single agency child protection procedures that will support staff in the successful application of the WSCB Interagency Child Protection Procedures.
- Preparatory work in readiness for the next update of the WSCB Interagency Child Protection Procedures, that will follow publication of a revised *Working Together To Safeguard Children* which the government has promised will be published later this year.

The last point will constitute the major source of work for the subcommittee in the year ahead, with stock having already been taken of the many volumes of government guidance that have been published as separate documents during 2009.

Quality and Information Subcommittee

The subcommittee has made good progress in respect of its key tasks over the last year. Of particular significance has been the development and implementation of a new integrated escalation process which assists professionals to formally address concerns about practice issues and service eligibility with each other in a timely manner. Where cases appear to be drifting, this process requires the subcommittee to audit the case files and, if there appears to be little hope of early progress, the case is made subject to independent review by the NSPCC.

The subcommittee has expanded membership over the course of the year in order to create capacity to meet the increasing requirements being placed upon Local Safeguarding Children

Boards to scrutinise and challenge safeguarding practice. Other significant activity and achievement has been:

- Securing agreement to a performance management framework for the Safeguarding Board.
- Completion of a project to develop a mechanism to enable children and parents to shape safeguarding arrangements – a further implementation phase has been embarked upon.
- Establishing an approach to managing contested thresholds of intervention through the development of our new escalation processes (one of the major strategic priorities of WSCB).
- Monitoring on behalf of the Board, the progress being made in the implementation of Standard 5 (Safeguarding Children) of the National Service Framework (NSF).

It is anticipated that the subcommittee will play an important role in the implementation of the Warwickshire Action Plan developed in response to Lord Laming's Progress Report.

Safer Employment Subcommittee

Nowhere is the safeguarding of children more high profile than in the selection and monitoring of people who have contact with children and this is reflected in the adoption of this area of work as one of the Board's strategic priorities. All partner agencies have continued to develop guidance and standards projecting a child-protective ethos within the recruitment process. The importance of continuing to maintain and share good practice has been an important aspect of work within this subcommittee. Areas of significant activity and achievement have centred on ensuring that agencies:

- Provide safeguarding information to potential applicants via the job advertisement, job criteria and job specification.
- Do not accept CV's – job application forms ensure that employers retain proper control of the selection process.
- Ask applicants questions that are specific to safeguarding children.
- Ask two referees specific questions about an applicant's attitude to safeguarding.
- Explore gaps in employment history.
- Ensure CRB checks are processed.
- Ensure safeguarding is included in induction programmes.
- Monitor practice once an applicant is in post.

Significant areas of future work will centre on:

- Implementation of the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA)

The Government has delayed the introduction of safeguarding regulations covering a new vetting and barring process. In particular, new entrants to work with vulnerable children and adults will not have to register with the programme until July 2010, when a rolling mechanism that updates employers on the vetting status of their staff will also be introduced.

On receipt of the guidance all agencies will need to review their employment processes and procedures. A major programme of awareness-raising will need to be undertaken by members of the subcommittee and their partners.

- Managing Allegations against members of staff

The DCSF has published a final consultation document on new guidance for managing allegations against members of staff. This is a great step forward and will provide a framework for managing what can be controversial, complex and sensitive issues. Agencies will need to review their processes and practice in this area. The subcommittee will play a central role in supporting this work.

Schools, Learning and Education Subcommittee

Schools and Education providers are key partners by virtue of their role in preventing abuse through education (the preventative curriculum), recognising early warning signs and reporting concerns appropriately. Significant areas of activity and achievement for the subcommittee have been:

- Ensuring that schools in Warwickshire are adequately represented and views known (both maintained and independent).
- Ensuring model policies are updated annually.
- Making advice and guidance available across the education sector in this complex area of work.
- Developing and sharing good practice.
- Encouraging schools and early year settings to prioritise safeguarding children within their improvement plans.
- Providing training specific to the education sector.
- Scrutinising some of the special risks that affect the most vulnerable children (children and young people with Special Education Needs and disabilities)
- Contributing to government consultation papers on Forced Marriage, Preventing Extremism, Safer Schools and Missing Children.

Key challenges ahead include:

- Promoting 'E' Safety

Schools are seen as playing a vital part in helping to keep children safe online, Dr Tanya Byron who was asked by the Government to investigate the risks and opportunities for children using the internet has visited Warwickshire and praised its work in offering an 'E' safety control safety package to all parents free for two years (CyberSentinel).

The development of an 'E' Safety strategy on behalf of the WSCB is seen as a key aspect in helping to keep children safer in a digital world, and work on this will continue.

- Inspection of Safeguarding in Schools

A new Ofsted framework for the inspection of schools will be applied from September 2009. It will introduce a graded scale – 1 (outstanding) to 4 (inadequate). Where a school is judged to be inadequate for safeguarding, it is likely that overall effectiveness will be judged inadequate since the grade given for Safeguarding is being regarded as a 'limiting judgement'.

The Subcommittee intends to work with school representatives in developing a safeguarding checklist that will help them into establish a safeguarding file.

Special Cases Subcommittee

The subcommittee has played a key role in monitoring the implementation of the Warwickshire Child Death Review Panel, a process assisted by the fact that many members of the subcommittee also sit on the panel. It has continued the work of ensuring that recommendations arising from serious case reviews are implemented, including those conducted elsewhere in the country that have revealed issues that could usefully be taken forward in Warwickshire. The subcommittee has taken steps to ensure that the government's new requirements in respect of the conduct of serious case reviews have been taken on board, and this process will continue following the publication of Lord Laming's Progress Report on Child Protection in England (March 2009) and the imminent new version of *Working Together to Safeguard Children*, which will contain a revised Chapter 8 dealing with serious case reviews. Arrangements for the independent chairing and authorship of serious case reviews have already been acted upon. The subcommittee has been keen to clarify the relationship between serious case reviews and child death review processes, and the work of the two has made it possible for this to begin to happen.

Strategy and Communication Subcommittee

This subcommittee has continued the task of ensuring that the Board is on a sound strategic footing and that key areas of practice development are advanced. Areas of significant activity and achievement have been:

- Completion of an initial scoping exercise of interagency arrangements to safeguard especially vulnerable children.
- Expansion of the Associate Membership Scheme.
- Delivery of the 6th Annual WSCB Conference referred to in the chair-person's introduction.
- Increased level of publication of the WSCB News Bulletin and updated E-Safety Booklet for parents, children and young people (available in five languages on the WSCB website)
- Expanding links with Faith Groups in Warwickshire (see report below).
- Identifying overarching principles and a policy statement for application by partner agencies on safe and effective physical intervention and restraint, linking this to the wider issue of safeguarding children involved in the youth justice system.
- Supporting the delivery of the *Taking Care Scheme*, which has now been able to expand with the support of WSCB and the leadership of Ann Seal, the Scheme Coordinator, to cover primary schools across the whole County.

Another major area of work for the subcommittee has been representing Warwickshire in the development of a regional protocol for managing issues relating to persons who pose a risk to children. This has been part of the wider function of the subcommittee to cement the relationship of the Safeguarding Board with local MAPPA arrangements (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements). A key task in the year ahead will be to revise and update the Board's communication strategy in light of the major changes heralded by the Laming Review.

Training Subcommittee

Shortly after publication last year of the WSCB Business Plan 2008-2011, the training subcommittee presented to the Board a new Training Strategy which was duly accepted. Progress in implementing this strategy, our most ambitious yet, and the key tasks on which it is based is as follows:

To meet the expanding national and local safeguarding agenda and the training needs of the local workforce:

- A major training conference “Child Protection: Lessons from Laming” has been planned and advertised. It will run on November 13th 2009 and will be paid for from income that has been generated by the Board’s charging policy for non-attendance on training programmes. Early indications are that this event will be hugely oversubscribed and it is planned that the event should be run again. The WSCB charging policy has had a significant impact on reducing the number of “no-shows” at training events.
- A new WSCB accredited level 2 multi agency programme has been written “Understanding Attachment in Abuse and Neglect”. This has successfully delivered three times since September 2008 and has been added to the core training advertised in the WSCB Multi Agency Training Directory.
- Eleven sessions of the WSCB level 1 Child Protection Awareness training have been delivered to over two hundred and thirty five delegates. This includes 2 additional sessions over and above the scheduled monthly rolling programme. It is notable that there is representation from all **five** Warwickshire District and Borough Councils and over **twenty three** different Voluntary and Independent Organisations. There has been strong representation from Warwickshire County Council from **three** directorates providing **twenty three** differing services to children young people and families.
- Since April 2009 there has been a new WSCB level 1 accredited training programme “Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse and Harm to Children”. This has been delivered **three** times to **sixty** staff. It was well evaluated and it is aimed to continue to deliver this training three times a year.
- WSCB Accredited training materials have been used by trainers from the training pool and programmes delivered to wider groups e.g. whole school training.
- A session delivered to a Baptist Church Community which has provided the template for future training to faith groups in Warwickshire.
- A new WSCB accredited level 2 Core Group Training Programme is currently being developed and planned to be delivered in the autumn.

To increase the training capacity of the Training Subcommittee:

- WSCB has operated a pool of accredited trainers since January 2008. The pool is supported through 2 monthly supervision meetings facilitated by the WSCB Interagency Training Officer.

- To meet the increasing level 1 training need, three new members with social care backgrounds are in the process of being recruited into the training pool.
- A full day training pool development event has been commissioned.

To have an overview of all child protection training in Warwickshire; to link all child protection training through the WSCB Training Subcommittee to ensure it is fit for purpose, effective, consistent, evidence based and is delivering a consistent message as well as having a positive impact on practice:

- There is a new data base that can be used to monitor Warwickshire Child Protection Trainers and the sessions they deliver and the group of delegates trained. This will be a mechanism that the Training Subcommittee will use to identify any gaps in Child Protection Training as well as being able to identify active Child Protection Trainers.
- There is a WSCB Child Protection training pathway under development that will identify levels of training and benchmark learning outcomes at each level.

Coventry and Warwickshire Safeguarding Children in Faith Groups Forum

An important area of work of the Board, led by the Strategy and Communication Subcommittee, has been the establishment, in collaboration with Coventry LSCB, of this forum, designed to promote and embed the safeguarding children agenda within faith groups. WSCB has traditionally enjoyed a positive working relationship with child protection leads in religious organisations – the Coventry Diocese, Birmingham Archdiocese and Methodist Churches - and the forum has helped to consolidate this work while making it possible to develop a relationship with inter-faith groups representing a wider range of faiths, based in Coventry, Warwick and the West Midlands.

The forum has made it possible for individuals involved in the work of the two LSCBs to share details of important developments in the safeguarding agenda with our colleagues in faith groups, and for these colleagues to raise issues of interest and concern to them. The forum has among many topics this year, considered the implications for faith groups of the safer employment agenda, forced marriage and promoting e-safety. Training opportunities for colleagues in faith groups have also been identified. The ongoing challenge for the forum is how best to reach out to more faith organisations, most of which function independently, in order that children may be effectively safeguarded in these settings. *(Full details of the forum; its work, and terms of reference can be found on the WSCB Website).*

4 Warwickshire Child Protection Statistics 2008/9

Summary of Key Issues

- There has been an **increase** in the number of children who were made the subject of a Child Protection Plan. At 31 March 2009, 355 children were subject to a Child Protection Plan. The number of children made subject to a Child Protection Plan has **risen** gradually during the year with the highest number being recorded in February 2009.
- As at 31st March 2009, **more** girls than boys were subject to a Child Protection Plan in Warwickshire.
- One again this year, the largest group of children to become subject to a Child Protection Plan during the year were those aged 1-4 years.
- There has been a **decrease** in the proportion of children who were made subject to a Child Protection Plan under the categories of 'Neglect' 'Sexual Abuse' and 'Emotional Abuse', with a very slight **increase** in children being made subject to a Child Protection Plan under the category of 'Physical Abuse'. Children made subject to a Child Protection Plan under the category of 'Multiple' has increased by 32% compared to last year's figure.
- The proportion of children subject to a Child Protection Plan as at 31st March 2009 whose ethnicity was black or minority ethnic has remained the same as last year.
- Warwickshire has performed **well** against the six child protection National Indicators (NIs).
 - The proportion of children who were de-registered after two years or more on the register (N164), has **increased** this year, however, Warwickshire has remained in the fourth banding for this indicator.
 - Warwickshire has also seen an **increase** in the number of reviews held on time (N167) which has **increased** our band rating from four to five under this indicator.
 - Warwickshire also saw a substantial **decrease** in the number of registrations that were re-registrations this year (N165), which saw us move from the second banding to the fifth banding under this indicator.
 - The proportion of Core Assessments completed within 35 days (N160) has **decreased** very slightly, however we still remain in the fifth banding under this indicator.

NB - In the absence of bandings for the new National Indicators, bandings issued in previous years are referred to here for comparative purposes.

TRENDS IN SAFEGUARDING ACTIVITY IN WARWICKSHIRE

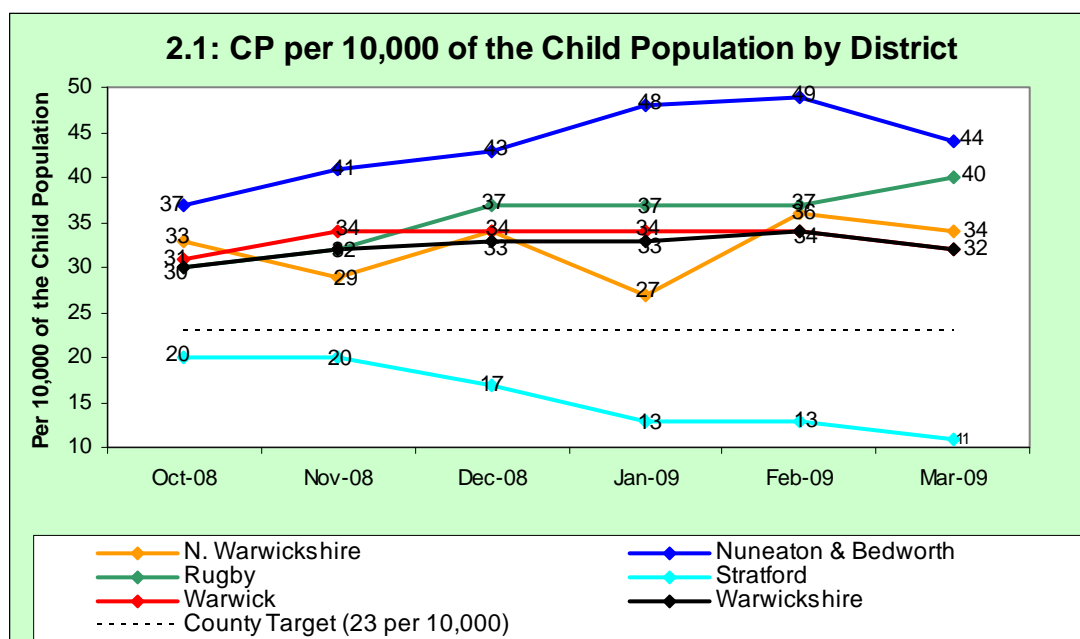
1 APRIL 2008 – 31 MARCH 2009

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report summarises child protection activity in Warwickshire between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009.
- 1.2 Warwickshire's Safeguarding Children Board agreed the dataset on which this report is based in May 2009.

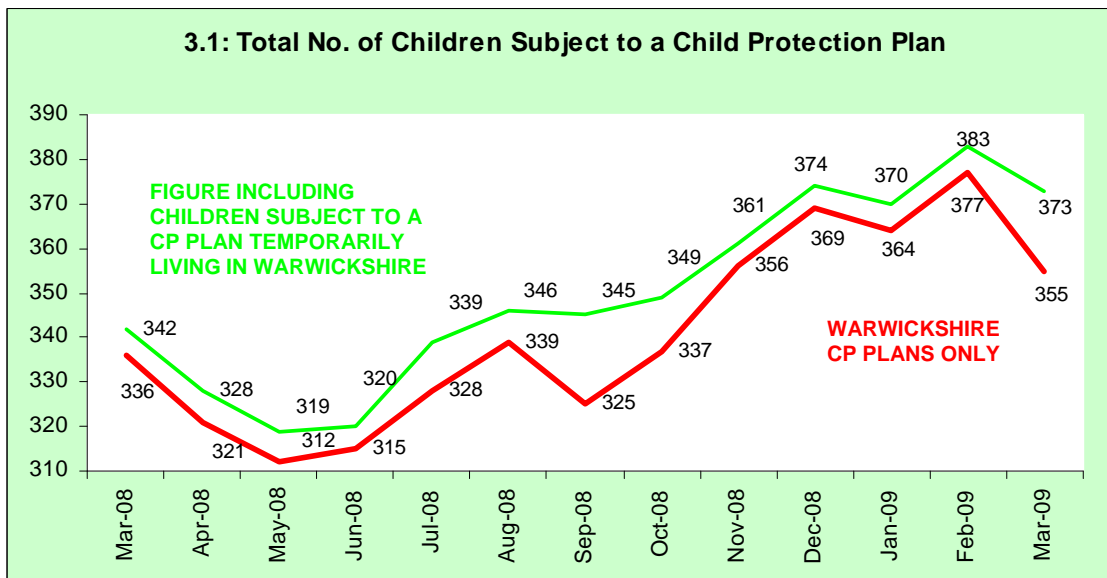
2. Number of children made subject to a Child Protection Plan per 10,000 population.

Chart 2.1 shows the total number of children who were made the subject of a Child Protection Plan per 10,000 population as at 31st March 2009 by district. Previous month's data is provided for comparative purposes.



3. Children made the subject of a Child Protection Plan as at 31 March 2009

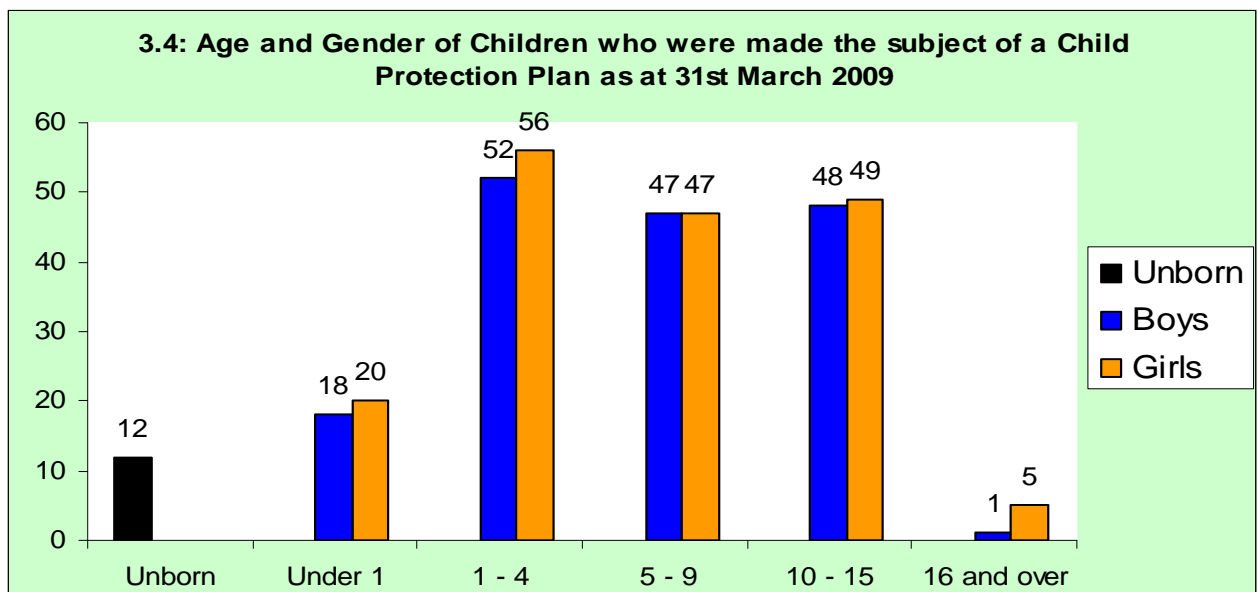
- 3.1 As at 31 March 2009, 355 children were subject to a Child Protection Plan in Warwickshire. This is an 5% increase on the 336 children subject to a plan as at 31st March 2008. **Chart 3.1** shows how this number has fluctuated over the past year.



3.2 As at 31st March 2009 the number of children in Warwickshire subject to a Child Protection Plan was 355. This is an increase of 19 when compared to the same time last year when there were 336.

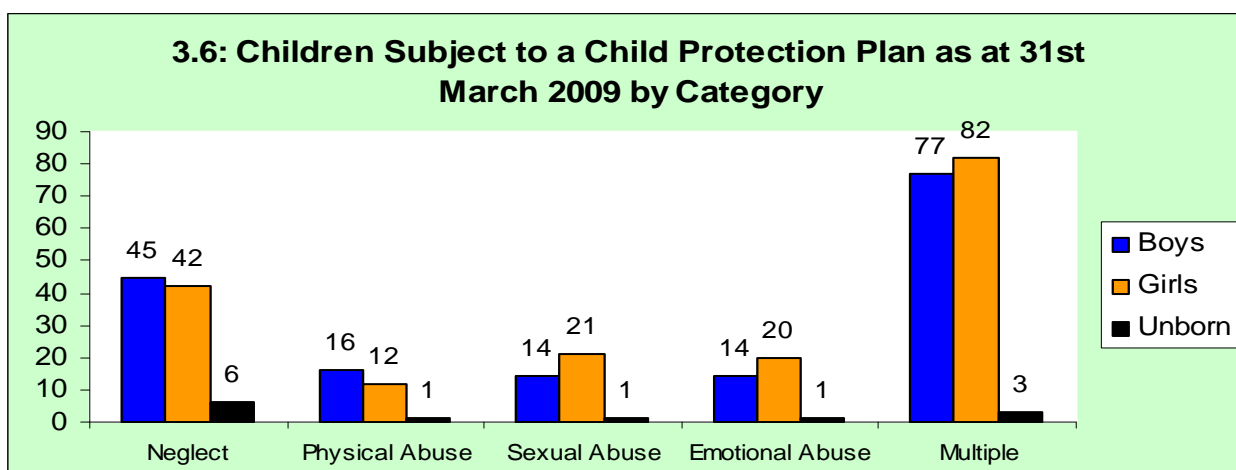
3.3 As at 31st March 2009 there were 18 children subject to a Child Protection Plan, who were temporarily living in the area. This is an increase of 12 children when compared to the previous year's figure of only 6 children.

3.4 The age and gender breakdown of children subject to a Child Protection Plan as at 31st March 2009 is detailed in **Chart 3.4**. 46.8% of children made subject to a Child Protection Plan were boys, which is a decrease on last year's figure of 52.1%. The percentage of girls who were made subject to a Child Protection Plan as at 31st March 2009 this year is 49.9%, an increase on last year's figure of 47.8%.



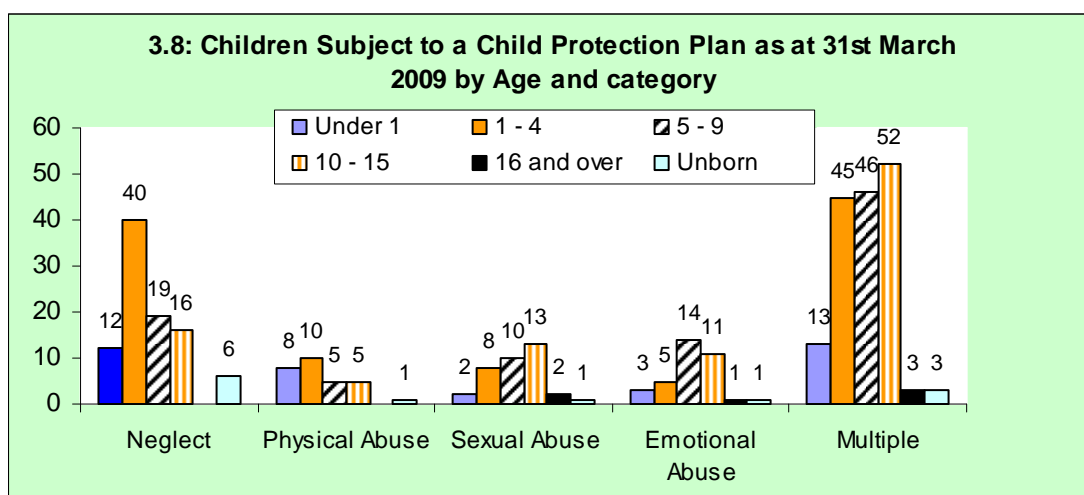
3.5 There were 12 unborn children on the register as at 31st March 2009 compared to 14 unborns last year. The proportion of registered children who are under the age of five (including unborn children) has increased from 43.4% last year to 44.5% this year. Therefore, 55.5% of registered children are aged 5 or over.

3.6 **Chart 3.6** shows the categories under which children were made subject to a Child Protection Plan as at 31st March 2009. Children who were made subject to a Child Protection Plan under the category of “neglect” account for 26.2% of cases which is a decrease on last year’s figure of 31.2%. The number of children who were made subject to a Child Protection Plan under the category of ‘sexual abuse’ has decreased slightly from 11.3% last year to 10.1% this year. Children who were made subject to a Child Protection Plan under the category of ‘physical abuse’ has remained almost the same at 8.1%. Children who were made subject to a Child Protection Plan under the category of ‘emotional abuse’ has dropped from 13% last year to 9.8% this year. Whilst children made subject to a Child Protection Plan under ‘multiple’ has once again risen from 30.7% in 2006/07 and 36.3% in 2007/8 to 45.6% this year.



3.7 This year, more girls than boys were made subject to a Child Protection Plan. More girls were made subject to a Child Protection Plan under the categories of ‘sexual abuse’, ‘emotional abuse’ and ‘multiple’ than boys. Whereas, more boys were made subject to a Child Protection Plan under the categories of ‘Neglect’ and ‘physical abuse’ than girls.

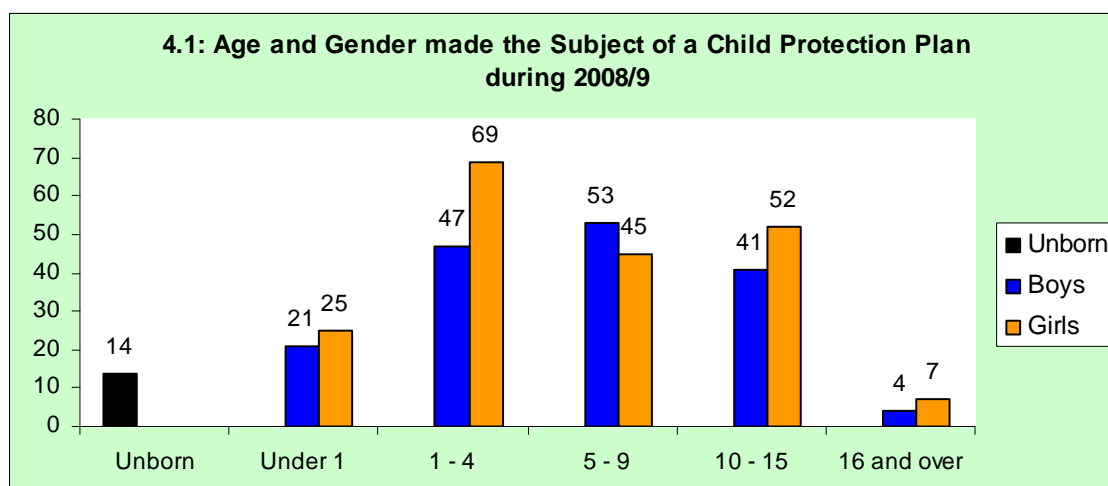
3.8 **Chart 3.8** shows the number of children who were made the subject of a Child Protection Plan as at 31st March 2009 by age and category. This year the majority of children who were made subject to a Child Protection Plan under the categories of ‘neglect’ and ‘physical abuse’ were aged 1-4. The largest number of children made subject to a Child Protection Plan under the categories of ‘sexual abuse’ and ‘multiple’ were aged 10 – 15. Whereas more children aged 5 - 9 were made subject to a Child Protection Plan under the category of ‘emotional abuse’.



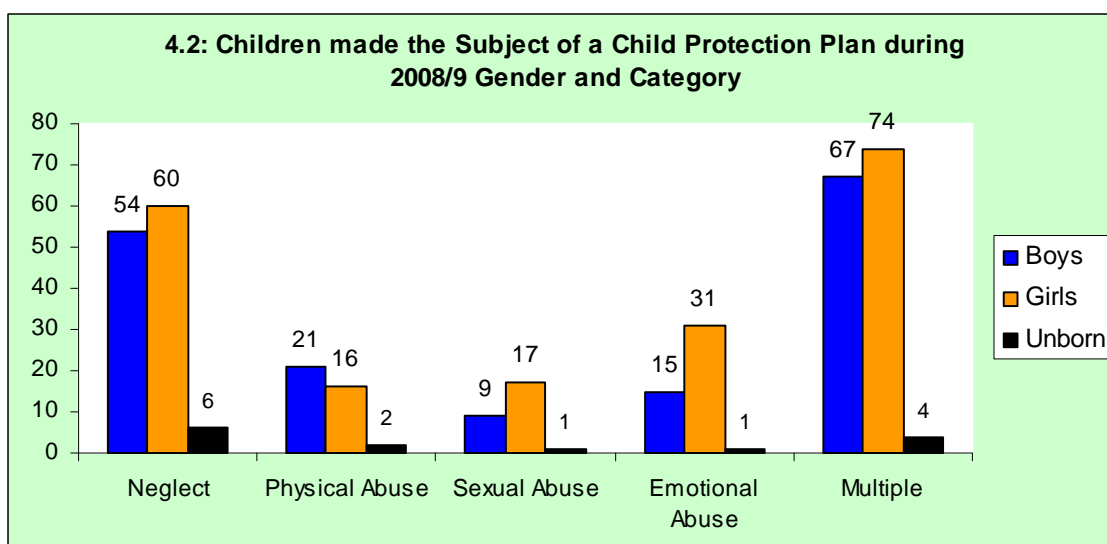
3.9 Excluding the 12 unborn children subject to a Child Protection Plan at 31 March 2009, 86% were of White British ethnic origin. Last year, the comparable figure was 90.3%. This year there were 15 children (4.3%) whose ethnicity was black / minority ethnic which is an increase on last year when there were 9 (2.7%) black/minority ethnic children subject to a Child Protection Plan. There were 16 children of dual heritage (4.6%) subject to a plan at 31 March 2009 which is an increase on last year's figure of 12 (3.7%).

4. Registration Activity During the Year Ending 31st March 2009

4.1 378 children became subject to a Child Protection Plan between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009. **Chart 4.1** breaks this figure down by age and gender and **Chart 4.2** breaks it down by gender and category.



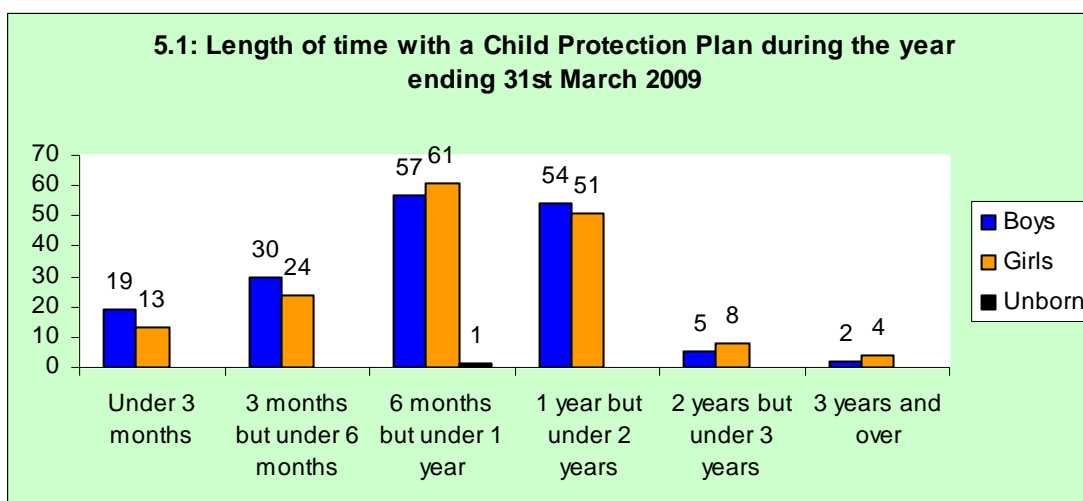
4.2 **Chart 4.1** above shows that the largest number of children becoming subject to a Child Protection Plan during the year were girls aged between one - four years old. This is followed by boys aged five - nine years old. The number of girls who became subject to a plan during the year increased from 160 in 2007/8 to 198 in 2008/9, whilst the number of boys who became subject to a plan decreased from 198 in 2007/8 to 166 in 2008/9. The number of children becoming subject to a plan prior to birth has remained the same at 14 in 2007/8 and 2008/9.



4.3 **Chart 4.2** shows that more girls than boys were made subject to a Child Protection Plan under all of the categories except 'physical abuse'. One of the reasons for this is that more girls than boys were made the subject of a Child Protection Plan throughout the year.

5. Duration of Child Protection Plans

5.1 329 children had their plans discontinued during the year ending March 2009. This is a decrease of 1 when compared with last year. Chart 5.1. shows the number of children whose Child Protection Plans were discontinued during the year ending 31st March 2009, by length of time as the subject of a Child Protection Plan.



5.2 **Chart 5.1** shows that for both boys and girls, the majority of plans were discontinued between '6 months but under 1 year' and between '1 year but under two years'. This was similar to last year although more boys aged between '6 months but under 1 year' had their plans discontinued than girls. Almost double the amount of girls' plans were discontinued for those aged between '2 years but under 3 years' and '3 years and over' than boys in 2008/9.

- 5.3 **Table 5.3** shows this year's discontinued plans by the length of time the child was subject to a Child Protection Plan and compares this with last year's figures. This year's figures are very similar to those of last year.

Table 5.3: Duration of Child Protection Plans Prior to Discontinuation		
Duration of Plan	Warwickshire Percentage	Warwickshire Percentage
	2007/8	2008/9
Under 3 months	12%	10%
3 to 6 months	17%	16%
6 months to 1 year	36%	36%
1 to 2 years	31%	32%
2 to 3 years	3%	4%
3 years and over	1%	2%
TOTAL	100%	100%

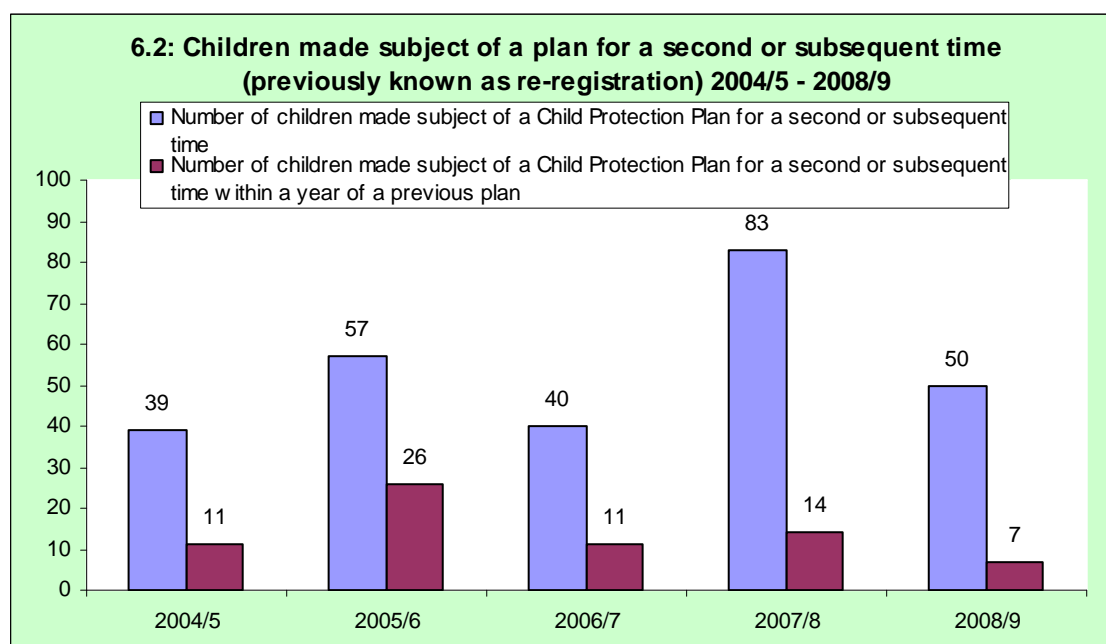
- 5.4 Performance for NI64 (Child protection plans lasting 2 years or more) is 5.8% for 2008/9, an increase on last years 3.6%. This does not however affect Warwickshire's banding in this area, when using the former Performance Assessment Framework bandings.

6. Child Protection Plan Activity during the year ending 31st March 2009

- 6.1 352 children became subject to a Child Protection Plan during the year ending 31st March 2009. 302 (85.8%) of these children became the subject of a Child Protection Plan for the **first time** compared to 77.6% last year. A further 50 (14.2%) children became subject to a Child Protection Plan for a **second or subsequent time** (re-registrations). This is lower than last year where 22.3% of the total number of children (372) became subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time.
- 6.2 **Chart 6.2** shows the number of children who became the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time (previously referred to as re-registrations) since 2004/5. This chart also identifies those who became subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time within less than a year of their previous plan.

The number of children who became subject to a plan for a second or subsequent time decreased significantly from 83 in 2007/8 to 50 in 2008/9, whilst the number of children for whom a second or subsequent plan was initiated within a year of their previous plan halved from 14 in 2007/8 to 7 in 2008/9.

Warwickshire reported a figure of 14.2% against National Indicator 65 (Percentage of children becoming the subject of a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time). This demonstrates significant improvement when compared to last year's figure of 22.3%



7. Reviews of Child Protection Cases

7.1 As at 31st March 2009 271 children had been subject to a plan continuously for at least three months and had had their plans reviewed. This resulted in a very positive performance of 100% for NI67 (Timeliness of reviews). This represents an increase in the numbers of reviews held on time for 2008/9, which improves our NI67 performance from band four to band five.

8. Legal Activity to safeguard Children

8.1 Between 1/4/08 – 31/3/09, 46 care applications in Warwickshire were issued. This figure has historically been relatively stable. However, from 1/4/09 up to 6/7/09, 21 care applications were issued, a trend which if it continues will see a doubling this year in the number of applications issued. These are cases which have been put before the court for determination in the following circumstances:

- when immediate action is needed to safeguard children;
- when children have suffered or are at risk of suffering significant harm as a result of the care of their parents, and when all attempts to keep the children safe by working with the parents through a child protection plan or a plan following a legal family meeting, have not proved successful.

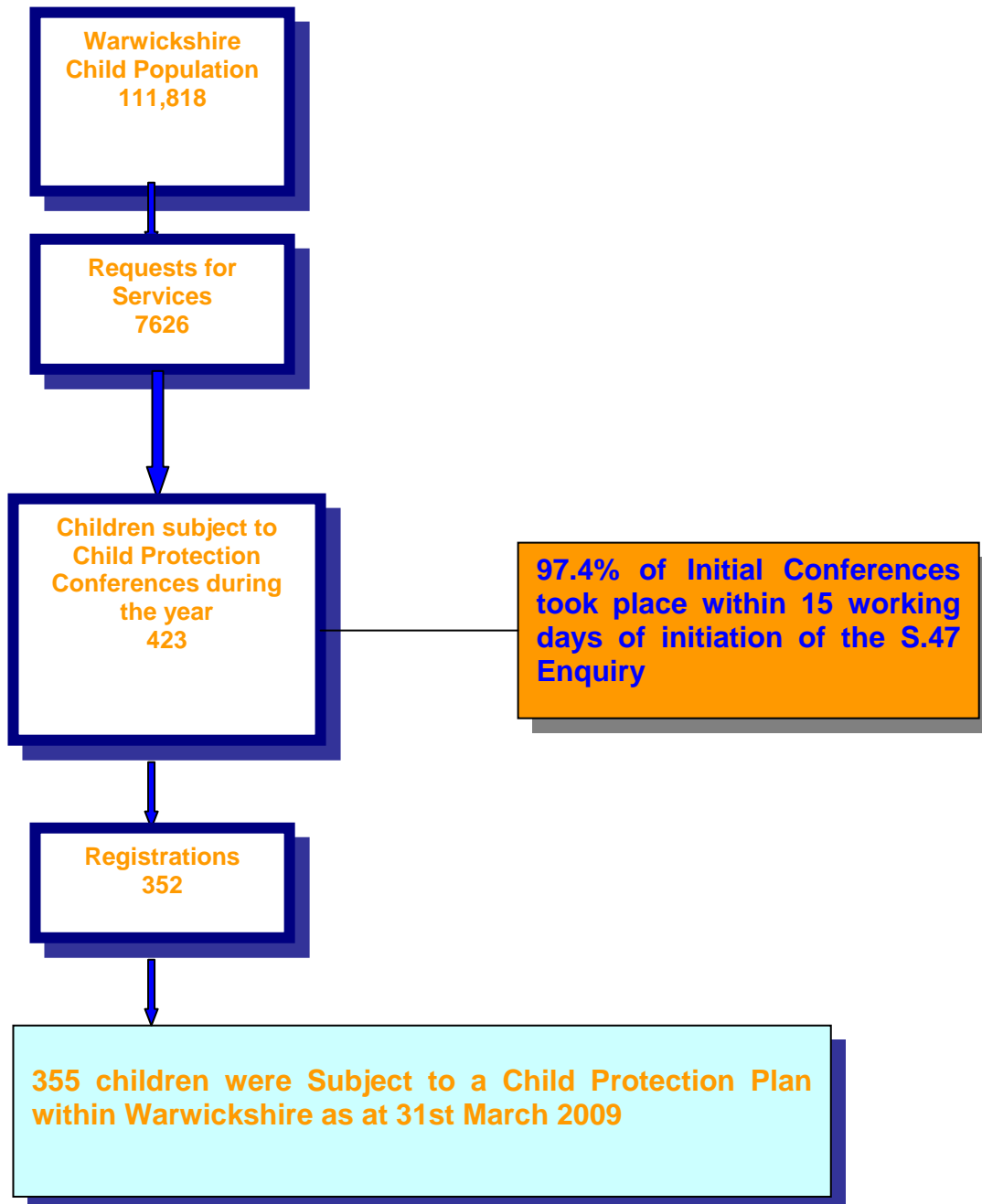
In all the cases brought before the courts last year by Warwickshire County Council, the courts found that these “thresholds” for intervention were met.

8.2 Other routes by which children may be immediately safeguarded are through an application by the local authority to the courts for an Emergency Protection Order (EPO), or by a police inspector making children subject to Police Protection. Between 1/4/08 - 31/3/09 there were 9 effective applications for EPOs in Warwickshire. The relatively low number of applications for EPOs reflects the position of the courts that emergency orders can only be made in circumstances of *imminent* danger to a child, a position asserted in an important case heard in the High Court in March 2006 (Re:X).

- 8.3 The increase in the number of care applications in Warwickshire is a reflection of a national trend evident since the case of baby “P” in Haringey came to public attention.

9. Summary of Child Protection Activity as at 31st March 2009

9.1 **Chart 9** below summarises some of the activity detailed in Sections 1 - 8.



10. Numbers of Private Fostering Placements in Warwickshire by Team and by Month

A privately fostered child is defined as a child under the age of 16 (18 if disabled) that is cared for by someone other than a close relative (i.e. a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, or step-parent). A child is not privately fostered if the person caring for him or her has done so for fewer than 28 days and does not intend to do so for longer than that. Privately fostered children are not "looked after" children in the terms of section 22 of the Children Act 1989. However, Local Authorities have a responsibility to ensure that the welfare of privately fostered children is promoted, as identified in Part IX of the Children Act 1989, amended by section 44 of the Children Act 2004. Local Safeguarding Children Boards are charged with scrutinising this activity and WSCB receives a detailed annual report on private fostering in the county.

Warwickshire, in common with other areas, is required to make a statutory return on the number of children privately fostered across the county during the year.

	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08	Jan-09	Feb-09	Mar-09
N. Warwickshire Children & Families	1	1	0	0	0	0
Bedworth Children's Team	2	2	2	2	2	2
Nuneaton Children's Team	1	1	1	1	1	1
Rugby Short Term	2	4	5	5	5	6
Rugby Long Term	1	1	1	1	1	1
Stratford/ Alcester	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southam/ Shipston	1	1	1	1	1	1
WDCAT	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kenilworth/ Warwick	1	1	1	1	1	1
Leamington Children & Families	1	1	1	0	0	0
YOT (North)	0	0	0	0	0	0
YOT (South)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asylum Seekers	0	0	0	0	0	0
EDT	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unallocated	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	11	13	13	12	12	13

5. PUBLIC SERVICE AGREEMENT (PSA) INDICATORS 2009

The government describes the new *PSA to improve children and young people's safety* as a mechanism for driving delivery of the actions set out in the **DCSF Staying Safe Action Plan** published in 2008. It is intended to underline the priority attached to keeping children safe described in the Action Plan.

The PSA is monitored using the following indicators:

- **Percentage of children who have experienced bullying;**
- **Percentage of children referred to children's social care who received an initial assessment within seven working days;**
- **Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries;**
- **Preventable child deaths as recorded through child death review panel processes.**

In Warwickshire, the following data can be reported in relation to each of these four indicators:

Indicator 1 – Percentage of children who have experienced bullying

Warwickshire County Council has run an annual survey through schools each year since 2007, based on the themes of the Every Child Matters outcomes. These include questions about children's experiences of bullying. The respondents to the survey range from year 5 to year 12. In 2009 the number of respondents to the survey was approximately 9500. Changes to the survey in 2009 make direct comparisons for some questions difficult. However, the main headline findings are:

- There is a reduction in the number of pupils who report having been bullied
- There is an increase in pupil's confidence about how their school deals with bullying
- The number of pupils who feel bullying is a 'big' problem in their school is reducing.

The statistical details for each question are:

	2007	2008	2009	Comment
Bullying is a 'big' problem in school	17.0%	15.0%	14.0%	The wording of this question has remained the same.
School deals with bullying 'very well', 'quite well' (2007/8) and 'OK' (2009)	62.4%	64.7%	87.3%	The choice of answers for this question changed in 2009; the figures here reflect responses that can be deemed 'positive' for each year ('very well/quite well/OK')
Have been bullied in school in the last 12 months ('often/a few times' – 2007/8; 'yes' – 2009)	24.0%	22.5%	15.1%	In 2007/8 pupils were able to choose 'never/once/a few times/often' as answers to these questions. In 2009 they could choose 'no/not really/yes'. Responses of 'once' in earlier years have been excluded from the statistics as definitions of bullying include an element of persistence i.e.

				happens more than once.
Have been bullied out of school in the last 12 months ('often/a few times' – 2007/8; 'yes' – 2009)	14.5%	13.3%	7.2%	As above.

Indicator 2 – Percentage of children referred to children’s social care who received an initial assessment within seven working days

*Initial Assessments	2003/4		2004/5		2005/6		2006/7		2007/8		2008/9	
2A Initial assessments completed in year, completed within 7 working days of referral	1458	54.2%	2484	66.3%	4173	86.8%	4251	91.7%	2516	89.9%	3438	80.0%
2B Other initial assessments completed in year	1232		1261		633		381		281		860	

The recent decrease in numbers of initial assessments completed within seven working days, following a period of sustained improvement, is attributable to the impact of the *Integrated Children System (ICS)*, and the recording requirements associated with this. The government has recognised this problem and following publication of Lord Laming’s Progress Report on Child Protection in England (March 2009), which highlighted concerns across the country, has initiated a review of ICS.

Indicator 3 – Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries

The figures in the table below are for Warwickshire children aged 0-17, who have been admitted to any hospital.

2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
1239	1222	1159	1061

This indicates a gradual reduction over a 5 year period. The injuries referred to in the table relate to injuries to:

- Head
- Neck
- Thorax
- Abdomen, lower back, lumbar spine and pelvis
- Shoulder and upper arm
- Elbow and forearm
- Wrist and hand
- Hip and thigh
- Knee and lower leg

- Ankle and foot
- Injuries involving multiple body regions
- Effects of foreign body entering through natural orifice
- Burns and corrosions
- Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
- Toxic effects of substances chiefly non-medical as to source
- Other and unspecified effects of external causes

Indicator 4 – Preventable child deaths as recorded through child death review panel processes

Between 1st April 2008 and 31st March 2009, the first year of operation of the government's new child death review arrangements, the Warwickshire panel reviewed the deaths of 10 children. Of these deaths, one was deemed to have been preventable. As the system becomes more established it is envisaged that it will be possible to increase the numbers of child death reviews which are completed each year.

For further information regarding the WSCB Business Plan 2008-2011, this update, and other aspects of the work of the Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board please contact:

***Dr Vic Tuck
Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board Development Manager
Email: vicktuck@warwickshire.gov.uk***

***To find out more about the Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board visit the WSCB website at:
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/wscb***