



**MSCB**

# **Business Plan 2009/10**



# MSCB Business Plan 2009/10

## 1. Introduction and summary

This Plan sets out what the MSCB aims to achieve this year. It is written in the context of changes locally – the new Children’s Trust has been established and agreed the Children and Young People’s Plan 2009-11, and nationally – in response to Lord Laming’s report into child protection arrangements in England. To inform the development of this plan, the Board carried out its own stock-take and commissioned an independent review of child protection arrangements in Medway.

The MSCB has statutory responsibilities which guide its work, as well as locally determined priorities to respond to local need. For 2009/10 MSCB will deliver its statutory responsibilities and will give particular focus to:

- Improving quality assurance of safeguarding practice and multi agency working to ensure Medway’s most vulnerable children are protected
- Ensuring safeguarding activity focuses on the most vulnerable groups
- Participation and engagement of service users including young children
- Evaluating the impact of MSCB training programmes
- Increasing the sharing of good and effective practice
- Improving feedback and communication from the Board to all partner agencies

MSCB intends to deliver the following outcomes:

- Child protection processes are fit for purpose, are consistently used and effectively safeguard Medway’s vulnerable children
- Through rigorous quality assurance, MSCB drives an improvement in practice which leads to improved safety for Medway’s most vulnerable children and young people
- The voice of children and young people is listened to and their views inform decision making and improvement of safeguarding policy and practice
- Multi agency collaboration reduces the number of preventable child deaths in Medway
- The children’s workforce is knowledgeable and provides high quality services and practice across all sectors
- The risk to children from those who work with them is minimised
- Increased awareness of MSCB, safeguarding issues and how to access appropriate support and services amongst children and young people, the community and staff in partner agencies
- Children are able to identify risky situations and know what to do and who to contact.
- The risk to children subject to private fostering arrangements is minimised through effective coordination, notification and assessment
- Recommendations from serious case reviews and lessons learnt reviews are effectively implemented to improve child safety, with reviews completed within time frame and of good quality
- All agencies give high priority to safeguarding and are compliant with their statutory responsibilities in this area (section 11)
- Incidents of domestic violence are reduced and there is a reduction in the numbers of children who witness and are affected by domestic violence.
- Multi agency preventative services are targeted to effectively support Medway’s most vulnerable children and young people (Board discussion is needed on the exact focus it wishes to take on this priority outcome identified at our stocktake)
- The MSCB is held to account, is representative and can be shown to make a positive impact in promoting outcomes for children and young people

## 2. The Role of Medway Safeguarding Children Board

The MSCB was established in April 2006 as the statutory successor of the Medway Child Protection Committee under the Children Act 2004.

The role and responsibilities of Local Safeguarding Children Boards are outlined in full in Chapter 3 of the key Government guidance document *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2006*. The MSCB operates according to this guidance.

The **core objectives** of the MSCB are:

- To **coordinate** what is done by each agency represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Medway
- To **ensure the effectiveness** of what is done by those agencies for that purpose

The MSCB seeks to fulfil these objectives by undertaking activity in connection with its **core functions**, which are as follows:

- Policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area are developed. Including:
  - setting out thresholds for service provision for children and young people
  - ensuring training is provided to meet local need
  - recruitment, selection and supervision
  - investigating allegations against those working with children,
  - ensure the safety and welfare of children who are privately fostered,
  - co-operate with neighbouring authorities
- The need to safeguard children and young people is effectively communicated and that the issue of raising public awareness is effectively addressed
- All agencies involved in the welfare of children and young people participate in the planning and commissioning of services
- The effectiveness of Board partners individually and collectively are monitored and evaluated
- Procedures to ensure a co-ordinated response to unexpected child deaths are developed
- Information about child deaths is properly collected and evaluated
- Serious Case Reviews are undertaken in line with the requirements of legislation and guidance

### 3. Board Structure and Membership

The MSCB is the strategic group that ensures that the safeguarding objectives are coordinated, monitored and effective. It comprises of senior strategic executive officers of the agencies that make up the Board.

The MSCB is supported by four subgroups:

- **Policy and Procedures subgroup,**
- **Training Subgroup**
- **Quality Assurance And Case Review Subgroup (QACR) and**
- **Business Planning Subgroup**

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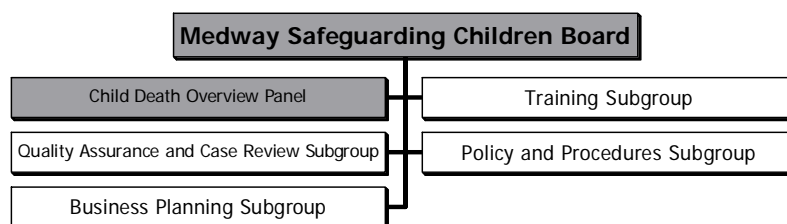
- **The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)**

The Child Death Overview Panel has been set up as required under Regulation 6 of the LSCB regulations. Working Together describes the scope of Child death Review processes as:

- a) collecting an analysing information about each death with a view to identifying
  - i. any case giving rise to the need for review mentioned in regulation 5 (1)(e) (Serious Case Review);
  - ii. any matters of concern affecting the safety and welfare of children in the area of the authority and;
  - iii. any wider public health or safety concerns arising from a particular death or from a pattern of deaths in that area;
- b) putting in place procedures for ensuring there is a coordinated response by the authority, their Board partners and any other relevant persons to an unexpected death.

The Board and its associated Groups and subgroups are administered by the MSCB Administrator and supported by the MSCB Manager.

The approved structure is shown diagrammatically below:



The roles and responsibilities of the management group and the MSCB Subgroups can be found in the MSCB Constitution at [www.msrb.org.uk](http://www.msrb.org.uk)

### 4. Funding the delivery of this business plan

All statutory partner agencies contribute to the costs of the Board. Detailed costing of the activities will be completed for first quarter monitoring.

## 5. The MSCB and other multi-agency fora

The MSCB has a key role in the wider children's trust arrangements that operate in Medway with the goal of improving the well-being of all children in line with the five Every Child Matters outcomes – be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution, achieve economic well-being. The specific role of the Medway Safeguarding Children Board within these arrangements is to monitor the work of agencies to achieve the 'stay safe' outcome. It is the primary statutory agency in Medway through which decisions on multi-agency cooperation in this area should be made. The independent chair of the MSCB is a member of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership – Medway's Children's Trust.

MSCB must also forge effective relationships with other parts of Medway's Local Strategic Partnership with responsibility for children's safety. These include the Community Safety Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Partnership. The key elements of the relationship that exists between these bodies is as follows:

### Communication

Effective communication must be maintained so that issues related to safeguarding can be fed into the Board for its consideration and so that others are aware of the issues the Board is working on, their implications for them and the cross references that need to be made.

### Monitoring and Evaluation

The Board also has an important monitoring role in relation to the children's trust arrangements and other partnership working designed to improve children's safety. The monitoring and evaluating effectiveness function of the Board applies to the activities that Board partners undertake both individually and *collectively* to safeguard children. The Board therefore has a responsibility to highlight any concerns it may have with the way multi-agency cooperation is functioning and about any gaps in existing arrangements or provision.

## 6. The strategic context for safeguarding children in Medway.

All agencies in Medway are committed to developing more effective and integrated preventative services to keep children and young people safe. The Children's Trust has identified three priority outcomes so that children and young people in Medway are:

- Safe and cared for
- Succeed in learning
- Thrive

In relation to safeguarding, the Children's Trust has identified the following key aims to which the MSCB, in delivering its outcomes, will contribute:

- Keep Medway's most vulnerable children safe, by embedding safeguarding improvements and minimising incidents of child abuse and neglect
- Develop the resilience of young people and reduce the incidence of substance misuse, including alcohol, and so lessen the related personal harm and public disorder
- Ensure that preventative services focus on those on the edge of care, and enable families to have easy access to effective family support services when they are needed

MCSB has a key role in supporting and contributing to the delivery of these strategic safeguarding priorities, as well as scrutinising and evaluating the extent to which they are achieved and the effectiveness of multi agency working.

The MSCB's objectives are informed by these strategic priorities as well as its statutory functions and a number of key national policy and strategic drivers such as Lord Laming's review of child protection arrangements in England and the Government's response to it. Local drivers include the results of a stocktake undertaken by the MSCB on its progress to date, action plans from an independent review of child protection arrangements in Medway and from Serious Case and Lessons Learned Reviews, quality assurance data and the Medway TellUs Survey.

The action plan that supports this business plan is ordered to reflect the different roles the Board fulfils and shows how the Board's priorities will be addressed, identifies key measures of success and lead responsibilities:

- 1. Promoting best practice and improving safeguarding practice and procedures** – this encompasses statutory functions:
  - policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
  - agency involvement and participation in the planning and commissioning of services
  - Child Death Functions
  - Serious Case Review functions
  
- 2. Quality assurance and scrutiny** – this encompasses statutory functions:
  - The effectiveness of Board partners individually and collectively are monitored and evaluated
  
- 3. Local Safeguarding Priorities** – encompassing local priorities as identified through case file audits, audits of children subject to COP plans and primary concerns

This year the Board is developing a more sophisticated quality assurance framework to track the impact it is having in safeguarding children and young people in Medway. Responsibility for each action in the plan is allocated to one of the MSCB sub groups who will develop more detailed action plans to ensure effective delivery. The Board will receive quarterly monitoring reports on achievement of the business plan objectives.

**Jim Leivers**  
MSCB Chair

**Sally Mortimore**  
MSCB Manager

## Core Objective 1 - Improving and Promoting Best Safeguarding Practice and Procedures

### 1. Safer employment and professional standards

Outcome: The risk to children from those who work with them is minimised

Action	By Whom	Output	Measure of Success	Time scale	Progress monitored by MSCB by quarter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and update programme of training focusing on safer recruitment, allegations management, promoting a safer culture to reflect changes in statutory guidance.</li> <li>Audit compliance with and the effectiveness of safer recruitment and allegations management procedures.</li> </ul>	<p>Training Subgroup</p> <p>QACR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'Train the trainer' Training is delivered to multi agency professionals responsible for recruitment, and allegations management -delivered annually.</li> <li>Audit of implementation of Safer Recruitment Policies by agencies.</li> <li>Audit of nominated senior officers and senior managers with responsibility for allegation management.</li> <li>Audit of all agency compliance with ISA requirements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All statutory partners will have at least one member of staff responsible for recruitment trained.</li> <li>Each agency has a clearly understood and consistently used process where there are concerns about staff conduct.</li> <li>Staff are clear about whistle blowing procedures.</li> <li>Compliance by agencies is monitored through annual audits.</li> <li>6 monthly LADO reports on allegations management assess effectiveness of the process.</li> </ul>	<p>March 2010</p>	

## 2. Child death review processes

**Outcome: MSCB is compliant with statutory requirements and multi agency collaboration reduces the number of preventable child deaths in Medway**

Action	By Whom	Output	Measure of Success	Time scale	Progress monitored by MSCB by quarter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Child Death Overview Panel and Rapid Response processes, including Agency representation.</li> <li>• Evaluate current practice to ensure lessons are learnt in response to new statutory guidance (to be published December 2009).</li> <li>• Determine that all agencies to ensure their ongoing engagement and leadership of the CDOP processes.</li> <li>• Seek to collaborate with Kent CDOP in order to allow more robust statistical analysis of causes of death.</li> <li>• Review of agency engagement, information sharing and support to bereaved families.</li> </ul>	<p>CDOP/QACR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CDOP review undertaken and progress in relation to National Audit return 2008-09 is monitored.</li> <li>• An Annual Report is published for relevant statutory bodies and Local Strategic Partnership.</li> <li>• Consideration is given of closer working relationship with KSCB to information trends, patterns identification.</li> <li>• New policy, procedure and practice guidance are issued in line with new government guidance when published.</li> <li>• Leaflets for parents are published.</li> <li>• Agencies' services to bereaved families are evaluated.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notifications are made appropriately and Child Death Review Overview Panel reviews cases, in line with statutory requirements.</li> <li>• LSCB1 returns are completed for DCSF.</li> <li>• Trends and patterns are identified and inform Business Planning for MSCB and preventative strategies for all agencies.</li> <li>• Recommendations from CDOP are implemented to inform all partners' service planning for providing information and support to bereaved families.</li> </ul>	<p>April 2010</p>	



#### 4. Serious Case Reviews/Lessons Learned Reviews

**Outcome: SCR/LLRs recommendations are effectively implemented to improve child safety, with reviews completed within time frame and of good quality**

Action	By Whom	Output	Measure of Success	Time scale	Progress monitored by MSCB by quarter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carry out SCRs / LLRs to guidance and on time, making sure recommendations are effectively communicated and implementation is audited.</li> <li>• MSCB Serious Case Review Guidance is reviewed in line with new Ofsted SCR evaluation criteria to be published summer 09 and revised Chapter 8 Working Together Guidance (to be published December 2009), and incorporates Ofsted Guidance re IMRs.</li> <li>• Once new guidance is implemented. MSCB to evaluate effectiveness of SCR process, in light of Ofsted judgements of conduct, quality and IMR quality.</li> </ul>	<p>QACR</p> <p>Partner agencies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff are informed through different fora.</li> <li>• Briefings are made available on MSCB website.</li> <li>• Outcomes and recommendations inform the training strategy.</li> <li>• New guidance is published.</li> <li>• Implementation of action plans and single agency recommendations is quality assured and monitored.</li> <li>• Improved training for IMR authors is delivered.</li> <li>• QACR undertake audit of implementation of single and multi agency recommendations.</li> <li>• Adequate funding is available to ensure resources can be dedicated.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serious Case Reviews are completed on time and judged to be either adequate, good or outstanding.</li> <li>• Recommendations are implemented and embedded within practice.</li> <li>• Practice is improved.</li> <li>• Staff feel skilled and supported.</li> <li>• Quality of IMRs is improved.</li> </ul>	<p>Annually</p> <p>Sept 09</p> <p>Dec 09</p>	

<b>5. Multi agency training and workforce development</b>					
<b>Outcome: The children's workforce is knowledgeable and provides high quality services and high quality practice across all sectors</b>					
<b>Action</b>	<b>By Whom</b>	<b>Output</b>	<b>Measure of Success</b>	<b>Time scale</b>	<b>Progress monitored by MSCB by quarter</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review training to ensure it meets existing and forthcoming Working Together requirements and local needs.</li> <li>Re-commission/ provide as appropriate.</li> <li>Develop model for evaluating impact and effectiveness of training and provide 6-month reports to the Board.</li> </ul>	Training Sub-group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Costed training plan is published 2010/11.</li> <li>Regular evaluation reports, which inform future training events, are reported to the Board 6 monthly by Training subgroup chair.</li> <li>Basic and Intermediate Course contents reviewed and amended if necessary in light of Baby P.</li> <li>Monitor uptake of Multi Agency and single agency training and percentage of staff trained and feedback to MSCB partners 6 monthly.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Skills levels and practice improves in areas targeted for training.</li> <li>Training programme is focussed on local need and agency priorities as well as national priorities.</li> </ul>	<p>October 2009</p> <p>July 2009</p> <p>October 2009 March 2009</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual Conference is held on theme of a local Safeguarding issue.</li> </ul>	MSCB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual Conference is held.</li> <li>Conference positively engages children and young people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conference is positively evaluated.</li> <li>Board profile is raised in the region.</li> <li>Feedback informs planning for future events.</li> </ul>	April 2010	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop forums / mechanisms for sharing best and good practice in safeguarding across agencies and practitioners.</li> </ul>	<p>Training sub group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme of events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best practice shared.</li> <li>• Positive feedback from practitioners.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver training focused on safety of children in the voluntary sector.</li> <li>• Audit safeguarding standards (forthcoming national guidance).</li> <li>• Draft Guidance published for staff, paid carers and volunteers on recognising and raising safeguarding concerns.</li> </ul>	<p>Training Sub-group/CWDC Workgroup/CVS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Conference for voluntary sector.</li> <li>• 600 representatives from the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector will have received basic safeguarding training by 2010.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness, skills levels and practice improves in voluntary sector in areas targeted by training.</li> </ul>	<p>June 2010</p>	

<b>6. Communication and engagement</b>					
<b>Outcome: Voice of children and young people is listened to to ensure their views inform decision making and improvement of safeguarding policy and practice</b>					
<b>MSCB has high profile across all partner agency's staff (reorder this so the Board profile action comes last in this section)</b>					
<b>Action</b>	<b>By Whom</b>	<b>Output</b>	<b>Measure of Success</b>	<b>Time scale</b>	<b>Progress monitored by MSCB by quarter</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise awareness of the MSCB in the community, with children and young people and within partner agencies.</li> </ul>	Policy & Procedures Subgroup	<p>MSCB website is updated with specific pages for young people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Protection posters are published to raise awareness of general public.</li> <li>• Bulletin of key messages to be disseminated after each Board meeting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased staff awareness in all main agencies about the work of the MSCB and safeguarding good practice.</li> <li>• Increased community awareness of MSCB, safeguarding issues and how to access appropriate support and services.</li> <li>• MSCB has recognised branding and identity.</li> </ul>	October 2009	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving participation and engagement of children and young people and the wider community.</li> </ul>	Policy & Procedures Subgroup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme of consultation and engagement activity with children and young people to support evaluation of the impact of the Board and its future planning.</li> <li>• Regular consultation with focus groups that are representative of the community.</li> <li>• Awareness is raised throughout schools and community groups through visits/talks by Board staff.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in involvement of children and young people in evaluation of the work of the Board and partner organisations on work relating to children's safeguarding.</li> </ul>	March 2010	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree policy and practice to ensure children's views, wishes and feelings are specifically sought, heard and sensitively recorded through child protection processes (Ingson recommendation).</li> </ul>	<p>Policy and procedures sub group</p>	<p>Policy agreed and effectively used.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audit of recording and use of children's views</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation of the experience of LAC in Medway.</li> </ul>	<p>QACR/Medway Council Audit &amp; Review service</p>	<p>Consultation process is undertaken and results evaluated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feedback from LAC</li> </ul>		

## Core Objective 2 – Quality assurance and scrutiny

### 1. Monitoring Effectiveness of safeguarding policy and practice

**Outcome: MSCB drives an improvement in practice which leads to improved safety for Medway's most vulnerable children and young people**

Action	By Whom	Output	Measure of Success	Time scale	Progress monitored by MSCB by quarter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree and implement QA framework in line with identified safeguarding priorities to track quality of practice, multi agency collaboration and implementation of safeguarding policy.</li> <li>• MSCB considers the findings of the Laming self audits conducted by statutory partners and amends this business plan if required in the light of findings.</li> <li>• Board undertakes annual self assessment using QA Improvement Tool.</li> <li>• MSCB produces annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area.</li> <li>• Once the new national indicators for safeguarding are confirmed in the autumn, MSCB assesses current performance and proposes any changes to the safeguarding indicators in the LAA to the Children's Trust.</li> </ul>	QACR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Links are made with geographical/statistical neighbours.</li> <li>• MSCB reviews findings from agency safeguarding inspections and monitors improvement.</li> <li>• Multi-agency case file audit programme continues and is reviewed by QACR.</li> <li>• 6 monthly reports are provided to the MSCB for scrutiny.</li> <li>• Improvement plans are developed and maintained.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSCB is outcome driven and high achieving. Agencies are monitored, challenged and held to account.</li> <li>• Business planning framework is in place to ensure consistent production, publication and monitoring of the business plan through the LSCB and sub-group structures.</li> <li>• Performance, business and finance planning cycles of the MSCB are robustly linked.</li> <li>• Partners' business Plans reflect safeguarding priorities.</li> <li>• Month on month/year on year improvement against KPIs is evident.</li> </ul>	Sept 09 and ongoing	



<b>3. Safe people and safe places</b>					
<b>Outcome: Children in Medway are resilient, have positive self-esteem and know what to do if they feel unsafe</b>					
<b>Action</b>	<b>By Whom</b>	<b>Output</b>	<b>Measure of Success</b>	<b>Time scale</b>	<b>Progress monitored by MSCB by quarter</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A programme of protective behaviours delivered through schools.</li> <li>• Implement an Anti-Bullying Action Plan.</li> <li>• Programme of E-safety training is delivered to parents.</li> </ul>	Medway Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protective behaviours programme delivered to 30% of schools through programme of timetabled PSHE.</li> <li>• Anti-bullying Action Plan signed off and promoted.</li> <li>• Training focussed on cyber bullying and homophobic bullying delivered.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children are able to identify risky situations and know what to do and who to contact.</li> <li>• Tell Us survey 2009/10 indicates that children feel safe in Medway.</li> </ul>	March 2010	
Develop a Policy and protocols for Medway on Child Restraint.	Policy & Procedures Subgroup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protocol Developed.</li> <li>• Monitoring of agencies undertaken.</li> <li>• Consideration of training provision.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimise incidents of inappropriate child restraint</li> </ul>		
MSCB executes its responsibilities in relation to licensing applications.	Board Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Response to licensing applications completed.</li> <li>• Training offered, taken up – money generated.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All appropriate licensing applications commented on</li> </ul>		

**4. Private fostering****Outcome: private fostering arrangements are strengthened through coordination and effective implementation of statutory guidance**

<b>Action</b>	<b>By Whom</b>	<b>Output</b>	<b>Measure of Success</b>	<b>Time scale</b>	<b>Progress monitored by MSCB by quarter</b>
MSCB ensures co-ordination and implementation of measures designed to strengthen private fostering notification.	QACR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MSCB reviews Bi-annual reports from Medway Council.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Private fostering requirements are well publicised and placements are notified.</li><li>• Placements are assessed quickly and privately fostered children are less vulnerable.</li></ul>	Quarterly	

## 5. Governance and Quality assurance of MSCB

**Outcome: The MSCB is accountable, representative and has positive impact in promoting outcomes for CYP.**

Action	By Whom	Output	Measure of Success	Time scale	Progress monitored by MSCB by quarter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSCB Chair delivers 6 monthly progress updates to Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</li> <li>• MSCB Chair presents MSCB business plan and annual report annually.</li> <li>• MSCB completes assessment of compliance when new WT is published.</li> <li>• Members/Agencies commitment is reissued and is compliant with the requirements of WT 2009.</li> <li>• Relationship to Children's Trust Board is clarified.</li> <li>• New Constitution published.</li> <li>• MSCB establishes statutory membership of Lead Member for Children's Services as required under Government Action Plan post Laming.</li> <li>• MSCB reviews Board membership to ensure all relevant agencies are appropriately represented/included.</li> <li>• In light of government response to Laming report, develop procedures for recruiting to / inducting lay members once that requirement is formally introduced.</li> <li>• MSCB publishes minutes of meetings, which include SMART action plans.</li> </ul>	<p>MSCB Chair</p> <p>MSCB Chair</p> <p>MSCB Chair/DCS</p> <p>MSCB Administrator/MSCB Manager</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board activities are scrutinised and open to challenge. Ensure robust links with Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</li> <li>• Regular contact/liason with OSC and Lead Member.</li> <li>• New constitution is published.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSCB ensures its own effectiveness to safeguard and promote the welfare of children is open to scrutiny and evaluation.</li> <li>• Members are clear about their roles and responsibilities as board members and demonstrate commitment.</li> <li>• Regular and consistent attendance by all Board members.</li> <li>• Improved dissemination of information at meetings.</li> </ul>	<p>Annually</p> <p>6 monthly</p> <p>Apr 2010</p>	

## Core Objective 3 – Local Safeguarding Priorities

Supports the delivery of strategic priorities:

- Providing children and young people with a safe environment
- Keeping Medway’s most vulnerable children safe
- Minimise the incidence of child abuse and neglect

### 1. Domestic violence

Action	By Whom	Output	Measure of Success	Time scale	Progress monitored by MSCB by quarter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme to promote awareness of domestic abuse is rolled out across school in Medway.</li> <li>• MSCB active member of the KMDVSG.</li> <li>• Thematic Multi-Agency training is delivered focussing on the impact on children.</li> <li>• SCR/LLR Recommendations pertaining to domestic abuse are addressed.</li> </ul>	<p>Policy &amp; Procedures Subgroup MSCB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased awareness of all agencies of responsibilities in relation to preventing domestic abuse and responding to incidents.</li> <li>• Effective links between MSCB, Medway Domestic Abuse Forum, Kent and Medway Domestic Violence Strategy Group and broader objectives of Local Safer Communities Partnership are maintained.</li> <li>• Medway agencies are actively engaged with the Kent &amp; Medway DV Strategy and are aware of their responsibilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incidents of domestic violence are reduced and there is a reduction in the numbers of children who witness domestic violence.</li> <li>• Children who witness domestic violence are able to access therapeutic services.</li> <li>• Staff and members of the community are able to identify risks and report appropriately.</li> </ul>	<p>April 2010</p>	

<b>2. Vulnerable groups</b>					
<b>Action</b>	<b>By Whom</b>	<b>Output</b>	<b>Measure of Success</b>	<b>Time scale</b>	<b>Progress monitored by MSCB by quarter</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve understanding of risk factors the most vulnerable groups in Medway and coordinate the development of multi agency responses.</li> <li>• Develop and publish new procedures for working with parents who have mental health issues.</li> <li>• MSCB supports partners to use existing tools for risk assessment.</li> </ul>	Policy & procedures Subgroup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audit of Child Protection cases where neglect is the primary concern to identify themes.</li> <li>• Training programme is delivered.</li> <li>• Assessment tool is developed.</li> <li>• Summary of key risk factors and their inter relationship for:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under 1's</li> <li>• Disabled children</li> <li>• Teenagers, Deprivation</li> <li>• Parents with substance misuse, learning difficulties, mental health issues,</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhanced understanding of contributory factors to neglect.</li> <li>• Enhanced understanding of interplay between risk factors</li> <li>• Improved service response</li> <li>• Reducing the number of children subject to protection plans as a result of neglect.</li> </ul>	March 2010	