

A protocol between the Children's Partnership Board the Safeguarding Children Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board

1 PURPOSE/OBJECTIVE

- 1.1 To set out the relationship between the Health and Well-Being Board and the Safeguarding Children's Board in order to strengthen the working relationships between them, clarify the responsibilities of each partnership and make clear their responsibilities to each other.
- 1.2 This protocol will summarise the functions and responsibilities of the two partnerships and describe the inter-relationship between them.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Safeguarding Children Board (SCB) is a statutory Board and the Children's Partnership Board (CPB) is a key leadership forum. Both have important but distinctive roles in ensuring that the strategic planning needs for children and young people in the borough are met. This includes keeping children safe.
- 2.2 There is not a hierarchical relationship between the SCB and CPB but a joint responsibility to ensure the needs of children and young people are addressed and prioritised.
- 2.3 The Partnership is accountable for ensuring all services which are commissioned or provided improve outcomes for children and young people in line with the agreed priorities.

3 THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

- 3.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is a statutory committee of the Council. Its terms of reference are agreed by the Council and it is subject to the Council's Constitution.
- 3.2 The Health and Wellbeing Board is statutorily required to publish a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and prepare a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The Health and Wellbeing Board also has a duty to encourage integrated working between commissioners of health services and commissioners of social care services.
- 3.3 The Health and Wellbeing Board is a multi-agency body whose work is influenced by Government guidance. However the Board is also influenced by the statutory requirements placed upon the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group.

3.4 The Health and Wellbeing Strategy covers a broad range of issues related to wellbeing in its widest sense. The Health and Wellbeing Board is accountable for the delivery of the Strategy.

4 THE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

4.1 The core objectives of the Safeguarding Children Board are to:

- Co-ordinate what is done by each agency to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in the area
- Ensure the effectiveness of that work.

4.2 The SCB is the decision making body for multi agency arrangements for safeguarding of children. It is a statutory partnership and its work is directed by statutory guidance. This guidance dictates the functions to be undertaken by Safeguarding Children Boards and the criteria/functions against which they will be measured during Ofsted Safeguarding Inspections.

4.3 The Strategic Director of People and Communities has a statutory responsibility for ensuring that an effective SCB is in place for the Local Authority area.

4.4 The agreed functions of the SCB ensure compliance with the Regulations governing the work of Safeguarding Children Boards. The functions of the SCB are to:

- a) Develop multi-agency policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
- b) Raise awareness of the need to safeguard children and protect their welfare
- c) Monitor the effectiveness of what is done by the local authority and partners to safeguard children and promote their welfare, advising them of how to improve if necessary
- d) Organise and ensure delivery of a programme of inter-agency training
- e) Advise in the planning and commissioning of services for children
- f) Undertake reviews of serious cases, advising on lessons which can be learned
- g) Establish appropriate processes to collect information relating to child deaths.

4.5 The Safeguarding Children Board is supported in discharging its functions by thematic sub-groups.

4.6 The SCB is responsible for challenging each relevant partner, as defined by the Children Act (2006)¹ on their success in safeguarding children and ensuring their welfare. The statutory guidance covering its work determines its role to ‘...provide robust challenge to the work of the Children and Young

¹ ‘The Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006 (Statutory Instrument 2006 No.90)

People's Partnership Executive partners in order to ensure that children are properly safeguarded.' (para 3.40)

5. THE CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP BOARD

5.1 The CPB is the local partnership that brings together the organisations responsible for services for children, young people and families with a shared commitment to improving children's lives.

5.2 The functions of the CPB are to²:

- a) develop and promote a local vision – to drive improved outcomes for local children, young people and their families
- b) have in place robust arrangements for inter-agency co-operation
- c) develop integrated strategies such as commissioning with pooled or aligned budgets, shared data and workforce development
- d) support those strategies via more integrated processes, including effective joint working
- e) develop and promote integrated front line delivery, organised around the child in a setting which supports family life rather than professional or institutional barriers.
- f) develop and publish the Commissioning Plan, keeping it under review and revising it as necessary
- g) monitor progress and produce a report on the extent to which the Children's Partnership partners are delivering their commitments in the Strategic Framework and Commissioning Plan
- h) lead on the CYP elements of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and update the Health and Wellbeing Board as appropriate

5.3 The Partnership is chaired by the Assistant Director Children's Services.

5.4 The Partnership is supported in discharging its functions by thematic sub-groups.

6. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SCB AND CPB

6.1 The Chair of the Children's Partnership is a member of the Safeguarding Children Board.

6.2 The SCB produce an Annual Report which is presented to the Children's Partnership. The Annual Report follows a format which accords with statutory guidance and should be completed by September each year.

6.3 The Board minutes for both groups are shared.

6.4 The SCB will be formally consulted by the Children's Partnership when the CYP Commissioning Plan is being drafted. The consultation phase will be sufficiently long to allow a thorough debate to support the SCB response to

² Extract from consultation of 'Statutory Guidance on co-operation arrangements' para 1.7

the consultation. The CYP Commissioning Plan will draw on the 'support and challenge'³ from the SCB.

- 6.5 In recognition of the inter-relationship between the SCB and the Partnership, a joint 'Communication Strategy Group' will be established to focus on engagement with the media, particularly with regard to issues around safeguarding and child welfare and in relation to community awareness raising for both Childrens related forums.

7 THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD; CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP AND SCB

- 7.1 The Minutes from the Health and Well Being Board and Safeguarding Children's Board meetings will be shared for discussion as relevant.
- 7.2 The SCB will provide reports to the Health and Wellbeing Board 2 times each year - the Annual report in the Autumn and the Business Plan in the Spring.
- 7.3 The Health and Wellbeing Board will ensure that:
- The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Wellbeing Strategy recognise and take account of children's safeguarding issues including the priorities set out in the Strategy/Business Plan of the partnership; and
 - The relationship with the Safeguarding Children's Board through the reporting outlined above is referenced in the Health and Wellbeing Board governance arrangements.
- 7.4 The Health and Wellbeing Board may request the SCB to consider issues for development, action or scrutiny and can ask for views
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³ See 'Working Together...' para 3.63