

West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board



Report Title: West Sussex Local Safeguarding Children Partnership arrangements

Date: 20 June 2019

Report by: Lesley Walker Independent Chair, West Sussex Safeguarding Children Board

Executive Summary

- This paper concerns revisions to statutory legislation which will result in the cessation of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs).
- Local authority areas are required to develop a new framework to safeguard children. Every area must publish their revised arrangements no later than 29th June 2019 and implement these arrangements within 3 months of their publication date.
- Under the new legislation, the local authority is no longer the lead child safeguarding agency. There will be three lead local safeguarding partners who hold equal and joint responsibility: clinical commissioning group, police and the local authority. The LSCB will be replaced by Local Safeguarding Children Partners, with local priorities driven by the three lead partners; they must work with key agencies to form the most appropriate arrangements to meet local need in their area.

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- Promote Child Safeguarding responsibilities as described in the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 to ensure a coherent and effective approach to work across Sussex safeguarding and partnership arenas.
- Provide feedback on how best the WSSCP can utilise this opportunity to support the Partnership's ambition to work innovatively across its wider networks via a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The MoU will for example enable linkages such as the HWB reporting progress on its Emotional Health and Well-being delivery plan and report progress to the WSSCP's Steering Group.
- Support the WSSCP's drive to improve services for children and their families across West Sussex following the recent Ofsted inspection of West Sussex County Council's Children's Services; and use the voice of children to inform service improvements, particularly around the identification and response to children and young people who are at risk of or experiencing neglect.

1. Background

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 received Royal assent on 27th April 2017, amending the Children's Act 2004 to reflect the new Local Partnership arrangements described in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (WT 2018).

The Department for Education, (as central government policy lead) has made it clear that it expects local authority areas to use these revisions to statutory guidance to be a catalyst for change and innovation.

The change in legalisation arose from the Wood Report which the Department for Education published in 2016. The report looked at the role and functions of local safeguarding children boards and identified weaknesses in effective partnership working. The report recommended the abolition of LSCBs and their replacement by a stronger statutory partnership. This would enable local partnerships to move away from the highly prescribed model for delivering multi-agency arrangements and determine what worked best in their own local authority area.

2. Proposals

Implementation of the new arrangements which incorporate the following key changes:

- The local authority is no longer the lead child safeguarding agency. There will be three lead local safeguarding partners who hold equal and joint responsibility: clinical commissioning group, police and the local authority. The Local Safeguarding Children Board will be replaced by Local Safeguarding Children Partners, with local priorities driven by the three lead partners; they must work with key agencies to form the most appropriate arrangements to meet local need in their area.
- Revisions to the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) which require West Sussex to work across an increased geographical footprint to achieve the required data analysis which will better enable a national learning landscape. A Pan Sussex steering group has been set up to deliver this.
- Changes to how the Partnership learns from incidents in which a child dies or is seriously harmed include the set-up of a new National Review Panel of experts to oversee rapid reviews of such incidents and undertake learning reviews which they deem to be of national significance.
- Independent Scrutiny: WT 2018 guidance enables development of new arrangements for ensuring robust scrutiny of local partnership work.
- Funding arrangements to cover partnership costs, including e.g. local learning reviews and the business support unit are to be agreed by the local partnership.

The new arrangements recognise the need to enable partners to optimise resources dedicated the Board activities, both locally and Pan Sussex.

3. Next Steps

- Publication of our WSSCP Arrangements during week commencing 24th June 2019 on the WSSCP website. Simultaneously sharing our proposed arrangements with the Department for Education.
- Sign off of WSSCP business plan priorities in early August 2019 to inform the Partnership's work until March 2021.
- The finalisation and sign off of a memorandum of understanding between Health and Wellbeing Board, Safeguarding Adults Board, WSSCP and the Safer West Sussex Partnership to ensure effective multi-agency collaboration.

Director for Public Health

Appendices:

(i) West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership Arrangements

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