

Protocol for the relationship between the Wirral Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB), the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) and the Wirral Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (SAPB)

1.0 Aim

- 1.1 ***Safeguarding is everyone's business.*** As such, all key strategic plans for individual agencies, partnership forums and board's should include safeguarding and the promotion of individual's welfare as a cross cutting theme to support the effective and appropriate delivery of services to Wirral residents.
- 1.2 The main aim of this protocol is to reinforce this message through the development of a strong relationship between the Wirral Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) and the Children's (WSCB) and Adults (SAPB) Safeguarding Boards.
- 1.3 The protocol sets out a framework designed to secure effective joint working between the three Boards to ensure children, young people and adults in Wirral are safeguarded and have their welfare actively promoted.

2.0 Purpose of the Wirral Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB)

- 2.1 Health and Wellbeing Boards were established by the Health and Social Care Act 2012. They are intended to be a forum where key leaders from the health and care system work together to improve the health and wellbeing of their local population and reduce health inequalities.
- 2.2 In April 2013 the Wirral Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) became a statutory committee of Wirral Council. The Board provides the opportunity for elected members, the NHS, Local Authority officers, and voluntary and community representatives to agree how to work together to achieve better health and wellbeing to all Wirral residents.
- 2.3 It is the duty of the HWB to tackle health inequalities and to make sure that local people are given every opportunity to live healthy lives. Health inequalities are not inevitable or immutable and reducing health inequalities is a matter of fairness and social justice.
- 2.4 The vision of the Wirral Health Wellbeing Board is to enable local people to live healthy lives, tackle health inequalities and increase wellbeing in the communities and people of Wirral
- 2.5 The mission of the Wirral Health and Wellbeing Board is to work across professional and agency boundaries to drive innovation to make a difference to the health and wellbeing of local people by:
 - agreeing priorities and actions to reduce health inequalities and promote health

and wellbeing

- developing a Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- developing a framework for the effective performance monitoring of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- discussing and evaluating joint performance

3.0 Purpose of the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB)

- 3.1 All local authority areas were required to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) under Section 13 of the Children Act 2004. The Wirral Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) was established in 2006.
- 3.2 Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 sets out the objectives of LSCBs, which are:
- (a) to coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and
 - (b) to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.
- 3.3 The role of the WSCB is to scrutinise and challenge the work of agencies both individually and collectively for the purposes of ensuring agencies adequately safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

4.0 Purpose of the Wirral Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (SAPB)

- 4.1 The SAPB is the lead organisation for ensuring all adults in Wirral are able to lead safe, fulfilling lives and are not subject to abuse, neglect, harm and exploitation by others.
- 4.2 The key objectives of the SAPB, as set out in the Care Act 2014 are:
- to help and protect adults in its area who have need for care and support, are experiencing, or who may be at risk of abuse or neglect, and as result of those needs are unable to protect themselves against the abuse or neglect or risk of it
 - to co-ordinate and ensure the effectiveness of what each of its members does.
- 4.3 The role of the SAPB is to ensure effective safeguarding arrangements are in place in both the commissioning and provision of services to vulnerable adults by individual agencies and to ensure inter agency working in this respect is effective.

5.0 The Need for Co-ordination of Effective Communication and Engagement between the Boards

- 5.1 All key strategic plans for the HWB and other influential Boards should include safeguarding and the promotion of individual's welfare as a cross cutting theme to support the effective and appropriate delivery of services to Wirral residents.
- 5.2 It is the responsibility of the WSCB and the SAPB to scrutinise and challenge these arrangements to ensure adequate safeguarding arrangements exist; it is particularly important that this scrutiny and challenge exists for influential commissioning bodies such as the HWB.
- 5.3 The Wirral Health and Wellbeing Strategy will become a key commissioning strategy for the delivery of services to children, young people and adults in Wirral and so it is critical that in drawing up, delivering and evaluating the strategy there is effective interchange between the HWB and the Safeguarding Boards.
- 5.4 To ensure this relationship functions there needs to be formal interfaces between the HWB and the two Safeguarding Boards including:
- The needs analyses that drive the formulation of the annual Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Safeguarding Boards' Business Plans. This needs to be reciprocal in nature ensuring both that safeguarding boards' needs analyses are fed into the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and that the outcomes of the JSNA are fed back into safeguarding boards' planning;
 - Ensuring each Board is regularly updated on progress made in the implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the individual Board Business Plans in a context of mutual scrutiny and challenge;
 - Annually reporting evaluations of performance on Plans again to provide the opportunity for reciprocal scrutiny and challenge and to enable Boards to feed any improvement and development needs into the planning process for future years' strategies and plans.
- 5.5 This is reinforced in *Working Together 2013* which states that LSCB's should work with the Health and Wellbeing Board, informing and drawing on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.
- 5.6 The opportunities presented by a formal working relationship between the HWB, the WSCB and the SAPB can be summarised as follows:
- Securing an integrated approach to the JSNA, ensuring comprehensive safeguarding data analysis in the JSNA, in line with the draft *Working Together* guidance
 - Aligning the work of the WSCB and SAPB business plans with the HWB Strategy and related priority setting.

- Ensuring safeguarding is “everyone’s business”, reflected in the public health agenda and related determinant of health PDGs and strategies.
- Evaluating the impact of the HWB Strategy on safeguarding outcomes, and of safeguarding on wider determinants of health outcomes
- Identifying coordinated approach to performance management, transformational change and commissioning
- Cross Board scrutiny and challenge and “holding to account”: the Health and Wellbeing Board for embedding safeguarding, and the Safeguarding Boards for overall performance and contribution to the HWB Strategy.

6.0 Arrangements to Secure Co-ordination between the Boards

6.1 In order to secure co-ordination between the HWB and the Safeguarding Boards it is proposed that the three Boards will work together by:

- The HWB consulting and engaging with the WSCB and SAPB on the review of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- Formally sharing annual plans during the formulation stages to enable co-ordination and coherence where there are business overlaps.
- The WSCB and SAPB providing assurance to the HWB that satisfactory arrangements are in place for Safeguarding adults at risk and children and young people and highlighting concerns where they do not believe that this is the case.
- The WSCB and SAPB scrutinising and challenging the integrated commissioning and quality assurance arrangements across health and social care to ensure that they adequately take account of safeguarding issues.
- The HWB providing information in respect of health and well-being to the WSCB and SAPB annually, to which they will provide a formal response.
- The WSCB and SAPB Independent Chair formally presenting the annual reports to the HWB and the HWB providing a formal response.
- HWB through the Director of Public Health presenting their annual report to WSCB and SAPB
- Identifying a named individual/post to act as a contact point to ensure co-ordination of relevant activities.
- Ensuring that messages and information about keeping children and adults safe are disseminated within partner organisations, including collaborating on stakeholder events
- Ensuring action taken by one body does not duplicate that taken by another
- Where appropriate ensuring that there is cross-Board representation to facilitate coordination and prevent duplication of activity

7.0 Relationship between the WSCB, the HWBB and the Children’s Trust Board

7.1 A separate protocol exists which establishes and defines the relationship between the WSCB and the Wirral Children’s Trust Board (WCT). The protocol reinforces the message that safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility.

7.2 The protocol establishes that the WCT is accountable for overseeing the delivery of the Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP) and for ensuring services deliver improved outcomes for children and young people. The WSCB is responsible for challenging each relevant partner of WCT, through the WCT Board, on their success in ensuring that children and young people are kept safe in the Borough.

7.3 The WSCB and the WCT have established a mutual reporting and challenge regime which compliments the relationship both Boards have with the Health and Wellbeing Board.

8.0 Accountability

8.1 Neither the WSCB nor the SAPB are directly accountable to the HWB so their role in relation to it would be one of equal partners underpinned by this protocol. This would facilitate both Safeguarding Boards’ responsibility to scrutinise and highlight any safeguarding concerns they may have relating to the work of the HWB, the WCT or its member organisations.

8.2 This Protocol will be reviewed a year after its agreement and bi-annually thereafter or when national guidance affecting one of the Boards is revised or introduced.

9.0 Resolution Process

9.1 Where there is concern that this protocol is not succeeding in ensuring strong partnership working to keep children and adults safe and healthy, resolution should be sought through communication between the Chair of the HWB, the Independent Chair of the WSCB/SAPB, the Lead Members and the Directors of Children’s Services and Adult Services and Public Health.

10.0 Signatures

..... Date.....

Chair, Wirral Health and Wellbeing Board

..... Date.....

Chair, Wirral Children and Adults Safeguarding Boards