



**CLLR BERNIE MOONEY**

**CABINET**  
**Monday, 25 March 2019**

**NEW MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING  
ARRANGEMENTS**

**Councillor Bernie Mooney, Cabinet Member - Children & Families, said:**

“Safeguarding vulnerable children is our most enduring and important responsibility. The work of the Local Safeguarding Board has been vital for many years, often identifying areas where public agencies can work together better to protect children.

“These new arrangements will be equally important. They create a new system, where local authorities, Police and NHS colleagues formally work together to monitor the systems and practices in place to keep children safe.”

**REPORT SUMMARY**

Formed under the Children Act (2004) Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB's) are currently responsible for ensuring agencies effectively work together to safeguard children. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 replaces LSCB's with new local safeguarding arrangements, led by three safeguarding partners (local authorities, chief officers of police, and clinical commissioning groups). It also places a duty on child death review partners (local authorities and clinical commissioning groups) to review the deaths of children normally resident in the local area.

The three safeguarding partners have equal and joint responsibility for the new local safeguarding arrangements.

The three safeguarding partners must set out how they will work together and with any relevant agencies whose involvement they consider may be required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in particular cases. They must also set out how their arrangements will receive independent scrutiny. Once agreed, the safeguarding partners must publish the arrangements.

The purpose of the local arrangements is to support and enable local agencies to work together in a system where:

- excellent practice is the norm
- partner agencies hold one another to account effectively
- there is early identification of 'new' safeguarding issues
- learning is promoted and embedded
- information is shared effectively
- the public can feel confident that children are protected from harm

The purpose of this report is to present the proposed model (detailed in Appendix One) for new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for consideration and approval.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- (1) That Cabinet approve the proposed model; and
- (2) That the model is published ahead of shadow implementation on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019, with full implementation on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 (when the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board will be stood down).

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1.1 To ensure compliance with the requirements of the Children and Social Work Act (2017) to have new published multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in place by September 2019.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 There were no other options. The three statutory safeguarding partners are required under the Children and Social Work Act to develop new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. The model itself went through many iterations and refinements in its development journey to the final model presented to Cabinet.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Changes to local safeguarding arrangements stem from the 'Wood Review' of Local Safeguarding Children Boards, published in May 2016. The review made 34 recommendations, the chief of which – accepted by the Government – was the proposal to replace the existing statutory framework for LSCBs with a new statutory framework for multi-agency arrangements.

- 3.2 The review recommended:

- a requirement for all areas to move towards new multi-agency arrangements;
- to require the three statutory agencies (clinical commissioning group, police and local authorities) to design multi-agency arrangements for protecting children, and to work together on key strategic issues;
- to place an expectation on schools and other relevant agencies involved in the protection of children to co-operate with the new multi-agency arrangements;
- to end the existing system of serious case reviews, and replace it with new national learning framework overseen by a new independent body;
- to transfer national oversight of Child Death Overview Panels from the Department for Education to the Department of Health.

- 3.3 The implementation of the agreed changes required new legislation and this was introduced through the Children and Social Work Act (2017). The Act aims to:

- improve support for looked after children in England and Wales especially for those leaving care
- enable better learning about effective approaches to child protection and care in England
- establish a new regulatory regime for the social work profession in England

- 3.4 Under the Act the three safeguarding partners must set out how they will work together and with any relevant agencies whose involvement they consider may be required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in particular cases. They must also set out how their arrangements will receive independent scrutiny. Once agreed, the safeguarding partners must publish the arrangements. The purpose of these local arrangements is to support and enable local agencies to work together in a system where:

- excellent practice is the norm
- partner agencies hold one another to account effectively
- there is early identification of 'new' safeguarding issues
- learning is promoted and embedded
- information is shared effectively
- the public can feel confident that children are protected from harm

3.5 The new local arrangements must ensure:

- children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted
- partner organisations and agencies collaborate, share and co-own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children
- organisations and agencies challenge appropriately and hold one another to account effectively
- there is early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues and emerging threats
- learning is promoted and embedded in a way that local services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice
- information is shared effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and families
- In order to work together effectively, the safeguarding partners with other local organisations and agencies should develop processes that:
  - facilitate and drive action beyond usual institutional and agency constraints and boundaries
  - ensure the effective protection of children is founded on practitioners developing lasting and trusting relationships with children and their families

3.6 The safeguarding partners have designed a proposed model for the new safeguarding arrangements (appendix one) which is compliant with the Children and Social Work Act (2017). Independent scrutiny of the arrangements is a key feature of the model.

#### Timeline

3.7 The partners propose that the model is published on the 31<sup>st</sup> March and introduced in shadow form from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019. The model will be fully implemented on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019. The Wirral safeguarding Children Board will be stood down as the statutory body at the same time.

3.8 The transitional guidance published by the Department for Education requires safeguarding partners to publish their new arrangements by 29 June 2019 and have the arrangements fully in place by the 29 September 2019. Statutory arrangements are in place to complete any outstanding case or child death reviews.

## **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no additional financial implications for the local authority as it previously significantly contributed to the funding and resourcing of the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board. The contribution from the Local Authority to the new arrangements is commensurate with its current contribution to the WSCB.

## **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Local Authority, the Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group and Merseyside Police have a legal duty under the Children and Social Work Act 2017 to have multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in place by September 2019.
- 5.2 The safeguarding arrangements must be compliant with the statutory guidance published in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018).

## **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS**

- 6.1 Resourcing for the new safeguarding model will be provided by the three statutory partners. Funding and business support is in place from existing resources.

## **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 7.1 The safeguarding partners are required to have multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in place by September 2019. Any delay in implementation beyond this date would leave the Local Authority and partners in default of requirements of the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

## **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 Regular multi-agency partnership consultation took place with the statutory members of the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board during development of the model. Consultation was extended to young people, families, professionals and the wider community during December 2018 and January 2019. Feedback from the consultations informed the final model.

## **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

(b) No because there is no relevance to equality at this stage.

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## **APPENDICES**

Appendix One - Proposed multi-agency safeguarding arrangements

## **REFERENCE MATERIAL**

Children and Social Work Act (2017) can be viewed here:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/16/contents/enacted>

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) Statutory Guidance (including transitional guidance) can be viewed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

**SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
None	