

15 February 2019		ITEM: 7
Health & Well Being Board		
Thurrock New Multi- Agency Children's Safeguarding Arrangements		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: N/A	
Report of: Manager Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)		
Accountable Assistant Director: Sheila Murphy, Assistant Director, Children's Services		
Accountable Director: Rory Patterson, Corporate Director, Children's Services		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together 2018 dissolves the requirement for Local Safeguarding Children's Boards and requires new arrangements to be put into place. It is the responsibility of Local Authorities to ensure that the new safeguarding arrangements meet the statutory requirements of these new arrangements.

Government Guidance has been published to assist in the transitional process during 2018.

The three Strategic Partners, determined under the Children and Social Work Act 2017, comprise Thurrock Council, Essex Police and Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). The three Partners are required to publish an Implementation Document setting out the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) three months prior to its implementation.

The document has to be published no later than June 2019 and implemented no later than September 2019. Thurrock's new arrangements will be published in February 2019 and come into effect on 1st May 2019

A Strategic Group of the three Partners was set up in November 2017 and have been developing the new arrangements during 2018 to ensure they meet the statutory requirements. The new arrangements will be referred to as Thurrock Local Safeguarding Childrens Partnership (Thurrock LSCP). The Implementation Plan (see appendix) sets out the changes for Thurrock.

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 The Health & Well Being Board consider and provide comment on the new safeguarding arrangements.

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 The Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Board (Thurrock LSCB) was introduced following requirements set out in The Children Act 2004 and has been supporting multi-agency safeguarding arrangement and their statutory responsibilities for Thurrock.
- 2.2 The Children and Social Work Act 2017 Bill received Royal Assent on 27 April 2017 and requires changes to the current local safeguarding arrangements.
- 2.3 The Government (DfE) has provided guidance to support partners during the transitional arrangements and Working Together 2018 was published in April 2018 setting out the final details expected of the new arrangements
- 2.4 Thurrock LSCB set up a Strategic Group of the three Partners in December 2017 to develop the new safeguarding requirements as Government guidance became available during 2018
- 2.5 The current Child Death Review process moves from the responsibility of the LSCB to separate arrangements between the Local Authority and the CCG and are not subject of this plan.
- 2.6 The new arrangements will be referred to as Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children partnership (Thurrock LSCP)
- 2.7 Summit meetings were held with Essex and Southend Safeguarding Children Board during 2018, where it was agreed to adopt three new safeguarding arrangements covering Essex, coterminous with the exiting Authority boundaries. A joint partnership approach was also agreed for strategic areas of safeguarding across Essex in line with existing safeguarding procedures for Southend, Essex and Thurrock. (SET Procedures)
- 2.8 The main areas of change under the new arrangements are:
 - The name changes to Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (Thurrock LSCP)
 - Statutory Partners change from five to three, removing CAFCASS and Probation as Statutory Partners of the LSCB. They will become two of the “Relevant Agencies” identified to be a part of the new arrangements. Relevant agencies are those agencies the Safeguarding Partners consider are required to be a part of the new arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. (Relevant Agencies) Regulations 2018.

- Serious Case Reviews change to become Local or National Practice Reviews. Under the new process a National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel will assess if a review is likely to be of national importance and if agreed they will oversee or conduct the review process. The process for a review changes with new timescales and a slight change to the criteria that determines a review.
- The Child Death Review process is now separate and does not form part of the new arrangements.
- An independent Chair is no longer required, however the safeguarding partners must ensure that independent scrutiny arrangements are in place.
- A Multi-function independent scrutiny process will be introduced. This will include an Annual Report and also comprise peer reviews, audits and individual scrutineers, including the voice of children, young people, families and communities, to ensure the new arrangements are working effectively.
- Some structure changes to the existing LSCB will take place to meet the new arrangements, this will include changes to the sub-group structure and function.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 This is a statutory requirement

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 To ensure the Council meets its statutory duties with regard to Childrens Safeguarding

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

5.1 A consultation process with agencies involved in safeguarding children in Thurrock has been taking place during the transitional arrangements

5.2 Two safeguarding summits have taken place with Essex and Southend Safeguarding Children Board to agree working across Essex arrangements

5.3 The plan is also being presented to the LA Directors Board and Childrens Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

6.1 This report impacts on the following corporate priorities:

- People: a place where people of all ages are proud to work and play, live and stay;
- Place: a heritage rich Borough which is ambitious for its future;
- Prosperity: a Borough which enables everyone to achieve their aspirations.

6.2 There are no Local Authority policy changes proposed as part of the new arrangements

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: Michelle Hall
Management Accountant

There are no additional financial implications for the new safeguarding arrangement. The Local Authority contribution currently to the safeguarding arrangements remain in place and will be reviewed during the next financial year.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: Stephen Smith
Team Leader (Social Care)
Law and Governance

The Council are required to ensure that the new safeguarding arrangements meet the statutory requirements. No other legal implications have been identified. The document is owned collectively by the newly formed Local safeguarding Childrens Partnership. (Thurrock LSCP)

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: Roxanne Scanlon
Community Engagement and Project Monitoring
Officer | Adults, Housing & Health

The new safeguarding arrangements and implementation Plan applies to all Children and families. There are no known negative implications arising for groups or individuals with protected characteristics.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

None relevant

8. Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- Working Together 2015 (Government Document)
- The Children and Social Work Act 2017 (Legislation)
- Child Death Review – Statutory guidance October 2017 (Government Document)

- Changes to Statutory Guidance: Working Together to Safeguard Children and new Regulations February 2018 (Government Document)
- Local Safeguarding Transitional Arrangements April 2018(Government Document)
- Working Together 2018(Government Document)
- Local Safeguarding Partner (Relevant Agencies) (England) Regulations 2018 (Government Document)
- SET Procedures

9. Appendices to the report

- LSCP Implementation Plan - 2019

Report Author:

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