

28 January 2015		ITEM: 17
Council		
Proposed Amendments to Thurrock's Health and Wellbeing Board Membership		
Wards and communities affected: None	Key Decision: Not applicable	
Report of: Councillor John Kent, Leader of the Council		
Accountable Head of Service: n/a		
Accountable Director: Roger Harris, Director of Adults, Health and Commissioning		
This report is public.		

Executive Summary

Recent Ofsted Inspections of Children's services across the country have highlighted the importance of the close working relationship between the Health and Wellbeing Board and Children's Safeguarding Board. Inspections have raised concerns in areas where Health and Wellbeing Boards have not had the Chair of the Local Children's Safeguarding Board (LCSB) as one of its members. In addition, Adult Safeguarding Boards will become statutory boards from April 2015 as part of meeting the Care Act 2014's requirement. As such this report is recommending that the Health and Wellbeing Board's membership is expanded to include:

- Portfolio Holder for Children's Social Care
- Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board
- Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board

1. Recommendation

1.1 That Council agrees that the Chair of the Local Children's Safeguarding Board, Chair of the Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board, and Portfolio Holder for Children's Social Care become members of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

1.2 Subject to recommendation 1.1 above, the monitoring officer be requested to update the Terms of Reference of the Health and Wellbeing Board as set out in Chapter 5, Part 5 of the Council's Constitution.

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 As a committee of the Council, changes to the Health and Wellbeing Board's membership have to be agreed by Council. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 states that the Board must be consulted about any proposed changes and that elected members must be nominated by the Leader of the Council.

For reasons outlined in the executive summary, Council is asked to agree the following additions to the Board's membership:

- Portfolio Holder for Children's Social Care
 - Chair of Local Children's Safeguarding Board
 - Chair of Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board.
- 2.2 Should Council approve the recommendation of this report, the Board's Terms of Reference will be amended accordingly and are attached to the report for reference (Appendix 1).
- 2.3 Should the Council choose not to endorse the recommendations set out within this paper (paragraph 1.1) there are possible risks relating to the HWBB's safeguarding children governance responsibilities. This risk is evidenced in recent Ofsted inspections of Local Safeguarding Boards across the country where Boards are being graded as 'requires improvement' due to this process not being in place within a Local Authority area. It is a core expectation of Ofsted that the Chair of the LSCB is a member of the HWBB in order to strengthen the coordination, focus and impact of the LSCB's work with the Health and Wellbeing Board (reference section 136 and 144 Ofsted inspection of Barking and Dagenham LSCB report 7 July 2014 graded - requires improvement).

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 The alternative option would be to not approve the changes to the Board's membership as set out within the report. The risks associated within this option are set out within paragraph 2.3 of this report.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 To strengthen the coordination, focus and impact of the Adults and Children's Safeguarding Boards' work with the Health and Wellbeing Board.

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

- 5.1 The recommendations within this report were endorsed by the Health and Wellbeing Board at its meeting on the 13th November 2014.

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

6.1 Safeguarding is a core responsibility of the Council and its partners and central to ensuring health and wellbeing.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Mike Jones**
Management Accountant

No implications identified.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Dawn Pelle**
Adult Social Care Lawyer

There are no legal implications especially as the statutory basis of the Safeguarding Board (from the 1st April 2015 due to the Care Act 2014) has been recognised and the chair is being invited to be a member of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Teresa Evans**
Equalities and Cohesion Officer

No implications identified.

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

None

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):

None.

9. Appendices to the report

- None

Report Author:

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Adults, Health and Commissioning