

Walsall Partnership Inter Board Children and Adults Safeguarding Protocol

The aim of this protocol is to set out and be clear about how partners, across Walsall, their Boards and Governance structures work together to promote safeguarding, protection, help, support and improve the outcomes of children, young people and adults in Walsall. It builds on and replaces the protocol between the six key Boards as approved in November 2015. The protocol aligns with and delivers the Governance arrangement as set out in The Walsall Plan: Our Health and Well Being Strategy 2017 – 2020, approved by the Council and its partners in April 2017.

Introduction

The Walsall Plan: Our Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017-20 sets out that safeguarding children and young people is an issue for the whole partnership. This protocol has been developed to set out the arrangements that will support the effective coordination of safeguarding children across Walsall's strategic partnership during the lifetime of the Walsall Plan.

It sets out how the children's and adults Safeguarding Boards will build on their involvement in the development of The Walsall Plan 2017-20 by:

- influencing, informing, scrutinising and challenging the work of the Strategic Partnership Board and;
- supporting the delivery of the Walsall Plan.

The Walsall Plan: Our Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017-20.

The Walsall Plan is the key commissioning strategy for the delivery of services to adults, children and young people across Walsall, with collective ownership by partnerships, partner organisations and agencies. The Walsall Plan is approved and signed off by each partner organisation in Walsall and by the Walsall Partnership Boards as the overarching plan for Walsall.

All Partnership Boards and partner organisations develop plans to deliver against the priorities in the Walsall Plan. The Walsall Plan identifies which Partnership Board is accountable for, and provides the governance for, each priority in the plan. Appendix 1 provides information about the accountable Partnership Board for each of the priorities set out in the Walsall Plan.

In addition, each Partnership Board, including children's and adults Safeguarding Boards, will take a lead on a key area of activity known as an "obsession". Obsessions have been agreed following a mapping exercise and reflect the areas where agencies will work in strong partnership to make a real and visible difference to outcomes for the population of Walsall. Appendix 2 provides information on the Partnership's obsessions. Underlying each obsession will be a 3-year action plan outlining the contributions of each partner, intended outcomes and how success will be measured.

Strategic Partnership Arrangements

Strategic partnership arrangements support the delivery of the Walsall Plan. The various partnerships and groups that exist are set out in the Walsall Partnership relationships and groups model (Appendix 3). This is a dynamic structure that will change and develop over time.

The Walsall Partnership relationships and groups model is not a hierarchical model and the children's and adults Safeguarding Boards are able to influence and exercise challenge and scrutiny across the whole partnership structure. The relationship between the two Safeguarding Boards and other Partnership Boards will be one of Information sharing, influence, seeking assurance, mutual challenge and appropriate support.

Partnership Governance Arrangements

The Partnership Boards have their own monitoring and performance management arrangements for their action plans to deliver the key priorities in the Walsall Plan. Delivery plans will be managed through the relevant Partnership Boards and partner organisations. The Partnership Boards will continue to hold individual organisations to account for delivery of their action plans.

A six-monthly report will be presented to the Strategic Partnership Group by each of the Partnership Boards on progress against their priorities, including their "obsession". This will identify any issues or challenges with delivery, highlight key successes, problem solve and identify additional contributions from partner organisations.

The Partnership is clear that safeguarding in Walsall is everyone's business. As such, all key strategic plans, whether they be formulated by individual agencies or by partnership forums, should include safeguarding as a cross-cutting theme to ensure that existing strategies and service delivery as well as emerging plans for change and improvement include effective safeguarding arrangements that ensure that children in Walsall are safe and their wellbeing is protected.

Given the responsibility of the children's and adults Safeguarding Boards to scrutinise and challenge the delivery and impact of the Walsall Plan: Our Health and Well Being Strategy, effective interchange between the various Partnership Boards and the two Safeguarding Boards is paramount. Specifically, there will be formal interfaces between the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Children and Young People's Partnership, the Safer Walsall Partnership and the Children and Adults Safeguarding Boards at key points including:

- The needs analyses that drive the formulation of the Walsall Plan: Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the Children and Young People's Plan, Community Safety Plan and the Safeguarding Boards' annual business plans. This needs to be reciprocal in nature assuring that the Safeguarding Boards' and Safer Walsall Partnership 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;
- Ensure each Board is regularly updated on progress made in the implementation of the Walsall Plan and the individual Board plans in a context of mutual scrutiny and challenge;
- Annually report evaluations of performance and outcomes on plans 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.

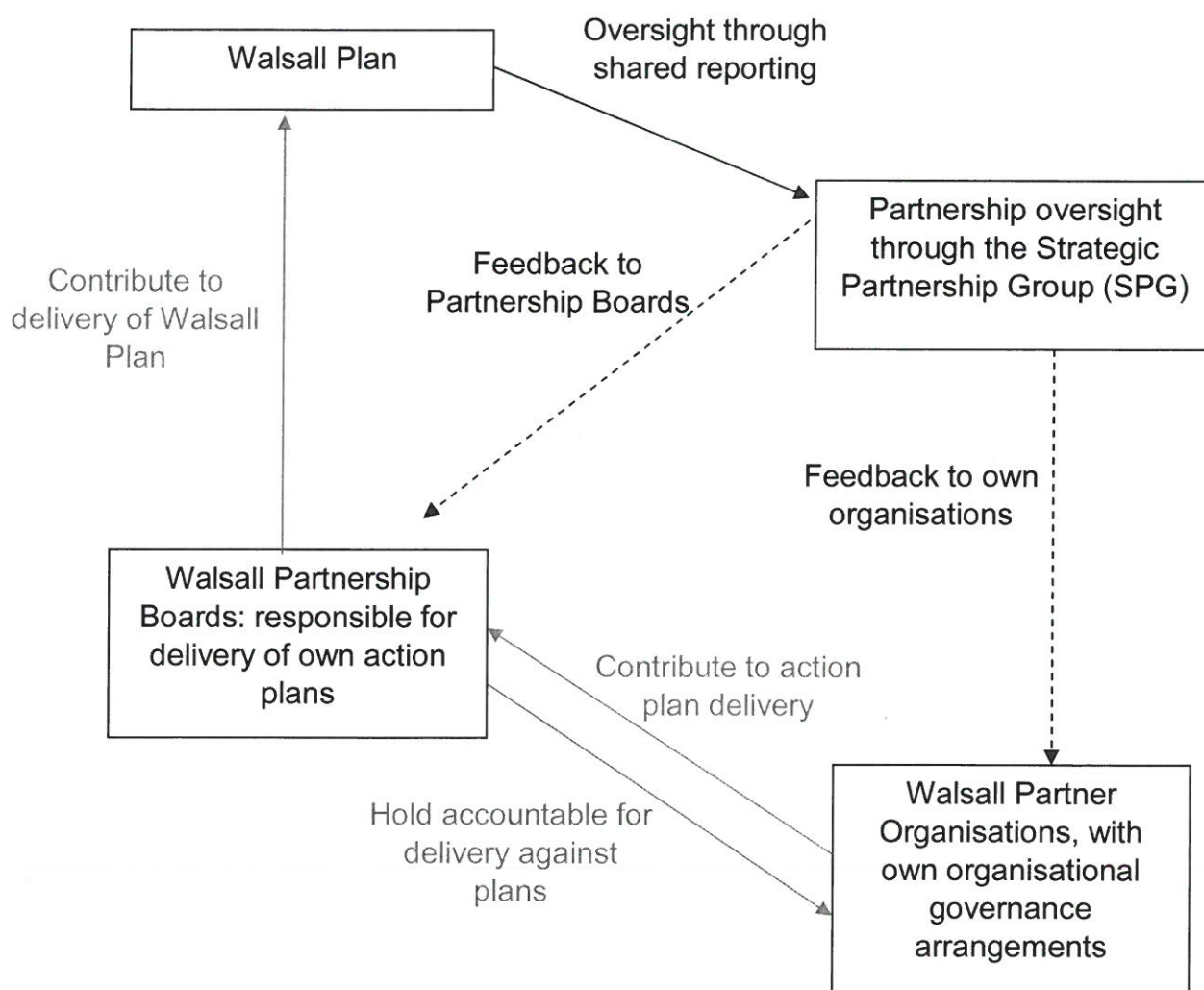
Arrangements to secure coordination

The Strategic Partnership Group currently meets on a 3-weekly basis. The membership is made up of representatives from each of the Partnership Boards and relevant partners organisations, including the Chair of the children's and adults Safeguarding Boards. This Group provides a forum to ensure the coordination of safeguarding activity across the

Partnership Boards; including the shaping and consideration of needs analyses and consideration of the findings of multi-agency safeguarding audits, Serious Case Reviews, Safeguarding Adult Reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews. It also provides a formal opportunity for the Safeguarding Boards to seek assurance and assistance from other Partnership Boards to take forward any issues or lack of progress that they have identified.

In addition, each Partnership Board will formally report to the Strategic Partnership Group on a six-monthly basis and this will enable the children's and adults Safeguarding Boards to formally scrutinise and challenge safeguarding outcomes for children, young people and adults. In turn, the work and impact of the Safeguarding Boards will be considered and challenged by the Partnership.

The diagram is an extract from the Walsall Plan 2017-20 and sets out how these arrangements will operate.



A 'Partnership Summit' is held on at least an annual basis for partners to share their progress, challenges and priorities. This will include assurance about safeguarding outcomes for Walsall children, young people and adults. To support the delivery of the Walsall Plan, the two Safeguarding Boards will ensure that their business planning is informed by data, outcomes and the progress and priorities identified at the summit.

Between October and December each year the independent chair of the Safeguarding Boards will present an Annual Report to the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Children and Young People's Partnership and the Safer Walsall Partnership. The report will outline

performance and progress against business plan objectives in the previous financial year. This will be supplemented by a position statement on the Boards' performance in the current financial year. This will provide the opportunity for the Partnership Boards to each consider and reflect on the challenges that are impacting on the performance of the boards, to draw across data to be included in needs assessments and to reflect on key issues and priorities that may need to be incorporated into future plans.

As part of their annual programme of quality assurance activity, the Safeguarding Boards will request performance reports from the Partnership Boards to enable them to scrutinise safeguarding outcomes in more detail. The findings of which will be reflected in the Safeguarding Boards' Annual Reports.

This protocol will be owned by the Children and Adult Safeguarding Board Independent Chair and reviewed with partners annually. Next Review: May 2018.

Ratification

This protocol has been discussed and ratified at the meetings of the following Partnership Boards:

Partnership Board	Date of meeting
Strategic Partnership Group	
Health and Wellbeing Board	
Safer Walsall Partnership	
Walsall Economic Board	
Walsall Housing Board	
Children and Young People's Partnership	
Walsall Safeguarding Adult Board	
Walsall Safeguarding Children Board	

Appendix 1: Delivering the Walsall Plan: Accountability of Walsall Partnership Boards

	Walsall Economic Board	Safer Walsall Partnership	Children's Safe-guarding Board	Adults' Safe- guarding Board	CYP Partnership	Health and Wellbeing Board	Walsall Housing Board
Increasing Economic Prosperity Through Increased Growth							
Improve school readiness							
Improve education outcomes							
Increase access to appropriate skills and training							
Ensure people possess the skills to enter and progress in work							
Increase opportunities for, and take-up of volunteering							
Build the business environment to create more local, added value, jobs							
Develop strong and sustainable infrastructure							
Maximising People's Health, Wellbeing and Safety							
Improve maternal and newborn health							
Improve emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people							
Enable children and young people to be better protected and safeguard themselves							
Enable and empower individuals to improve their physical and mental health							
Maximise emotional wellbeing and resilience of adults							
Support local people to secure and stay in employment							
Reduce loneliness and isolation and increase support through social networks							
Support independent living							

	Walsall Economic Board	Safer Walsall Partnership	Children's Safe-guarding Board	Adults' Safe-guarding Board	CYP Partnership	Health and Wellbeing Board	Walsall Housing Board
Remove unwarranted variation in healthcare and ensure access to services with consistent quality							
Enable those at risk of poor health to access appropriate health and care, with informed choice							
Keep vulnerable people safe through prevention and early intervention							
Ensure services recognise cultural barriers, and are inclusive and accessible for existing, new and emerging communities	The responsibility of all Boards and partners though their service delivery and commissioning						
Protect communities and individuals from the threat caused by extremist behaviour							
Tackle the harm to individuals and communities caused by substance misuse							
Improving community safety through reducing reoffending							
Reduce the harm to individuals and communities caused by all types of violent behaviour							
Creating Healthy and Sustainable Places and Communities							
Develop an environment to enable healthy lifestyles							
Actively support inward investment to make Walsall an attractive place to live and work							
Improve air quality							
Promote environmental sustainability							
Ensure access to appropriate and affordable housing							
Support a sustainable third sector through individual and collective engagement							
Empower connected, inclusive and resilient communities	Through Locality Delivery Model						

Deliver prevention and intervention through health and care locality delivery models	Walsall Economic Board		Safer Walsall Partnership	Children's Safe-guarding Board	Adults' Safe-guarding Board	CYP Partnership	Health and Wellbeing Board	Walsall Housing Board
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Appendix 2: The Walsall “Obsessions”: Accountability of the Partnership Boards

Walsall’s obsessions are:

- To support the capacity of VCSEs in Walsall, and greater connectivity between the VCS and partners, in order to improve health and wellbeing for all, by increasing the number of Walsall residents who volunteer, in particular around loneliness and isolation and physical activity (Health and Wellbeing Board)
- Supporting and empowering vulnerable children and young people to improve their physical and mental health. (Children and Young People’s Partnership)
- Quality apprenticeships for all ages (Walsall Economic Board)
- To improve outcomes for the homeless / rough sleepers (Safer Walsall Partnership)
- “If it doesn’t feel right, then act on it” (Safeguarding Boards)

Appendix 3: Walsall Partnership Relationships and Groups Model
(As at 6.4.17, it is recognised that this will develop and change over time)

Walsall Partnership Relationships & Groups (not a hierarchical structure)

Governance Boards of each partnership organisation

