

## **Health and Wellbeing Board**

**27 October 2015**

### **Walsall Inter-Board Protocol on Safeguarding Children with 6 Boards**

#### **1. Purpose**

The Health and Wellbeing Board approved the Walsall Inter-Board Protocol on Safeguarding Children in April 2015. At that time the Board recommended that further boards should be incorporated into the protocol and the attached protocol now covers 6 boards, the additional boards are in italics;

- **Childrens and Young People's Partnership Board**
- **Health and Well-being Board**
- **Safeguarding Children Board**
- *Safeguarding Adults Board*
- *Safer Walsall Local Policing and Crime Board*
- *Youth Justice Management Board*

The protocol remains much the same as the 3 Board protocol, however the inter-board reporting process would be too unwieldy for six Boards so an annual 'safeguarding summit' is proposed where the Chairs of each Board, plus a Board member with lead responsibility for safeguarding, attend to provide challenge, support and agree priorities for improvement.

#### **2. Recommendations**

2.1 That the Board agrees the new 6 board protocol (attached)

2.2 That the Walsall Annual summit on safeguarding will cover both children and adults safeguarding

#### **3. Report detail**

The aim of this Protocol is to define how the six boards work together for the promotion of safeguarding and improving the outcomes of children and young people. It builds on the protocol between Children and Young Peoples Partnership Board, Health and Wellbeing Board and the Safeguarding Children Board agreed in early 2015 by expanding the coverage from three to six boards as defined in paragraph 1.

Relevant statutory agencies have collective responsibility to ensure that children and young people are properly safeguarded – this is in addition to their individual statutory duties. As such, all key strategic plans, whether formulated by individual organisations or by partnerships, should include consideration of safeguarding. It is therefore important that in developing, reviewing and implementing their Strategies there is effective working between the Boards as defined by this protocol.

The Boards will work together by:

1. Sharing strategic plans during development to enable co-ordination and coherence where there are business overlaps and to assure the inclusion of safeguarding.
2. Engaging and consulting with each other on the review of the Safeguarding aspects of their Strategic Plans.
3. The Safeguarding Board will seek assurance directly from individual statutory agencies that they are effectively safeguarding children and young people at risk
4. Advising the Safeguarding Children's Board in the event that there are serious or persistent concerns about safeguarding that have not been addressed by the relevant statutory agencies individually and collectively – Safeguarding Children's Board will then support the Boards to ensure that they are satisfactorily resolved
5. Identifying a named individual to lead and represent each Board on Safeguarding
6. Ensuring each Boards' Terms of Reference make explicit reference to their role and responsibilities on safeguarding.
7. Attending an annual 'summit' to report on their progress on actions to improve safeguarding and to provide assurance that safeguarding is included in their strategic plans and that improvements are being delivered
8. Participating in an annual peer review of safeguarding effectiveness facilitated by an independent person

In January each year (to be confirmed) a 'Walsall Safeguarding summit' will be take place to allow the Chair and lead members of each of the 6 boards to challenge and support each other's actions and progress on improving safeguarding and coordinate efforts to continue to improve safeguarding for both children and adults.

Suggested Process;

- 1.) Each Board chair to present their annual report on progress (5 minutes)
- 2.) Challenge discussions – 30 minutes
- 3.) User 'Voice' – what people in need of protection tell us we need to improve
- 4.) Agree areas for
  - a. Individual boards to prioritise
  - b. Collaborative priorities
  - c. Acting on User voice
- 5.) Other business as identified

To maintain momentum, the Chairs will meet 6 months later to review progress and issue quarterly briefing notes

Colleagues have suggested that the annual summit scope should also include Adult Safeguarding.

#### **4. Implications for Joint Working arrangements:**

The protocol will support and reinforce joint working on safeguarding and enhance improvements and accountability. Existing resources will be used to organise the annual summit and tracking delivery of agreed improvements.

#### **5. Health and Wellbeing Priorities:**

The protocol will directly contribute to the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (refresh) priority;

- Safeguard children and young people from harm

and also the Marmot objective of;

- Give every child the best start in life

#### **Background papers**

Draft 6 board Protocol is attached

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