

Health and Wellbeing Board

27 April 2015

Walsall Inter-Board Protocol on Safeguarding Children between -

- **Childrens and Young People's Partnership Board,**
- **Health and Well-being Board,**
- **Safeguarding Children Board**

Content

The safeguarding of children and young people is a key corporate priority for our community and a pre-requisite for good health and wellbeing.

Effective safeguarding requires good partnership working and communication at both strategic and operational levels.

The aim of this Protocol is to define how the Children and Young Peoples Partnership Board, Health and Wellbeing Board and the Safeguarding Children Board ('the Boards') work together to safeguard, protect and improve the outcomes of children and young people. The relationship to the Council's Children's Scrutiny Panel, the Safer Walsall Local Policing and Crime Board and Corporate Parenting Board is demonstrated in the appendix to the protocol. The Children and Young People's Partnership Board approved the protocol in April 2015.

The agreement and implementation of the protocol will strengthen safeguarding in Walsall by providing a method of coordination, accountability and challenge at Board level.

Recommendation

That the Health and Wellbeing Board;

(1) approve this protocol;

(2) note that:

- a. the Director of Childrens Services will present the Children and Young People's Plan with a review of progress on safeguarding aspects to the Health and Wellbeing Board in early Summer;
- b. the Independent Chair of the Children's Safeguarding Board will present the Annual Safeguarding Children's Board Report to the Health and Wellbeing Board in the Autumn;

- c. the Children and Young Peoples Board and Childrens Safeguarding Board will review the refreshed Health and Well Being Strategy each year to consider, and make suggestions on, the performance and plans of the Health and Wellbeing Board with regard to their safeguarding responsibilities for children and young people.

David Haley
Director of Children's Services

16 April 2015



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- **Safeguarding Children Board**

FINAL DRAFT FOR APPROVAL (approved by CYPB 4/4/15)

1. AIM

The aim of this Protocol is to define how the Children and Young Peoples Partnership Board, Health and Wellbeing Board and the Safeguarding Children Board ('the Boards') work together for the promotion of safeguarding and improving the outcomes of children and young people. The relationship to the Council Children's Scrutiny Panel, the Safer Walsall Local Policing and Crime Board and Corporate Parenting Board is covered in the appendix.

2. PURPOSE OF THE BOARDS

2.1 Walsall Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB)

The primary purpose of WSCB is to ensure that relevant organisations in Walsall work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in the borough. Their role is to scrutinise and challenge the work of agencies both individually and collectively.

The key objectives of WSCB, as set out in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children, are:

- to co-ordinate local work to safeguard and promote the well-being of children; and
- to ensure the effectiveness of that work

The WSCB monitors the effectiveness of collaborative working to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children and young people in Walsall. It holds the members of the Children and Young People's Partnership Board to account for the identification of safeguarding priorities and the delivery of its safeguarding objectives.

WSCB will inform and, when necessary, challenge, Walsall Children and Young People's Partnership Board's commissioning and service delivery arrangements where issues are identified through;

- learning from Serious Case Reviews and Significant Incident Reporting
- learning from the Child Death Overview Panel
- Multi-Agency and Single Agency auditing activity.
- Domestic Homicide Reviews

WSCB will publish an Annual Report on the effectiveness of safeguarding locally. This will include an analysis of the contribution and activities of each partner, in keeping children and young people safe and improving outcomes for children and young people.

WSCB will share Safeguarding Performance Information with Walsall Children and Young People's Partnership Board on a quarterly basis via an agreed Performance Report Card. Other issues of significance will be reported to the next available Board meeting or directly with the Chair wherever the next scheduled meeting falls outside of a reasonable timeframe.

2.2 Children and Young Peoples Partnership Board (CYPB)

The primary purpose of the CYPB is to improve outcomes for all children and young people and support their families and carers. It demonstrates this through its Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) and provides strategic leadership, and promotes cooperation, across all agencies that work with children and young people in Walsall.

The Partnership is accountable for the collective performance of partners and the achievement of improved outcomes where those depend upon integrated, multi-agency, collaborative actions. It works closely with the Walsall Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) on improving safeguarding and the Health and Wellbeing Board on addressing health and other inequalities.

2.3 Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB)

The Health and Wellbeing Board is a statutory committee of the Council and has a duty to:

- Prepare a JSNA in relation to the LA area with regard to guidance from the Secretary of State.
- Prepare a HWB Strategy based on the JSNA.
- Have regard to the JSNA and HWBS in the exercise of relevant commissioning functions
- Encourage integrated working across wider determinants of health; between itself and commissioners of health-related services and between commissioners of health & social care services and other health-related services
- Exercise functions with a view to securing integration in the provision of health services and the provision of health and social care services
- Exercise functions with a view to securing continuous improvement in quality of services and outcomes achieved
- Exercise functions with regard to the need to reduce inequalities between patients in health and wellbeing outcomes and access to related services
- Promote the involvement of patients, their carers and representatives in decisions about the provision of health and wellbeing services
- Promote innovation in the provision of health and wellbeing services

It is implicit in these duties that Walsall HWB will support the work of the Children's Safeguarding Boards and other associated boards to ensure that effective arrangements are in place for the promotion and implementation of safeguarding.

3. CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN THE BOARDS

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. Reporting to other Boards of their progress on actions to improve safeguarding on an agreed annual cycle 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

3.1 Chairs of Boards meetings

The Chairs of each Board will meet quarterly to maintain a close working relationship and provide regular challenge and accountability and ensure that this protocol is implemented. They will ensure that plans are developed with regard to safeguarding and that priorities on safeguarding within strategic plans are addressed effectively.

3.2 Reporting Process

The reporting process will focus on safeguarding aspects of the relevant plans and priorities;

1. Between April and May each year
 - a. the Chair of the Children and Young Peoples Partnership Board will present the Children and Young Peoples Plan - with a review of progress on safeguarding aspects to;
 - i. Health and Wellbeing Board
 - ii. Walsall Childrens Safeguarding Board
2. Between September and November each year
 - a. the Independent Chair of the Childrens Safeguarding Board will present the Boards' Annual Report to;
 - i. the Children and Young Peoples Partnership Board
 - ii. the Health and Wellbeing Board

This will provide the opportunity for each Board to consider, and make suggestions on, the performance and plans of the Boards with regard to safeguarding, and to identify data that needs to be included in the JSNA and key safeguarding issues that need to be incorporated in the refresh of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

3. Between October and February each year the refreshed JSNA and Health and Wellbeing Strategy will be received by the;
 - i. Children's Safeguarding Board
 - ii. Children and Young People's Partnership Board



This will enable each boards to consider, and make suggestions on, the performance and plans of the Health and Wellbeing Board with regard to their safeguarding responsibilities.

4. RESOLUTION PROCESS

Where there is concern that this protocol is not succeeding in ensuring strong governance and effective partnership working to safeguard children and young people, resolution should be sought through discussions between the Chairs of the respective Boards, Lead Members and the Director of Children’s Services as appropriate.

5. REVIEW

This protocol will be reviewed annually as part of the Peer Review

6. SIGNATURES:

Chair, Health and Wellbeing Board

27th March 2015

Independent Chair, Walsall Childrens Safeguarding Board

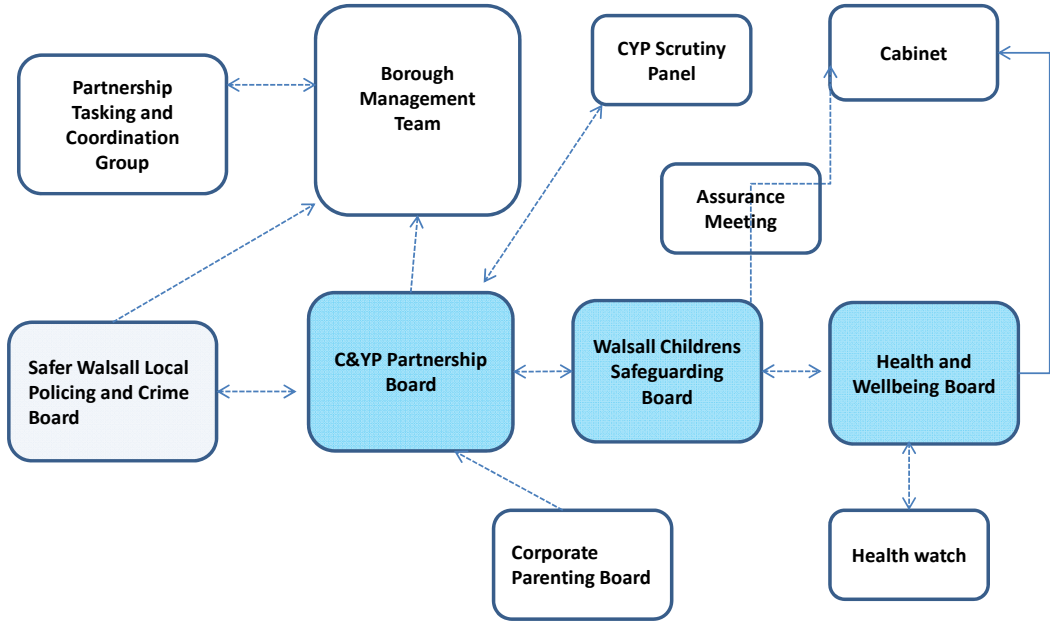
27th March 2015

Chair, Walsall Children and Young Peoples Partnership Board

27th March 2015



Safeguarding Inter Board Protocol – Board 'map' 2015



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Appendix – related Boards

These five boards also have an interest in the safeguarding of children;

1. Safer Walsall Local Policing and Crime Board (SWLPCB)

The Safer Walsall Local Policing and Crime Board is a thematic group within the Borough Management structure. It is responsible for pulling together the duties of responsible authorities as required by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Police Reform Act 2002, ASB Act 2003, Drugs Act 2005, Police and Justice Act 2006, Policing and Crime Act 2009 and associated legislation. In addition, the Board supports local delivery of the requirements within the national delivery plans of responsible authorities and the Office of the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Safer Walsall Policing and Crime Board consists of the responsible authorities as well as representatives from the six area partnerships and communities of interest and has responsibility for endorsing the Walsall Community Safety and Local Policing Plan. This body articulates to the Police and Crime Commissioner the Community Safety priorities for Walsall whilst managing the performance of partner agencies in addressing these areas of concern.

The key statutory Partnership delivery document is the Community Safety and Local Policing Plan, which is refreshed annually, using data from the borough strategic assessment. This identifies key and emerging issues, priority areas and informs the partnerships strategic priorities and ambitions for the year ahead.

There are also a number of themed sub groups reporting to the Board on priority areas, such as domestic abuse.

2 Council Childrens Scrutiny Panel

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel monitors, reviews and scrutinises the work of Children's services. The Panel's membership consists of non-executive members from across all political parties together with statutory co-opted Members and Parent Governors. The Panel is, in essence, the challenge element of the Councils governance arrangements. The Panel has four key roles:-

- Holding the Executive to account for their decisions;
- Scrutinising local partners;
- Reviewing and developing policy;
- Carrying out service reviews (Working Groups)

In doing so, they also have a vital role in enabling the voice of local residents through community engagement. The Panel has demonstrated its interest and scrutiny of Safeguarding in the Borough by setting up Working Groups to review;

- Safeguarding, which presented its findings in May, 2013.
- Looked After Children, which reported in April, 2014 and
- A current review into the Transition and Leaving Care Team



3. Corporate Parenting Board

The purpose of the Board is to ensure that the whole Council and partner agencies have a joint commitment to corporate parenting in order to achieve continuing improvements in outcomes for children and young people in care and care leavers. Other key roles are;

- To develop, implement, oversee and review the Corporate Parenting Strategy and Action Plan to ensure outcomes fulfil the Council's responsibilities towards children and young people in care and care leavers. A progress report on the action plan will be undertaken at six monthly intervals.
- To oversee and monitor the outcomes for children and young people in care and care leavers in conjunction with the Scrutiny panel.
- To ensure children and young people in care and care leavers participate in policy and service development and that their engagement is promoted through their direct involvement with the Corporate Parenting Board and Walsall Children and Young People's Partnership Board arrangements.
- To determine appropriate consultation with children and young people in care, their carers, and care leavers and ensure their achievements are celebrated.
- To advise on and monitor; plans and commissioning, key performance indicators, educational attainment, preventative activity for children and young people on the edge of care

4. Adults Safeguarding Board

The main objective of the Safeguarding adults board (SAB) is to assure itself on the effectiveness of local safeguarding adult's arrangements, and that partners act to protect adults with care and support needs from experiencing, or being at risk of experiencing abuse and neglect. The three Core duties of the SAB are:

- To produce and publish a strategic annual plan that sets out the vision of the board and how it will achieve its main objectives
- To produce and publish an annual report to demonstrate the work of the SAB, and individual members to implement the strategy of the SAB, which will include reporting on local performance and quality outcomes achieved through safeguarding adults.
- Conduct and publish the findings of safeguarding adults reviews in accordance with S44 of the Care Act 2014 to ensure lessons learnt from reviews of multi practice effectively inform ongoing developments and improvements to local safeguarding practice.

The SAB monitors the effectiveness of collaborative working to safeguard and promote the wellbeing and safety of adults in Walsall. It holds the members of the safeguarding adult's board to account for the identification of safeguarding priorities and the delivery of its safeguarding objectives.

In order to achieve its core duties and primary objectives the WSAB will be supported by

- An effective infrastructure that supports the strategic priorities of the board;
- A robust quality assurance and performance management framework that interrogates information from a series of case audits, single agency and multi agency audits to enhance the boards understanding of the impact of safeguarding, and ongoing priorities;



- The development of preventative strategies that evidence how the board is aiming to reduce the incidence of abuse and neglect;
- Developing effective working relationships between the WSAB and WCSB with the aim of supporting whole life responses to safeguarding concerns. Key cross cutting areas and corporate priorities include children in transition, domestic violence and child / adult sexual exploitation.

5. Youth Justice Management Board

As set out in Section 39 (1) of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 requires the cooperation of the four named statutory partners to form a youth offending team comprising of the Police, Probation, Health and the Local Authority to work in partnership with other key agencies including our local Youth and Crown Courts. The Youth Justice Management Board provides strategic direction with the aim of preventing offending by children and young people. This includes the likelihood of re-offending and managing the risk of harm that they can cause to others in the community as well as to themselves. All statutory funding partners are represented on the Board with additional partner agencies members to maximise its effectiveness. The Board is supported by a representative from the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales. The Local Authority, Chief Executive is required to take the lead in ensuring that adequate and suitable governance arrangements are in place to ensure that all the statutory partner agencies are fully participate in the Performance and Partnership Board as required under relevant legislation.

The purpose of the Youth Justice Service is to provide the main supervisory elements of statutory youth justice services:

- Assessment and management of risk and safeguarding; supporting
- Remands in custody and those requiring support in the community as directed by Court
- Pre-court interventions
- Court orders managed in the community, including the provision of a lay youth panel to discharge the responsibilities of Referral Orders
- Sentence planning for young people in custody and their supervision on release
- To carry out such functions assigned in the youth justice plan to prevent and reduce re-offending by children and young people aged 10-17 who, because of alleged or actual offending have become involved in the criminal justice system
- Families of children and young people who have offended or are awaiting trial and
- Victims of young people who have offended.

The key Youth Justice priorities are to reduce the rate of first time entrants, reduce the proven rate of reoffending and reduce the use of custody. The local authority has a duty to protect and promote the welfare of all children and young people, and whilst the Youth Justice Service is and will remain a criminal justice agency, it will do everything possible to ensure young people are not sent to prison, that they are robustly managed safely within their communities, and are able to positively contribute within their communities.