

Subject:	Transition to new children's safeguarding arrangements
Date of Meeting:	16th September 2019
Report of:	Executive Director for Families, Children & Learning
Contact Officer: Name:	Laura Perkins
Email:	laura.perkins@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Ward(s) affected:	(All Wards);

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

This paper summarises proposed changes to children's safeguarding arrangements in line with new legislation under the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and subsequent revision to Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2018.

The report is submitted as a collaborative paper between the three statutory partners: Local Authority, CCG and Police and follows consultation with existing LSCB members. It seeks to set out the governance, strategic aims, scrutiny and structure that will satisfy statutory requirements, delivering the best possible safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

Significant timescales have been set out by the DfE. Details of new arrangements were to be submitted to them for QA no later than 29th June 2019 and those arrangements should then be live no more than 3 months later.

Under the drive to increase awareness and ensure that safeguarding children is 'everyone's responsibility', this paper will impact on all residents and professionals in Brighton and Hove. There will be some important changes for professionals and existing partners who are involved in safeguarding, but of greatest significance is the impact this will have on our children and young people.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the Committee note the New Safeguarding Arrangements and reporting structure.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4. This paper outlines changes to local children's safeguarding arrangements, as required by new legislation detailed in the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and subsequent changes to Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.

5. Until the new legislation comes into effect on 29th September 2019 the safeguarding arrangements are undertaken by the LSCB which provides the strategic and operational direction of safeguarding and continuous monitoring of performance in Brighton & Hove using a board structure with an independent chair.
6. The new primary responsibility for safeguarding children is now placed with three named 'safeguarding partners', Local Authority, CCG and police. The LSCB will cease to exist but there is an expectation that local partners will continue to contribute to safeguarding and may be named as 'relevant agencies' (list of proposed agencies are contained within the report). The new arrangements must include a provision for independent scrutiny (this is not the role of the Health and Wellbeing Board to undertake).
7. The paper explains the new structure that will take over from the existing arrangements with a strategic steering group, led by the safeguarding partners overseeing delivery via an operational board and subject specific sub-groups. These groups will ensure strategy and policy are delivered in key areas.
8. The report sets out timescales for implementation and deals with the requirement for the new partnership to produce an annual report that will detail new arrangements and how effective the arrangements have been in practice.

Glossary of Terms

BHSCP – Brighton and Hove Safeguarding Children Partnership

CCG – Clinical Commissioning Group

LSCB – Local Safeguarding Children Board

DfE - Department for Education

QA – Quality Assure

EDI – Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

9. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 9.1 The new arrangements detailed in the attached document need to comply with legislation, a process is in place that will allow the DfE to check for compliance.

10. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 10.1 Not relevant.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The Children and Young People Committee are asked to note the New Safeguarding Arrangements and reporting structure.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

The structure of the Partnership described herein and further referenced within the enclosed is affordable and within budget and, as such, there are no significant financial implications attached to the proposals.

It should be noted however, that, as the partnership and associated budget is based on a joint funding arrangement (wherein B&HCC fund £223k and £82.5k is contributed by the 'external' partner agencies) any future reduction in budget will impact on service delivery.

Discussion is ongoing re the proposal that, in the event of an underspend, up to £40k per year may be carried forward by B & HCC on behalf of the Partnership as a contingency against potentially high-cost Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews. Any balance over £40k will be discussed with partners as this can either be repaid or, if all partners agree, added to the £40k

7.1 Financial contributions are detailed in the attached report.

Finance Officer Consulted: Brian Mcgonigle

Date: 30/07/19

Legal Implications:

7.2 The new arrangements detailed in the attached document need to comply with legislation, a process is in place that will allow the DfE to check for compliance.

Lawyer Consulted:

Natasha Watson

Date: 21/06/19

Equalities Implications:

7.3 The new arrangements were amended to incorporate suggestions by the Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Team. The plans to engage with young people, wider communities and relevant agencies will help to gain a range of diverse perspectives through the scrutiny process and in setting aims and priorities. It will also help with raising awareness of safeguarding and how everyone can play a role in ensuring children and young people are safe.

Equalities Manager consulted: Sarah Tighe-Ford

Date: 12/06/19

Sustainability Implications:

7.4 Sustainability: This is a joint paper that details changes across the current safeguarding partnership. There are no significant changes to commissioning anticipated at this time.

Any Other Significant Implications:

7.5 Health, social care, children's services and public health: Detailed in the paper

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Appendix1: New safeguarding children arrangements.

Documents in Members' Rooms

none

Background Documents

none

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 1.1 none

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 1.2 none

Public Health Implications:

- 1.3 none

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 1.4 none