

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Children's Committees – business planning</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>11 June 2012</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Strategic Director People</b>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Jo Lyons</b>	<b>Tel: 29-3514</b>
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<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	<b>All</b>		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

### 1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The revised constitution allows for a number of committees to direct and oversee work with children. These include the Children's and Young people's Committee, the Corporate Parenting Committee and the Health and Wellbeing Board. Public and community health matters relating to children may also be considered at the Adult and Public Health Committee. The work of these various committees is overseen by the strategic director people, who serves also as the Council's statutory director of children's services (DCS). Scrutiny of decisions by these various boards and committees will be the responsibility of a revised scrutiny process.
- 1.2 This paper aims to help committee members ensure that their programme of work does not duplicate that of related committees or groups. The various responsibilities of the committees mentioned in the body of this paper are given as appendices and have all been approved through the Council's proper Constitutional Practices.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the draft annual plan as given in 3.7, and reflecting the Corporate Plan should be used to direct the work of this Committee and the officers servicing it
- 2.2 That chairs of the various children's committees should meet bi-annually to agree a common forward plan

### 3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

#### 3.1 The Children's and Young People's Committee (Appendix 1)

The Children's Committee is to take-on the corporate responsibilities for children and young people which will include the duties of the Children's Trust (CYPT - which is to be held in abeyance, rather than be disbanded). This note is intended as a briefing document to help members new to the work of our children's workforce to understand

local and national priorities, and we are organised to meet them. It will also have a complete programme of work in line with the agreed schemes of delegation.

### **The local Children's Trust – The Brighton and Hove Children's and Young People's Trust Partnership (CYPT)**

Our local trust was formed from a merger of the council's Children, Families and Schools Directorate with South Downs Health Children and Families Directorate in April 2006. It had overall responsibility for supporting and leading the education, health and social care services for children and young people across the city, for supporting families and for ensuring children are brought up in a caring, secure and healthy environment. Its duties are now carried-out through the *Children and Families Delivery Unit*, and through the *Learning and Partnership* and *Children, Youth and Families* commissioning teams. A key part of this work is delivered through so-called section 75 agreements with the health sector which allows budgets to be shared and NHS functions to be delegated to the local authority. The Trust is, then, the embodiment of these arrangements and historically its priorities captured in the Children's and Young People's Plan, a device which is no longer statutory.

**The Children's and Young People's Plan**, which ended in March 2012, had four priorities:

1. Strengthen safeguarding and child protection, early intervention and prevention
2. Reduce child poverty and health inequality
3. Promote health and wellbeing, inclusion and achievement
4. Develop the CYPT partnership and drive integration and value for money

This has been subsumed into the council's corporate plan for 2012 onwards, but members might want a simple brief outcome driven plan to help monitor the work of the Council in this area.

Although the government made several changes to the Children's Trust responsibilities on taking office, there remains a duty to co-operate and a responsibility to secure the five outcomes for children:

- **Being Healthy** - enjoying good physical and mental health, and living a healthy lifestyle.
- **Staying Safe** - being protected from harm and neglect and growing up able to look after themselves.
- **Enjoying & Achieving** - getting the most out of life and developing broad skills for adulthood.
- **Achieving Economic Well-being** - overcoming socio-economic disadvantages to achieve their full potential in life
- **Making a Positive Contribution** - to the community and to society, and not engaging in anti-social or offending behaviour.

The requirement that each local authority appoints a suitably qualified first tier officer as director of children's services and reporting to the chief executive remains. In Brighton and Hove, this responsibility is discharged by the Strategic Director, People, who will be the lead officer for the children's committee.

### **Health and Social Care**

This is the primary work of the delivery unit and seeks to improve outcomes for children through effective early help. Its staff work in a variety of situations including family homes, schools, children's centres, youth centres, GP surgeries and hospital settings.

These teams although integrated, retain a number of specialist functions including education psychology, health visiting, teaching and social work. A £10m contract with Sussex Community Trust (SCT) provides for the secondment of around 200 NHS staff to the city council allowing us to deliver a fully integrated paediatric community health services to Brighton and Hove. This means managers also come from a wide variety of professional backgrounds including social workers, teachers, nurses, health visitors, doctors, as well as the more traditional local and national government professional manager routes. It is the wish of officers of both the Council and our health partners to continue and strengthen these links as we move forward. Members will certainly want to form a view on this.

A major change in service organisation was implemented in 2011 with integrated teams established to address particular issues such as children in need or those looked after. This approach is paying dividends with a reduction in children on children in need plans of around 15% year on year. This will ultimately allow the money spent on delivering plans to be reinvested in early help. As the early help impacts further on improving outcomes, we will see costs decrease. However, there remain high numbers of children looked after by the council and understanding this further and bringing numbers down in partnership with the **Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee** (appendix 2) will be vital.

### 3.2 Safeguarding

A key role of the Children's Committee will be to oversee the safeguarding arrangements of the Council and to ensure our contribution to the work of the **local safeguarding children's board (LSCB)** is of the highest quality. The constitution of the Brighton and Hove Local safeguarding Children Board is given in appendix 5. It reports annually to the Children and Young people's Committee. This might include monitoring numbers of children on plans, the flow of children through the care system and our responsiveness to need. Much of this is inspected by Ofsted on a three yearly basis with the report itself used to support service improvement. Receiving regular updates on this work will therefore form a significant part of the business, and the link across into the LSCB will need to be managed carefully. Unlike other members, the Lead Member for children has a nationally prescribed job description given by Parliament: the chair of the Children's Committee will be accountable to this job description.

Safeguarding is an area of potential confusion and overlap in business. It is the intention to have a **Corporate Parenting** sub-committee of Policy and Resources: we are required to have a LSCB, and a **Health and Wellbeing Board (appendix 3)**. The work plans of these four committees will need close co-ordination. This may be best facilitated by the chairs meeting, say, twice a year to agree a common forward plan. A statement of agreement exists between the CYPT and the LCSB: this will need to be updated to reflect these new arrangements

### 3.3 Schools and Learning

Successive governments have progressively weakened the statutory links between schools, colleges and academies and the local authority. The term familiar to many – Local Education Authority – now has little legal standing, and we have an ever decreasing roster of statutory functions. However, we do have a number of responsibilities that will be overseen by the Children's Committee:

- Sufficiency of school places, including capital programmes

- Catchment areas (although at present this is reserved to full council)
- Supporting schools in intervention
- SEN, including behaviour and placements
- Music and arts provision

Data sharing arrangements are very complex, as are our statutory responsibilities. The Government has released academies from a wide range of local accountabilities (it would say 'freed') but this means for example that we are reliant on our good relationship with local academies for information on progress and even attendance. However, it would seem reasonable for Children's Committee to receive updates on each.

### **3.4 Youth and Community**

The Council commissions around £2m of youth activity. The vast majority of this is non-statutory, and so the Council traditionally uses its monies to ensure gaps in provision are filled, and priorities, which may change from year to year, are adequately resourced and meet certain agreed quality standards. We are in the first year of our new commissioning strategy and so regular updates on progress and impact will be essential so that members provide proper overview and governance.

### **3.5 Youth Offending**

The Youth Offending Service has a separate management board chaired by the DCS. The accountable bodies for the management board have been the local community safety partnership and the CYPT. The Children's Committee may want to receive regular reports from the Board to ensure proper governance and accountability. The YOS also has clear child protection responsibilities for which it is accountable to the LSCB. The Director of Children's Services chairs the Youth Offending Service management board and provides a link between it and the Children's and Young people's Committee.

### **3.6 Health and Wellbeing Board**

The 2011 Health & Social Care Act requires every upper-tier local authority to establish a Health & Wellbeing Board (HWB). HWBs are partnership bodies, bringing together councils, NHS commissioners and user representatives to set the local health and care agenda.

Constitution

HWBs will be committees of the relevant Council. This means that they are subject to the regulations governing council committees and will have their membership and Terms of Reference agreed annually by the Full Council (i.e. the elected members) of the relevant local authority.

Duties

HWBs will be responsible for:

- Overseeing and agreeing the local Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) – an ongoing analysis of health and care needs and provision in the area
- Agreeing a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) – a high-level plan for health, public health and adult and children's social care services for the local area

- Holding local Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) to account for their commissioning plans
- Encouraging co-working between health and social care
- Encouraging public engagement with health and social care decision-making

These are the *minimum* requirement duties set out in legislation: HWBs can take on other roles as well if agreed locally.

- 3.7 An draft annual plan for the Children’s and Young People’s Committee, covering the relevant business carried forward from Cabinet, Cabinet Member’s Meeting (CMM) and Scrutiny gives an outline as shown in table 1:

Table 1

### Children’s Committee: 2012/13 Work Plan

Month	Agenda Items
11 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children’s Committee – Business Planning (TP)</li> <li>• A Review of Secondary Admissions Process for September 2014/15 (JL/GS)</li> <li>• Annual Standards and School Performance Report (&amp; MOU with Aldridge Foundation &amp; Secondary Compact) (JL/HF)</li> <li>• Children’s Social Care Update (JD)</li> </ul>
17 <sup>th</sup> September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Report on School Attendance, Access and Exclusion (JL/MB)</li> <li>• Equalities update (including bullying and racist incidents) (JL/SB)</li> <li>• Annual School Organisation/Admissions Report (JL/GS)</li> <li>• Annual Report on Music and Arts Service (JL/PC)</li> <li>• Funding Arrangements for the Extension of free entitlement for 2 year olds</li> <li>• Children’s Centre Consultation</li> <li>• Housing for Vulnerable Young People</li> <li>• Provision of Family Group Conferences</li> </ul>
12 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Standards and School Performance Report (JL/HF)</li> <li>• Annual Report of the work of the Learning Partnership (LP chair/JL)</li> <li>• Annual Report from SACRE (JL/MN)</li> <li>• The new SEN Strategy (JL/member of the partnership)</li> <li>• Programme Budgets 2013-15 (LH)</li> </ul>

14 <sup>th</sup> January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children’s Social Care Performance Update (JD)</li> <li>• Report on commissioning and delivery of Youth Services (SB/JD)</li> <li>• Child Poverty Strategy Update JL/SB)</li> <li>• Annual YOT performance report (SB/JD)</li> <li>• Fees and Charges (LH)</li> </ul>
11 <sup>th</sup> March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of S75 Agreement Partnership Agreements (SB)</li> <li>• Commissioning Strategy for services for children with disabilities: Progress Update (SB/JD)</li> <li>• Annual SEN performance report (JL)</li> <li>• Annual Report of the Behaviour and Attendance Partnership (JL/EM)</li> </ul>

3.8 The Council’s Corporate Plan, which is available both on line and in Members’ rooms, details the priority outcomes for the Council’s work in the coming year, 2012-13 and is subject to approval by Policy and Resources Committee. A number of these relate directly to the work of this Committee. These include:

**PRIORITY 1: TACKLING INEQUALITY  
2012/13 COMMITMENTS**

1. Look to reorganise services to vulnerable children and adults to provide more early help, reducing the need for crisis intervention
2. Establish a new service for ‘troubled families’, working with 225 families this year to help prevent them from falling into need and helping them stay out of crisis.
3. Improve services for vulnerable teenagers by improving access to psychological therapies and supported accommodation.

**4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION**

4.1 The work plan suggested here arises out of manifesto commitments as well as statutory requirements placed on the Council. As such, they have been arrived at through a range of consultative methods.

**5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

Financial Implications:

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this Report.

*Finance Officer Consulted: Louise Hoten*

*Date: 17/05/12*

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The report provides a plan for the business of the committee. In relation to school admissions and the School Organisation Plan these issues are reserved to full council for decision making. This means under the current constitution these areas could only come to this committee for noting or recommendations, but not decision making.

*Lawyer Consulted: Natasha Watson Date: 29.05.12*

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 For any change that has significant equalities implications a full impact assessment will be undertaken.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 There are no sustainability implications from this report. Individual items may have sustainability issues and these will be addressed at the time.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 Links across to the community safety partnership through the Youth Offending Service will be vital in ensuring we meet our targets for reducing the numbers of young people engaged in crime, and the numbers of offences committed.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 The Risks within this report relate to how various committees and boards will co-ordinate their work in the light of the statutory requirements placed on the statutory post holders of the chair of the children's committee and that of director of children's services (DCS).

Public Health Implications:

- 5.7 Clear relationships and co-ordination with both the adults and health committee and the health and wellbeing board will be vital to the success of the Children's Committee. Public Health commissioning will be agreed as part of the annual Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.8 The recommendation to manage business effectively across the named committees and boards, if accepted, should be able to ensure that work is co-ordinated both across the Council and its partners. The Children's Committee takes-on the statutory role of the Children's Trust Board and so will play a significant role in the wider partnership work of the Council.

## **Appendices**

### **1. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMITTEE**

#### Explanatory Note

This Committee is responsible for education, children's health and social care services, public health relating to children and young people, including services to young people up to the age of 19, and exercises the council's functions as Local Education Authority. Most of these services are delivered jointly with the Health Service and, to reflect this, the Committee is also the Council's Children and Young People's Trust Board for the purposes of the Children Act 2004.

#### Delegated Functions

To exercise the functions of the Council:

1. as a Local Education Authority under any enactment relating to education, youth services and the employment of children;
2. in relation to educational charities;
3. in partnership arrangements with other bodies connected with the delivery of education;
4. in relation to social services for children and young people;
5. in partnership arrangements with other bodies connected with the delivery of services for children, young people and families;
6. regarding families in connection with the functions of the Committee set out above or where there are no other arrangements made under this scheme of delegation;
7. under or in connection with the children and young people's partnership arrangements made with health bodies pursuant to section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006 and section 10 of the Children Act 2004 ("the section 75 Agreements");
8. in relation to children's public health including but not limited to:
  - sexual health
  - physical activity, obesity, tobacco control programme
  - prevention and early detection
  - immunisation
  - mental health
  - NHS health check and workplace health programmes
  - dental health
  - social exclusion
  - seasonal mortality;
9. in relation to those aspects of children's public health which transfer to the council under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

#### NOTE

(a) All the above functions shall be exercised subject to any limitations in the section 75 Agreements.

(b) Policy issues which are relevant both to this Committee and the Adult Care & Health Committee may be considered by either of those Committees or by the Policy & Resources Committee.

### **2. CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMITTEE**



## Explanatory Note

The Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee has the status of a Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee. It acts as an advisory committee to the Council, its partners and its Committees on matters related to the Council's looked after children.

Its role is to ensure that the Council and its partner agencies have a joint commitment to:-

- (a) Achieving improved outcomes for children in care and care leavers;
- (b) Developing and overseeing implementation of the Corporate Parenting Strategy to drive improved outcomes;
- (c) Providing challenge to ensure that the Council's duties as Corporate Parent are carried out effectively and consistently.

### Delegated Functions

1. To assist in the development, operation, monitoring and review of the Council's policies and strategies as they affect children in care and care leavers.
2. To develop, monitor and review a Corporate Parenting Strategy and work plan.
3. To promote a co-ordinated and partnership approach to the delivery of Council services as they affect children in care and care leavers and to challenge services where this is not evidenced or effective.
4. To advise the Council and its Committees on issues relevant to children in care and care leavers and to ensure that policies implemented by the Council which affect these children and young people are effective and appropriate.
5. To review and monitor outcomes for looked after children and care leavers, including data from the Corporate Parenting Report Card and feedback from the Standards & Complaints and Quality Assurance Framework officers in respect of children in care and care leavers.
6. To ensure that clear and accessible information is readily available to children in care and care leavers on the corporate parenting they can expect from the council.
7. To ensure that systems are in place which mean that the views of children and young people are represented in the development of services that affect them.
8. To report to the Council's Policy and Resources Committee and Council on a twice yearly basis.
9. To make recommendations to the relevant Committee where responsibility for a particular function rests with that Committee.
10. To appoint non voting Co-opted Members.
11. To ensure arrangements are made for the training and development of Councillors (and others as appropriate) on the Corporate Parenting role.
12. To receive reports on the discharge of the Council's functions regarding the provision of accommodation for looked after children and care leavers, and to make recommendations to the appropriate body of the Council.

### **3. HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD**

#### **Explanatory Note**

This Board is established as a shadow board in anticipation of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 coming into force. The Health and Wellbeing Board (“the H&W Board”) in its shadow form is responsible for advising the Council, the Sussex Primary Care Trust Board (“SPCT Board”) and the Clinical Commissioning Group (“CC Group”) on work to improve the health and wellbeing of the population of Brighton & Hove through the development of improved and integrated health and social care services. In particular it will be responsible for preparing a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. The H&W Board’s procedures are similar to those of Council Committees, with modifications to reflect its purpose, composition and shadow status. The H&W Board comprises 7 Councillors and 7 further members determined having regard to the requirements of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

#### **Delegated Functions**

1. To carry out its functions in shadow form until the requirements of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 comes into force (anticipated date 1 April 2013) when the Board will become a fully functioning Committee of the Council.
2. To lead and act as an advisory body to the Council, the SPCT Board and the emerging CC Group on work to improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Brighton & Hove, through the development of improved and integrated health and social care services.
3. In support of the foregoing, to advise the Council, the SPCT Board and the CC Group in relation to the following matters:-
  - (a) Providing city-wide strategic leadership to public health, health and adults and children’s social care commissioning, acting as a focal point for determining and agreeing health and wellbeing outcomes and resolving any related conflicts;
  - (b) Making ready for its future role of preparing and publishing the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSN Assessment) for the City;
  - (c) Preparing and publishing a Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy (JHW Strategy), monitoring the outcomes goals set out in the JHW Strategy and using its authority to ensure that the public health, health and adults and children’s commissioning and delivery plans of member organisations accurately reflect the Strategy and are integrated across the City;
  - (d) Receiving the annual CC Group’s commissioning plan for comment.
  - (e) Supporting joint commissioning and pooled budget arrangements where agreed by the H&W Board that this is appropriate;
  - (f) Promoting integration and joint working in health and social care across the locality;
  - (g) Establishing and maintaining a dialogue with the Council’s Local Strategic Partnership Board, including consulting on its proposed strategies and reporting on outcomes in line with the City’s Performance and Risk Management Framework.
  - (h) Involving stakeholders, users and the public in quality of life issues and health and wellbeing choices, by communicating and explaining the JHW Strategy;
  - (i) Developing and implementing a Communications and Engagement Strategy;
  - (j) Representing Brighton & Hove on health and wellbeing issues at all levels, influencing and negotiating on behalf of the members of the Board and working closely with the LINKs/local HealthWatch;
  - (k) Ensuring robust arrangements are in place for a smooth transition into the statutory H&W Board by April 2013.

#### **4. The Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

To exercise powers with regard to the scrutiny of health services pursuant to the National Health Service Act 2006 and in particular:-

- To scrutinise matters relating to the health of the Authority's population and contribute to the development of policy and service to improve health and reduce health inequalities;
- To scrutinise matters relating to public health;
- To undertake all the statutory functions of the health scrutiny committee in accordance with the National Health Service Act 2006;
- To review and scrutinise the impact of the Authority's own services and of key partnerships on the health of its population;
- To encourage the Council as a whole to take into account the implications of their policies and activities on health and health inequalities;
- To make reports and recommendations to the National Health Service, the Council, the committees and sub-committees, and to other relevant bodies and individuals;
- To monitor and review the outcomes of its recommendations.

In all of the above, to liaise with other bodies that represent patients' views in order to seek and take account of the views of the local populations

To perform the Overview and Scrutiny function in relation to all matters, decisions and service provision connecting to Adult Social Care.

To perform the Overview and Scrutiny function in relation to all matters, decisions and service provision connecting to Children and Young People and in particular:

- the provision, planning and management of children's social services
- the provision, planning and management of education
- the health of the authority's children and young people, including contribution to the development of policy and service to improve health and reduce health inequalities, all in accordance with the principles of section 244 National Health Services Act 2006
- all of the functions of the Council as an education authority

#### **5.**

### **STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN BRIGHTON AND HOVE CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD AND BRIGHTON AND HOVE LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD**

#### **Purpose of agreement:**

This agreement sets out the accountability arrangements and working relationship between Brighton and Hove's Children's Trust Board (CTB) and Brighton and Hove's Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). It covers their respective roles and functions and mutual accountability arrangements. This agreement is about the relationship with the CTB and not the joint services.

The CTB and LSCB have formally agreed to the arrangements set out in this document, which will be subject to review annually (from the date of initial agreement).

## **Role of Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)**

The LSCB is a statutory partnership with responsibility for agreeing how relevant local organisations will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The LSCB's role is to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of local arrangements to safeguard all children.

The LSCB's key responsibilities include the following:

- To participate in local planning and commissioning of children's services (through contributing to the Children's and Young People's Plan) – to ensure that safeguarding and promoting welfare is taken into account, or to initiate activities which investigate and improve practice in relation to safeguarding.
- Develop and promote policy and procedure for safeguarding children and young people. This includes training people who work with children, ensuring safe recruitment and working practice, and investigating allegations and concerns.
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by the local authority and Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advise them on ways to improve
- Communicate and raise awareness of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children to those who work with children, including volunteers, and members of the public.
- Collect and analyse information about child deaths, with a view to learning from experience and safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children.
- Undertake Serious Case Reviews where abuse or neglect is known or suspected to be a factor in a child's death or serious injury – especially where there is cause for concern about the way professionals or agencies have worked together.
- Lead on or contribute to specific safeguarding initiatives, e.g. e-safety, missing children, safer workforce, and sexual exploitation.
- Produce and publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in Brighton and Hove

LSCBs are now expected to have an independent chair so that the LSCB can exercise its local challenge function effectively. There is a statutory list of member agencies and recent guidance has added lay members and school representatives to the list.

## **Role of Children's Trust Board**

The CTB provides the interagency governance of cooperation arrangements to promote children's well being in Brighton & Hove. These cooperation arrangements are made

pursuant to Section 10 of the Children Act 2004, whereby arrangements are to be made with a view to improving the well-being of children in the authority's area. . The CTB is responsible for developing a local strategy for improving children's lives by delivering better services – including their health and wellbeing. In particular the CTB promotes strong joint planning and commissioning of services and is responsible for ensuring services deliver improved outcomes for children and young people.

The key responsibilities of the Children Trust Board are as follows:

- Undertaking a joint strategic needs assessment to identify and agree local priority outcomes and setting out these priorities in a Children and Young People's Plan.
- These include identifying vulnerable children and intervening early to ensure they are safe and thriving, narrowing the gap between vulnerable children and others who are not in areas such as educational attainment, and reducing child poverty.
- The CTB will do this by listening to the views of children, young people, and their parents and carers; by promoting joint working, by ensuring effective commissioning of services, by using resources effectively and creatively, by aligning or pooling budgets, and by overcoming unnecessary barriers to sharing and communication.

#### **The relationship between the LSCB and the CTB:**

The LSCB is responsible for monitoring and evaluating local safeguarding arrangements whereas the CTB is responsible for bringing together, and monitoring, a common strategy for improving the well-being of children in the authority's area through the Children and Young People's Plan.

- The LSCB should be consulted on issues that affect how children and young people are safeguarded and how their welfare is promoted and to be a formal consultee during the development of the CYPP.
- The LSCB has the authority to call all agencies represented on the CTB to account for their safeguarding activity but is not accountable for the operational work of individual agencies or the CTB.
- The LSCB should provide robust, independent challenge to the safeguarding work of the CTB and its partners.
- The LSCB should provide an annual report to the CTB setting out an assessment of local safeguarding arrangements and its key findings from the monitoring and evaluation of local safeguarding arrangements during the year, and recommendations of areas of safeguarding which should be included in the CYPP.

#### **Roles and responsibilities:**

The roles of the LSCB and CTB must have a clear distinction. The LSCB is not an operational subcommittee of the CTB, and should not relate to the CTB in a way that

might compromise its separate identity and independent voice. The LSCB must be able to form a view on the quality of local activity to challenge organisations as necessary, and speak with that independent voice

The Independent Chair (IC) of the LSCB is accountable to the Local Authority (LA) locally by virtue of the fact that the LA is responsible for establishing the LSCB. The IC is accountable through the Director of Children's Services (DCS) and/or Council Chief Executive, for the delivery of effective partnership arrangements to safeguard children and for ensuring that the LSCB delivers its statutory functions effectively.

Members of LSCBs retain their own existing lines of accountability for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children by their services as well as being responsible for contributing to effective arrangements for how agencies work together to safeguard children. However statutory guidance requires members to give precedence to their role as LSCB members when recommending or deciding upon the necessary steps to put something right. Members of LSCBs are responsible for;

- Ensuring, including through a programme of monitoring and evaluation, that their agency discharges its responsibilities to safeguard children effectively and taking appropriate action when required, including taking action internally and alerting the LSCB when shortfalls in arrangements are identified.
- Ensuring, including through participating in a programme of multi-agency monitoring and evaluation activity, that all agencies are working together effectively to safeguard children.

Members of CTB are required to contribute to the planning and delivery of services to children and young people in accordance with the CYPP and to specify their contribution to the joint strategy, including, as appropriate, local representatives of the private and third sectors.

Specific statutory responsibilities of LSCB members include;

- The DCS and Lead Member, working with the Chief Executive of the local Primary Care Trust, play a key part in developing effective joint leadership and clear local accountability arrangements.

The DCS and the Lead Member lead and facilitate local partnership arrangements, including the co-operation arrangements that underpin the local Children's Trust, the Children and Young People's Plan, information sharing databases, the Local Safeguarding Children Board and any section 75 arrangements relating to children's health. These responsibilities are the key to uniting partners and integrating services to make each local area the best possible place for children to grow up.

The DCS has responsibility for the safety and welfare of all children, especially looked after children, across all agencies; this includes:

- statutory responsibility for ensuring that an effective LSCB is in place on behalf of the Local Authority

- being a member of the LSCB and working closely to support the Independent Chair to ensure it functions effectively
- contributing to monitoring the extent to which other Board members act in accordance with the CYPP, and hold them to account through the CTB
- ensuring that children, young people, parents and carers are at the heart of consultation in the strategic planning of services and are able to feed back on their experience of the quality of service.
- considering data on child protection and information emerging from the LSCB and regularly reviewing all points of referral where concerns about a child's safety or welfare are received, to ensure that they are sound in terms of the quality of assessments of any risks of harm to the child, decision-making, onward referral and multi agency working.
- Supporting, advising the LSCB Chair, and monitoring progress

The Lead Member, as an elected representative, should be proactive in developing the local vision and driving improvements for local people, including through the CTB (and CYPP) and the LSCB. The LM should:

- Chair the CTB;
- be a participant observer of the LSCB;
- provide the political leadership needed for the effective co-ordination of work with other relevant agencies with safeguarding responsibilities;
- take steps to assure themselves that effective quality assurance systems for safeguarding are in place and functioning across service areas and levels of need.

The LSCB chair has a crucial role in making certain that the LSCB operates effectively and has an independent voice. The Chair should:

- Not be a member of the CTB but be able to be a participant observer;
- Provide leadership to the LSCB so it fulfils its functions;
- Provide when necessary an independent public voice on behalf of the LSCB;
- Promote partnership and mutual scrutiny.

## **5 Operational arrangements**

In order to deliver local services effectively the LSCB and CTB will:

- Have an ongoing and direct relationship, communicating regularly through identified lead individuals. The DCS and LSCB chair will meet at least quarterly, and the Lead Member will meet with both at least twice per annum;
- Work together to ensure action taken by one body does not duplicate that taken by another;
- Ensure they are committed to working together to ensure there are no unhelpful strategic or operational gaps in policies, protocols, services or practice.

This means that:

- The LSCB will undertake safeguarding audits and feedback the results to the CTB, advising on ways to improve, highlighting areas of underperformance and highlighting gaps in service for the CT to consider as part of its joint commissioning process
- The CTB will consult the LSCB on issues, policies and strategies which affect how children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted, for example; the LSCB has in particular a statutory duty on developing threshold so this will be subject of consultations
- The CTB will take note of recommendations and identified areas for improvement made by the LSCB and report back to the LSCB on subsequent progress
- The CTB will ensure the LSCB is formally consulted during the development of the CYPP
- The CTB will ensure that those issues raised in the LSCB's annual report into the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements are responded to as part of the development of the CYPP
- The CTB will ensure that messages and information provided by the LSCB are appropriately disseminated within CTB member organisations
- The CTB will take an overview of the LSCB's activities as part of its monitoring arrangements, as the work of the LSCB falls within the framework of the CYPP.

## **Documents in Members' Rooms**

1. Corporate Plan Refresh 2012/2013

## **Background Documents**