

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 7 March 2019

Report of the Chief Executive and Director of Resources

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Replacement of the Local Safeguarding Children Board with the New Area Safeguarding Arrangements

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

This report is being presented to the three Lancashire Councils and where necessary, the Executive bodies of the Clinical Commissioning Groups and the Police and sets out the recommended option for the replacement of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board to comply with the new area children's safeguarding arrangements.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to approve Option 1, as set out in the report, which has been agreed in principle with safeguarding partner agencies.

Background and Advice

Under the Children Act 2004, as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017, Local Safeguarding Children Boards will be replaced. Under the new legislation, the three agencies identified as key safeguarding partners (Local Authorities, Chief Officers of Police and Clinical Commissioning Groups) must make arrangements to work together with relevant agencies (as they consider appropriate) to safeguard and protect the welfare of children in the area.

Option 1

Under the guidance it is permissible for the new arrangements to cover more than one local authority area. The attached report sets out proposals for the three Local Safeguarding Children Boards in Blackpool, Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire

to be replaced by new arrangements that will cover all areas. It is proposed that the new arrangements are called the Blackpool, Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire Safeguarding Children Strategic Partnership Board.

Further details of the proposals are set out at Appendix 'A'.

Option 2

To have individual safeguarding arrangements for each authority.

Advantages – preserves status quo and minimum change required.

Disadvantages – wasteful of time and resources and still need communication between authorities.

Option 3

To have co-ordinated area safeguarding arrangements across Clinical Commissioning Group areas including South Cumbria.

Advantages – would allow synergy of Clinical Commissioning Groups discussion and would be efficient in terms of size.

Disadvantages – area safeguarding arrangements guidance as published by the Department for Education does not allow across partnership working, i.e. part of Cumbria.

Consultations

Consultations have taken place with key agencies as defined in the legal requirements and more broadly with existing members of the three Local Safeguarding Children Boards via their meetings.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

There is a risk to child protection and safeguarding if the change to these arrangements are not made effectively. In addition, there is a risk to the reputation of the county council if arrangements are not effective.

Financial

It is anticipated that there may be efficiency savings as a result of the new arrangements, although these are not quantified at this stage. The current budgets for the Local Safeguarding Children Boards are as set out in the budget for the three individual councils and the budgets of partner establishments.

Legal

As set out in the report.

Human Resources

The new arrangements would result in changes to how business support is resourced and delivered and could have staffing implications for the service. However, these have been captured as part of wider proposals for business support contained within the service challenge proposals previously presented to cabinet.

List of Background Papers

None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A