

Health and Wellbeing Board
Meeting to be held on 16 July 2014

Electoral Division affected: All

Proposed Protocol between Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board and Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board
(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information: Kathryn Grindrod, 01772 538 352, Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board, Kathryn.grindrod@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

Statutory Guidance stipulates that the Health and Wellbeing Board and Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) must work together in the pursuit of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. The attached protocol proposes arrangements to ensure this happens.

Recommendation

The Health and Wellbeing Board and Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board are asked to consider and agree the attached protocol.

Background and Advice

The Health and Wellbeing Board has a responsibility to ensure that the safeguarding and welfare of children is a cross-cutting theme in all areas of work; from needs analysis through to commissioning of services and service development.

The LSCB has a responsibility to coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area and must ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.

The proposed protocol set out at Appendix 'A' is intended to ensure that the two Boards work together where appropriate but will also provide mutual challenge to one another to ensure the best possible outcomes for children and young people in Lancashire.

Consultations

Members of both the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board are being consulted on the attached protocol.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

- There are no financial or HR implications;
- The benefits from implementation of these proposals will impact equally on all communities;
- Adoption of the protocol will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of both Boards in addressing safeguarding issues;
- The adoption of this protocol will provide an additional level of assurance in respect of arrangements for safeguarding children across Lancashire;

Risk management

Without formal arrangements in place to coordinate the work of the two Boards there is a risk that activity to safeguard children is not effective; actions may be duplicated or overlooked to the detriment of children and young people in Lancashire.

Ultimately the Chief Executive of the Local Authority has responsibility for ensuring the effectiveness of the LSCB. Ineffective arrangements could undermine the quality of safeguarding activity and additionally there is a reputational risk to the Local Authority and the LSCB should Ofsted identify deficits in the arrangements between the two Boards.

A recent Ofsted inspection of an LSCB in another part of the country commented: *'As yet formal arrangements with the Health and Wellbeing Board... are underdeveloped and so do not influence the priorities and resources of these high-level strategic partnerships.'*

Conclusion

The adoption of this protocol will provide a framework for the relationship between the two Boards and support each of them in delivering their strategic responsibilities to the benefit of children and families in Lancashire.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
Draft Protocol HWB and LSCB Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013	June 2014	Kathryn Grindrod LSCB01772 358352