



Joint Protocol
between
Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board
and
Lancashire Safeguarding Children
Board

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1. AIM

1.1 The aim of this Protocol is to define how [Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board](#) (HWB) and [Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board](#) (LSCB) work together in the pursuit of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

2. Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB)

2.1 The [Health and Social Care Act 2012](#) established health and wellbeing boards as a forum where key leaders from the health and care system work together to improve the health and wellbeing of their local population and reduce health inequalities.

2.2 Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board members work together to understand their local community's needs, agree priorities and encourage commissioners to work in a more joined up way. As a result, patients and the public should experience more joined-up services from the NHS and their local council in the future.

2.3 It is the responsibility of the Health and Wellbeing Board to:

- To identify the priority health and wellbeing needs in our area (using the [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment](#))
- To set priorities based on information gathered from across Lancashire
- To promote integrated commissioning and provision of services by encouraging partnership working

2.4 Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board has a responsibility to:

- Have strategic influence over commissioning decisions across health, public health and social care.
- Strengthen democratic legitimacy by involving democratically elected representatives and patient representatives in commissioning decisions alongside commissioners across health and social care. The board will also provide a forum for challenge, discussion, and the involvement of local people.
- Bring together clinical commissioning groups and councils to develop a shared understanding of the health and wellbeing needs of the community. They will undertake the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and develop a joint strategy for how these needs can be best addressed. This will include recommendations for joint commissioning and integrating services across health and care.
- Through undertaking the JSNA, the board will drive local commissioning of health care, social care and public health and create a more effective and responsive local

health and care system. Other services that impact on health and wellbeing such as housing and education provision will also be addressed.

2.5 The HWB will ensure that safeguarding and child protection are cross-cutting themes in all its work.

2.6 The HWB will ensure safeguarding is:

- Holistically addressed in local needs assessment; including by considering and addressing information provided by the LSCB on safeguarding priorities.
- Integrated into the development of the Health and Well-Being Strategy
- Integrated into commissioning arrangements at both strategic and operational levels
- Integrated into the Public Health agenda
- Embedded and integrated into service arrangements

3. Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)

3.1 The LSCB is a statutory body created under the Children Act 2004. It is responsible for challenging all relevant organisations on their performance in ensuring that children and young people are kept safer in the County. The LSCB is responsible for developing local policies for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

3.2 Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 sets out the objectives of LSCBs, which are:

- 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
- To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.

3.3 Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006 sets out that the functions of the LSCB, in relation to the above objectives under section 14 of the Children Act 2004, are as follows:

- Developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority, including policies and procedures in relation to:
 - the action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare, including thresholds for intervention;
 - training of persons who work with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children;
 - recruitment and supervision of persons who work with children;
 - investigation of allegations concerning persons who work with children;
 - safety and welfare of children who are privately fostered;

- cooperation with neighbouring children's services authorities and their Board partners;
- Communicating to persons and bodies in the area of the authority the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising their awareness of how this can best be done and encouraging them to do so;
- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advising them on ways to improve;
- Participating in the planning of services for children in the area of the authority; and
- Undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learned.
- Collecting and analysing information about the deaths of all children normally resident in Lancashire with a view to learning for the future

3.4 The LSCB will ensure local agencies meet their safeguarding requirements. It will:

- Challenge commissioners and providers of services through audit and quality assurance exercises;
- Provide multi-agency training and monitor its impact;
- Ensure appropriate multi-agency procedures are kept up to date and that there is compliance;
- Publish the findings of audit and complete and publish serious case reviews and
- Seek to engage with children and their families so as to understand and learn from their experiences.

4. The HWB and LSCB Working Together to Keep Children Safe

4.1 The relationship between the two Boards is not hierarchical and the two Boards have mutually exclusive responsibilities as well as a common interest in the safeguarding of children. They will seek to work together where appropriate but will also provide mutual challenge. The two Boards will work together as follows:

- The HWB consulting with the LSCB on the refresh of Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.
- The HWB will provide information to the LSCB, in respect of the health and well-being of children, young people and their parents/carers on at least an annual basis. (This may be through the presentation of the JSNA)
- The LSCB will formally present its annual report to the HWB and the HWB providing a formal response to the LSCB.
- Both Boards will identify a named individual to ensure co-ordination of relevant activities as well as to champion safeguarding in the work.

- Both Boards will ensure that messages and information about keeping children safe are disseminated within partner organisations, including collaborating on stakeholder events
- Both Boards will ensure action taken by one body does not duplicate that taken by another

5. The Roles of Post and Position Holders

5.1 The Executive Director of Children's Services (DCS), Director of Public Health (DPH), Chief Executive (CE), Lead Members for Children's Services and Health and Wellbeing and Leader of the Council have central roles.

5.2 The DCS has the lead responsibility for improving outcomes for children/young people in Lancashire.

5.3 The CE of the Council has statutory responsibility for ensuring that an effective LSCB is in place.

5.4 The Lead Member for Children's Services is politically accountable for ensuring that the Local Authority fulfils its legal responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. He or she will provide the political leadership needed for the effective co-ordination of work with other relevant agencies with safeguarding responsibilities. He or she will also take steps to assure themselves through scrutiny and challenge that effective quality assurance systems for safeguarding are in place and are functioning effectively across service areas and levels of need.

5.5 The DPH is a statutory chief officer of the Council (from April 2013) and the principal adviser on all health matters to elected members and officers, with a leadership role spanning all three domains of public health: health improvement, health protection and healthcare public health. The DPH is required to play a full part in the Council's action to meet the needs of vulnerable children, **including through attendance at LSCB.**

5.6 The CE is responsible for satisfying herself that the DCS is fulfilling their managerial responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and in particular, by ensuring that the relationship between the LSCB, CYPTB and HWB is working effectively.

5.7 The CE and Leader of the Council should make an annual assessment of the effectiveness of local governance and partnership arrangements for improving outcomes for children and young people and supporting the best possible standards for safeguarding children and young people.

5.8 Membership of the various boards is as follows:

LSCB	Director of Childrens Services, Lead Member for Children’s Services (Participant Observer), Director of Public Health
HWB	Director of Childrens Services, Director of Public Health, Lead Member for Children’s Services and Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing

6. Operational Arrangements

6.1 The HWB and LSCB will share their respective annual plans during the formation stages to enable coordination and coherence where there are common issues

6.2 The HWB and LSCB will share their Board Minutes after every meeting for information and any appropriate action.

6.3 The independent Chair of LSCB will be invited to attend HWB meetings, as and when necessary, in order to present reports and assist or advise on the development of effective plans and service delivery arrangements for safeguarding Lancashire children. Similarly, representatives of HWB will be invited to attend LSCB when there are issues of common interest and purpose.

6.4 This Protocol will be reviewed on an annual basis or when national guidance affecting either Board is revised or introduced.

This protocol is agreed by the undersigned on behalf of the LSCB and HWB:

Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board	Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board
Chair Jane Booth	Chair County Councillor Azhar Ali
Signature	
Date	Date