

Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board
Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 19 March 2019

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 (LSCB) to comply with the new area children's safeguarding arrangements.

Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended:

To endorse the approach being taken in the Option 1 below.

Background

Option 1

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

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.

Option 2

To have individual safeguarding arrangements for each authority.

Pros – preserves status quo and minimum change required.

Cons – 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.

Pros – would allow synergy of Clinical Commissioning Group discussion and would be efficient in terms of size.

Cons – area safeguarding arrangements guidance as published by DfE does not allow across partnership working ie 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 Lancashire Safeguarding Children's 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 and to the reputation of the council if arrangements are not effective.

Financial

There may be efficiency savings going forward. The current budgets for the 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.

List of background papers

N/A