

**Children's Services Scrutiny Committee**  
Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 3 July 2019

Electoral Division affected:  
(All Divisions);

**Children and Families Partnership Arrangements**  
(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:  
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**Executive Summary**

The report provides an update on the Lancashire Children and Families Partnership arrangements.

**Recommendation**

The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- i. Note the information provided.
- ii. Consider the progress made in establishing partnership arrangements.

**Background and Advice**

The county-wide Children and Young People's Trust Partnership Board was suspended in 2017 pending a review to understand the current position with the Children and Young People's Partnerships and to identify appropriate means of determining and taking forward children and young people's priorities across Lancashire.

Of the five local Children's Partnership Boards that were established as part of our Children and Young People's Trust Arrangements:

- Fylde, Lancaster & Wyre remains active
- Burnley & Pendle not active
- Hyndburn, Ribble Valley & Rossendale remains active
- Chorley, South Ribble & West Lancashire has not met for some time
- The Preston partnership has lapsed.

In November 2017 informal discussions were held with a range of partners to consider the most important areas to work on and lead together. These discussions have progressed well, leading to the establishment of a county-wide Children's Partnership Board, Chaired by the Executive Director for Education and Children's Services. The Board includes representation from district councils, schools, police,

Clinical Commissioning Groups and from the County Council's Education and Children's Services and Public Health Teams.

The Partnership Board has agreed a vision for children, young people and families and a "Plan on a Page" (Appendix 'A') with which to guide activity. These will be kept under review.

Capacity has now been agreed to support the coordination of the County level Children and Families Partnership Board. At this point there is no change to the local Children's Partnership Board arrangements.

An early priority for the Partnership will be to support the development of a Multi-Agency Early Help Strategy.

Alongside the development of the Children and Families Partnership Board, we have also made progress in developing new Area Safeguarding Arrangements. 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. It has been agreed that the three Local Safeguarding Children Boards in Blackpool, Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire will be replaced by new arrangements that will cover all areas. The new arrangements are called the Blackpool, Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire Safeguarding Children Strategic Partnership Board.

The Strategic Board will be supported by three tactical/operational area based groups reflecting the following three geographical areas:

- Blackpool and North Lancashire
- Central and South Lancashire
- Blackburn with Darwen and East Lancashire

This will ensure delivery of the Strategic Board objectives at a local level and ensure the Strategic Board's work is also informed by more local issues or concerns. The footprint of these groups will also enable current cross-boundary issues and inconsistencies to be more easily addressed.

Work is progressing to ensure the statutory deadline of 29 June 2019 is met for these new Area Safeguarding Arrangements to be submitted to the Department for Education (DfE) and to be effective for September.

## **Consultations**

N/A

**Implications:**

N/A

**Risk management**

N/A

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985  
List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
N/A	N/A	N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A