

**Report to CABINET**

## **New Safeguarding Arrangements for Children**

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Amanda Chadderton

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### **Reason for Decision**

New governance arrangements for safeguarding children under the Children and Social Work Act 2017 need to be approved and published by 29 June 2019 and in place by 29 September 2019. The approval of the governance bodies of the three statutory partners at this time will facilitate a three month period for the preparation for implementation of the new safeguarding partnership arrangements

### **Executive Summary**

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 requires that the three statutory partners under the legislation (the local authority, police and local clinical commissioning group) publish revised multi-agency safeguarding arrangements by 29 June 2019 and implement these new arrangements by the 29 September 2019. This means that the current Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) will be disbanded. The new arrangements seek to ensure that all local relevant agencies continue to engage with the three statutory partners in effective safeguarding activities, whilst building stronger linkages with the Oldham Adult Safeguarding Board and allied partnerships and governance groups.

The new arrangements will consist of a new Safeguarding Children Strategic Partnership (which replaces the current Board) to provide strategic vision, leadership, scrutiny and

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accountability. This will be supported by a Children's Safeguarding Executive Group that will be responsible for the delivery of the Partnership's strategic business plan (replacing the current executive group). Sub-groups of the Executive will undertake the detailed work on implementation of the safeguarding business plan with respect to services, service developments, performance monitoring and quality assurance. A stronger role for the voice and vision of the child is proposed in service planning and scrutiny.

New arrangements for challenge, scrutiny and commitment to continuous improvement amongst the statutory partners and relevant agencies is proposed, along with revised accountability forums.

### **Recommendations**

To approve the proposals for the new arrangements, to enable them to be published by 29 June 2019 and effectively implemented by 29 September 2019.

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## **New Safeguarding Arrangements for Children**

### **1 Background**

- 1.1 The requirement to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) to oversee the governance arrangements for local safeguarding strategies and services was contained in the Children Act 2004. This facilitated multi-agency governance bodies to set the strategic priorities locally for safeguarding, monitor the performance of local safeguarding services and challenge partner agencies to improve their performance where required. The performance of local Boards varied across the country, and this was highlighted when Board performance became subject to Ofsted inspection from 2013 onwards. Oldham's Board was subject to inspection in 2015 and found to require improvement.
- 1.2 In 2016 the DfE asked Sir Alan Wood to review the governance of the child safeguarding governance arrangements and concluded:
- That there should be strengthened statutory responsibilities for safeguarding governance placed on the three lead partners (local authority, police and CCG)
  - That there should be a stronger co-ordination role at a national level for serious case reviews
  - That child death overview arrangements should move from local authority to public health

### **2 Current Position**

- 2.1 Since the 2015 Ofsted inspection the focus and performance of the Oldham LSCB has significantly improved. It is now a significant force both locally and within the GM arena. In responding to the requirements for legislative change it will be important to ensure that the current strengths of the Oldham safeguarding partnerships are sustained.

### **3 Options / Alternatives**

- 3.1 Options and alternatives have been considered by the statutory partners in their deliberations. The option of not changing the current arrangements is not available. Careful consideration has been given to the emergent options being developed at both a GM and national level. The option of joining the children and adults safeguarding governance arrangements has been considered in depth.

### **4 Preferred Option**

- 4.1 The preferred option is one that:
- Focuses on the strategic role of the statutory partners and relevant agencies for leadership and accountability
  - Delegates operational oversight and performance management to an executive group
  - Enables functional priority sub-groups to address the detail of issues
  - Facilitates safeguarding working between children and adults in a consistent and coherent fashion
  - Facilitates continuous improvement in safeguarding practice, along with the contribution of children and young people to this.

### **5 Consultation**

- 5.1 Development of these proposals has been on-going since April 2018 and a large number of stakeholder events and consultations have taken place. The statutory partners and independent chair have overseen this process since inception.
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6      **Financial Implications**

6.1      The financial implications of the new arrangements are the same as those for the current arrangements. The financial implications going forward (2020 and onwards) will be examined in the second half of the current financial year.

7      **Legal Services Comments**

7.1      None

8.      **Co-operative Agenda**

8.1      The proposals seek to sustain the current co-operative arrangement between statutory partners and with relevant agencies

9      **Human Resources Comments**

9.1      None

10      **Risk Assessments**

10.1      None

11      **IT Implications**

11.1      No IT implications inherent in the proposed revisions. We will need to refresh information sharing agreements between statutory partners and with relevant agencies.

12      **Property Implications**

12.1      None

13      **Procurement Implications**

13.1      None

14      **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

14.1      None

15      **Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**

15.1      The proposals seek to enhance the voice of the child in influencing the priorities and the evaluation of performance of local safeguarding services.

15.2      The proposals seek to reduce the role of vulnerable young people in criminal exploitation and organised crime, with particular reference to improved understanding of complex and contextual safeguarding.

16      **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**

16.1      No

17      **Key Decision**

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17.1	No
18	<b>Key Decision Reference</b>
19	<b>Background Papers</b>
19.1	None
20	<b>Appendices</b>
20.1	Appendix A - Relevant Agencies to the new safeguarding arrangements Appendix B - Structure chart of new governance arrangements

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## **Appendix A – Relevant Agencies**

The statutory safeguarding partners will name the following as “relevant agencies” to the Oldham Partnership:

- Maintained schools
  - Academies
  - Independent schools
  - Further education establishments
  - Residential homes for children
  - Northern Care Alliance
  - Pennine Care
  - CRC
  - NPS
  - Turning Point
  - Oldham voluntary, community and faith partnership
  - Public health
  - Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS foundation trust
  - North West Ambulance Service
  - Positive Steps (including Youth Justice Service)
  - CAFCASS
  - Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service
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