

Report to Health Scrutiny Committee

New Safeguarding Children Arrangements

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Amanda Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

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Purpose of the Report

To provide Members with an overview of the proposed new safeguarding children arrangements for Oldham and provide an update on Elected Member safeguarding training.

Recommendations

That the Committee note the new safeguarding arrangements for children and the approach to develop training sessions for Elected Members. The arrangements have been fully considered at Overview and Scrutiny Board on 18 June 2019.

New Safeguarding Children Arrangements

1 Background

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 The new arrangements will consist of a new Safeguarding Children Strategic Partnership (which replaces the current Board) to provide strategic vision, leadership, scrutiny and 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.
- 1.3 New arrangements for challenge, scrutiny and commitment to continuous improvement amongst the statutory partners and relevant agencies are proposed, along with revised accountability forums.
- 1.4 The proposed new arrangements are contained in an appendix to this report.

2 Elected Member Training

- 2.1 Training sessions relating to the new safeguarding arrangements are being developed and planned for September 2019. Elected Members will be required to attend a dedicated mandatory training session and will have the option to attend additional multi agency sessions as per the Safeguarding Partnership's training calendar. A further joint training session for Elected Members and GPs has been planned in September for which the theme will be safeguarding.
- 2.2 Feedback from members who have attended previous training has highlighted that those who have already attended basic safeguarding training would like a more in-depth training offer as part of the member development programme. A snap survey has been developed which will go out to Elected Members in order to gain a better understanding of the safeguarding scenarios that they encounter. The feedback from the survey will be considered by the joint Training Subgroup of the adult and children's safeguarding boards and recommendations will be made in relation to the format and content of the Members' safeguarding training programme.

3 Key Issues for Health Scrutiny to note

- 3.1 The prime issue for Health Scrutiny to note is that statutory responsibility is transferred from being solely a local authority requirement to being shared equally with the police and CCG.
- 3.2 It should also be noted that several of the sub groups cited within the new arrangement will be shared with the Adult Safeguarding Board as the issues covered cut across the age ranges and this will lead to a more joined up approach.

4 Links to Corporate Outcomes

- 4.1 The proposals seek to enhance the voice of the child in influencing the priorities and the evaluation of performance of local safeguarding services.
- 4.2 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

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.

6 Appendices

- 6.1 Appendix A – New Safeguarding Arrangements
Appendix B – Revised Governance Arrangements