

MULTI AGENCY SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH

To: **Children & Young People Committee**

Meeting Date: **21st May 2019**

From: **Wendi Ogle – Welbourn, Executive Director: People & Communities**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Forward Plan ref: **For key decisions** *Key decision:* **No**
Democratic Services can provide this reference

Purpose: **To report the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.**

Recommendation: **The Committee is asked to note the report for information.**

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In January 2018 we took the decision to create an innovative safeguarding structure, which combined both safeguarding children and adults across the two local authority areas. We have found that this structure is instrumental in helping us, as a partnership, to safeguard our children, young people, their families, and those adults in need of help and protection.

We have now made the decision to confirm the safeguarding arrangements we have been working to for the last 15 months. These arrangements also fulfil our statutory obligations as laid out in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, and the Care Act 2014 in relation to safeguarding.

The approach that we have taken and the arrangements document has received national recognition as good practice.

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 confirms that the three statutory safeguarding partners in relation to a local authority area are defined in the Children and Social Work Act 2017 as:

- Local Authority
- Clinical Commissioning Group
- Chief officer of Police

The three statutory partners have a shared and equal duty to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 has provided partners in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough with a unique opportunity to develop new partnership safeguarding arrangements.

The move to abolish Local Safeguarding Children Boards arising from this Act, changing structures and working arrangements in partner agencies (including increased joint working between the two local authorities) and the ongoing demands on resources, have made it essential to look at the Local Safeguarding Board Governance arrangements across the County of Cambridgeshire, including the City of Peterborough.

Within the revised safeguarding arrangements there has been an innovative move to abolish the previous safeguarding arrangements that were in place within the County of Cambridgeshire and replace them with a model based on collaborative working. Partners have developed a revised structure which seeks to deliver bold plans to implement and embed joint safeguarding arrangements across the County of Cambridgeshire. This will be delivered by bringing together two local authorities (Peterborough and Cambridgeshire) into one set of governance arrangements.

The new arrangements bring together the three statutory safeguarding partners (Health (CCG), Police and local authority) to form an Executive Safeguarding

Partnership Board. The structure combines the governance arrangements at a senior level to look at safeguarding arrangements holistically across both the children's and adults safeguarding arena. This will result in a more streamlined and efficient process and ensure that, where possible, there is a countywide approach. The Executive Safeguarding Partnership Board is made up of senior directors from the three statutory partners and is the overarching countywide governance board for both the children's safeguarding agenda and adults safeguarding agenda. The Executive Safeguarding Partnership Board is a high level, strategic board that will primarily focus on safeguarding systems performance and resourcing. This Board will have the statutory accountability for safeguarding in both local authority areas.

Below the Executive Safeguarding Partnership Board, the arrangements move away from a separate Peterborough Local Safeguarding Children Board/ Safeguarding Adult Board and Cambridgeshire Local Safeguarding Children Board/ Safeguarding Adult Board and replace them with a single countywide governance structure (still retaining a separate adult and children safeguarding board). The structure brings together two local authority areas who to date, have had independent safeguarding arrangements. This will result in one multi-agency set of safeguarding procedures, guidance and strategies being implemented across the County and will ensure a level of consistency for service users. The safeguarding partners do however, fully acknowledge and will adhere to the sovereignty that the Councils for each of the two local authority has for the children and adults that reside within their area. Everything that is being achieved through these safeguarding arrangements, is being undertaken to strengthen both of the areas safeguarding responsibilities and actions.

The lead members for Children and Adults in Peterborough and the committee chairs for Children and Adults Committees in Cambridgeshire will sit on the respective Safeguarding Partnership Boards. The same applies to the Police and Crime Commissioner or their nominee. They will all have direct access to the Independent Safeguarding Partnership team through the Head of Service, as well as the Independent Chair of the Executive Safeguarding Partnership Board.

Full details of the new arrangements can be found in the "multi agency safeguarding arrangements for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough" document (Appendix 1).

3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 A good quality of life for everyone

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

- Bringing together adults and children's safeguarding on a countywide level will ensure that safeguarding issues can be looked at holistically in a "think family approach" and will also provide a forum for transitional arrangement's to be discussed and agreed

3.2 Thriving places for people to live

There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.3 The best start for Cambridgeshire's Children

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

- The arrangements are the framework for all agencies to work together to safeguard children and young people across the County. They are also a means by which agencies can be held to account for failure to do so.

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers;

- The arrangements fulfil our statutory obligations as laid out in Children & Social Work Act 2017, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, and the Care Act 2014.

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers;

- All partner agencies including LA, health, police, education and voluntary sector have been consulted and have approved the arrangements

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers;

- The committee chairs for Children will sit on the Children's Safeguarding Partnership Boards.

4.7 Public Health Implications

The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers;

- Public health are actively involved in all of the various levels of meetings within the structure

Implications	Officer Clearance
Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance?	n/a
Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the LGSS Head of Procurement?	n/a
Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by LGSS Law?	n/a
Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact?	n/a
Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?	n/a
Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact?	n/a
Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health	n/a

Source Documents	Location
n/a	