



Lewisham  
Safeguarding  
Children Board



## LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

### Protocol for safeguarding partnerships

*Between Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board, Lewisham Safeguarding Adults Board, Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board, Health and Wellbeing Board and Safer Lewisham Partnership and Youth Justice Management Board*

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#### 1. Purpose

This protocol outlines the cooperative relationship between the Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), Lewisham Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB), Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB), Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board (CYPSPB) Safer Lewisham Partnership (SLP) and the Youth Justice Management Board (YJMB) to safeguard, promote the welfare of children (including those in contact with the criminal justice system) and adults in the Borough of Lewisham

In this context, the protocol confirms:

- Role and responsibility of the partnerships
- Accountability and governance arrangements
- Conflict resolution and challenge.

Collaboration between the partnerships is based on these agreed key principles:

- Commitment to working together to shared aims
- Respect for each partnership's roles, responsibilities and work within the agreed protocol
- Culture of mutual challenge and professional accountability
- Effective interface and regular communication

#### **Responsibility of the LSCB and LSAB in relation to other strategic partnerships and the safeguarding of adults and children**

The LSCB and LSAB are not delivery or commissioning bodies. They have a scrutiny and challenge role and will initiate activities which investigate and improve practice in safeguarding adults and children. Both boards have the authority to call to account, for its activity in this respect, any agency represented within the Children' and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board, Health and Wellbeing Board, Safer Lewisham Partnership, Youth Justice Management Board and the other Safeguarding

Board. The work of the LSCB and LSAB contributes to the wider goals of improving the well-being of all adults and children within the Borough of Lewisham. Within the wider governance arrangements their role is to ensure the effectiveness of the arrangements made by individual agencies and the wider partnership to safeguard and promote the welfare of adults and children. The LSCB and LSAB will work with partnerships to ensure procedures and processes are in place to minimise risk and maximise the safety of adults and children in Lewisham.

The LSCB and LSAB will:

- Take responsibility for monitoring action to improve safeguarding including action arising from Serious Case Reviews, Safeguarding Adults Reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews
- Hold the other partnerships to account for all their activity as it affects the safeguarding of adults and children, providing appropriate challenge on performance and outcomes
- Audit multi-agency practice and feedback to the other partnerships, highlighting areas of underperformance and driving improvement
- Feedback learning from Serious Case Reviews, Adults Safeguarding Reviews and Domestic Homicide reviews to ensure that lessons are learnt and practice improves
- Highlight gaps in service for other partnerships to consider in their planning.

## **2. Partnerships**

### **2.1 Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)**

- i. The key objectives of the LSCB are compliant with those set out in *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015*, ie, to coordinate work to safeguard children locally and to monitor and challenge the effectiveness of local arrangements.
- ii. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:
  - protecting children from maltreatment and preventing impairment of children's health or development
  - ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
  - taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes in life.

- iii. In undertaking these roles, children should be enabled to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully.
- iv. The role of the LSCB is to scrutinise and challenge the work of agencies both individually and collectively. The LSCB is not operationally responsible for managing staff in constituent agencies.

## **2.2 Lewisham Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB)**

- i. Safeguarding Adults Boards are statutory bodies required by the Care Act 2014. Like the Safeguarding Children Board, the main objective of the SAB is to assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements and partners act to safeguard adults at risk, with a strategic oversight of adult safeguarding across the locality.
- ii. The focus of the work of Safeguarding Adults Board in Lewisham is adults at risk. The forms of abuse which the Board aims to prevent and address are: physical abuse, sexual abuse, psychological abuse, financial or material abuse, neglect or acts of omission, discriminatory abuse, organisational abuse, domestic violence, modern slavery and self-neglect.
- iii. The role of the LSAB is to ensure effective safeguarding arrangements are in place in both the commissioning and provision of services to adults at risk by individual agencies and to ensure effective interagency working in this respect. In this regard, the local authority has a responsibility to carry out or cause others to carry out an enquiry if an adult has needs for care and support; is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect; and as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from the experience or risk of abuse.

## **2.3 Health and Wellbeing Board ( HWB)**

- i. Health and Wellbeing Boards were established by the Health and Social Care Act 2012. They are a forum for leaders from the health and care system to work together to improve the health and wellbeing of the local population and reduce health inequalities.
- ii. Board members collaborate to understand the needs of the local community, agree priorities through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The HWB has strategic influence over commissioning decisions across health, public health and social care through

the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and, as a result, patients and the public should experience better coordinated services.

- iii. The HWB provides a forum for challenge and problem solving, bringing together clinical commissioning groups and councils. The HWBB has an interest in the wider determinants of Health and Wellbeing including wider such as housing and education.

#### **2.4 Safer Lewisham Partnership (SLP)**

- i. The Safer Lewisham Partnership is the crime and disorder reduction partnership for the Borough of Lewisham and was established by the Crime & Disorder Act 1988. Its aim is to make Lewisham a safer place and a place where people feel secure by delivering integrated services that tackle crime, antisocial behaviour and substance misuse. The SLP aims to build a sense of community and improve the quality of life for people who live in the borough, while preventing and reducing the incidence and fear of crime.
- ii. The SLP achieves its aims through partnership working across the statutory partners of the SLP and with external stakeholders including the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and the voluntary sector, to address local priorities.
- iii. The SLP has oversight of the Lewisham Youth Justice Management Board (YJMB) which was established under the Crime and Disorder Act (1998) to be responsible for the creation and delivery of effective youth justice services. The YJMB is subject to the regulatory framework of the Youth Justice Board as established by the Ministry of Justice and Inspection by HMI Probation. The national goals of the Youth Justice system are
  - a. Reducing First Time Entrants to the youth justice system
  - b. Reducing reoffending
  - c. Reducing the use of Custody
- iv. The YJMB has a specific responsibility to monitor the effectiveness of Community Safety and Public Protection Incident reports and ensure learning points are shared and enacted.

#### **2.5 Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board (CYPSPB)**

- i. Section 10 of the Children Act (2004) requires local authorities and relevant partners to co-operate to improve the well being of children. The local authority must take the lead in making arrangements to

promote cooperation between local agencies. In 2011 there were changes in relation to the statutory arrangements regarding Children Trust Boards but Lewisham has continued with partnership arrangements which bring together commissioners and providers across the network of services for children in Lewisham .

- ii. The key functions of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board is to:
  - Analyse local needs drawing on the *Joint Strategic Needs Analysis* and agreeing shared priorities for improvement which are set out in the *Children and Young People Plan*
  - Monitor performance and agree action to address under-performance and promote effective practice
  - Challenge and problem solve across the partnership to drive improvement.

### **3. Effective communication and engagement between the partnerships in relation to safeguarding**

- i. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility: each organisation and individuals within those organisations must play their full part.
- ii. Effective services are based on a clear understanding of the needs and views of children and young people and their families and adults. Strategic plans, whether formulated by individual agencies or by partnerships, should include safeguarding as a theme to ensure that existing strategies and service delivery as well as emerging plans for improvement include effective safeguarding arrangements so that residents in Lewisham are safe and their well-being is protected. The two safeguarding boards have a responsibility to scrutinise and challenge these arrangements.
- iii. Formal interface between the Health and Wellbeing Board, Safer Lewisham Partnership, Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board and the Safeguarding Boards is necessary at key points including:
  - Reciprocal needs analyses that drive the formulation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the annual Safeguarding Boards' business plans, ensuring both that safeguarding boards' needs analyses feed into the JSNA and that the JSNA feeds into safeguarding boards' planning;

- Ensuring each partnership is regularly updated on progress made in the implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the individual Board Business Plans in a context of mutual scrutiny and challenge and to feed areas for improvement into planning processes. These expectations are confirmed in *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015*.
- iv. The opportunities presented by a formal working relationship between HWB, SLP, YJMB, LSAB and LSCB and can, therefore, be summarised as follows:
- Securing an integrated approach to the JSNA to include analysis of safeguarding data, including evidence of prevalence of CSE
  - Aligning the work of the LSCB Business Plan and LSAB Strategic Plan with the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the Lewisham Children and Young People Plan and the Safer Lewisham annual plan
  - Ensuring safeguarding as “everyone’s business” and as a determinant of health and well-being is reflected in the community safety strategy.
  - Evaluating the impact of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy on safeguarding and community safety outcomes; of safeguarding on wider determinants of health outcomes through cross partnership scrutiny and challenge; the Health and Wellbeing Board and Safer Lewisham Partnership for embedding safeguarding and the Safeguarding Boards for overall performance and contribution to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Safer Lewisham annual plan
  - Identifying a coordinated approach to performance management, service improvement and commissioning.

#### **4. Arrangements to secure co-ordination between partnerships in relation to safeguarding**

- i. The Independent Chair of the two Safeguarding Boards present their Annual Reports outlining performance against identified priorities /objectives in the previous financial year to the Health and Wellbeing Board in the Autumn each year. This provides opportunity for the Health and Wellbeing Board to scrutinise and challenge the performance of the Boards, to draw across data to be included in the JSNA and to reflect on key issues that may need to be incorporated in any refresh of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The Independent Chairs also present their Annual Reports to the Safer Lewisham Partnership Board, to Healthwatch and to the CCG, and the LSCB to the

CYPSPB. The Safer Lewisham plan will be presented to both Safeguarding Boards annually.

- ii. Agenda for HWB, SLP, CYPSPB partnership board meetings will be shared with safeguarding chairs.
- iii. The chairs of the safeguarding boards will set the agenda for a meeting with the officer level representatives of the partnerships who will meet twice a year, to share refreshed priorities and plans for the coming financial year to ensure co-ordination and coherence across partnerships.
- iv. This protocol will be reviewed annually or when national guidance affecting any of the partnerships is revised.

#### **5. Domestic Homicide Reviews, Serious Case Reviews and Safeguarding Adult Reviews.**

- i. It is important to ensure that there is relevant information sharing between the partnership when an event takes place that would meet the criteria for either a Domestic Homicide Review, a Serious Case Review and/or a Safeguarding Adult Review.
- ii. Where there are possible grounds for both a DHR and a SCR for a child and/or SAR for vulnerable adult then a decision should be agreed by the Chairs as to which process is to take the lead or take precedence. It would be unusual for a DHR, SCR and SAR all to be undertaken as the processes are very similar. The agreement is that that only one review will be undertaken but must cover all the elements needed to cover the areas directed in the statutory process. Completing all three types of reviews would involve unnecessary duplication. The decision should be made no later than one month of the case coming to attention of the relevant Chair person.
- iii. Senior Officers in each of the relevant Directorates will share all the available information about the individuals and the incident to enable the relevant Chairperson(s) to make the decision.
- iv. It is recognised that the DHR process is more prescriptive than SCR /SAR and the type of review will need to ensure all elements are addressed fully and the review includes representatives with a thorough understanding of domestic violence.
- v. When a decision is made that one type of review takes precedence over another type of review, elements of domestic violence, adults at risk and children must be fully addressed as relevant to the case. The review must include representatives with a thorough understanding of these three

elements (as relevant to the case) and the final joint report must be agreed by the Chairs of the SLP, LSCB and LSAB (as relevant).

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