

Mayor and Cabinet			
Report Title	LOCAL SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP - FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS		
Key Decision	YES	Item No.	
Ward	ALL		
Contributors	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE		
Class	Part 1	Date:	27 th March 2019

1. Summary

- 1.1 The statutory framework for local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements has changed and the council, together with its statutory partners the police and health (the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)), is required to agree new arrangements. Lewisham is part of an 'Early Adopter' arrangement with Bexley and Greenwich so is required to agree its new arrangements by the end of April 2019. This report sets out those arrangements for approval following consultation with partners and consideration at CYP Select Committee.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 This report sets out the proposed new arrangements for partnership working to safeguard children in Lewisham, in line with the Children and Social Work Act 2017

3. Recommendations

- The Committee is recommended to:
- 3.1 Note the legal requirement for the Council to replace the Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) with new Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements.
- 3.2 Approve the proposed Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements outlined in this paper for full implementation from September 2019.

4. Policy Context

- 4.1 Ensuring strong multi-agency children's safeguarding arrangements will contribute to four of the key priority outcomes of Lewisham's Corporate Strategy 2018-2022 which replaces the 2008 Community Strategy:
- **Open Lewisham** – Lewisham is a welcoming place of safety for all where we celebrate the diversity that strengthens us.
 - **Giving children and young people the best start in life** – every child has access to an outstanding and inspiring education and is given the support they need to keep them safe, well and able to achieve their full potential

- **Delivering and defending** – Health, Social Care and Support – ensuring everyone received the health, mental health, social care and support services they need
- **Building safer communities** – every resident feels safe and secure living here as we work together towards a borough free from the fear of crime.

4.2 This also aligns with the priorities in the Children and Young People’s Plan 2018-21:

- children and young people have the best start in life and are protected from harm
- children and young people to have good physical and emotional health
- children and young people develop, achieve and are ready for adulthood

5. Background

5.1 In 2015, the Government commissioned Alan Wood CBE, a former President of the Association of Directors of Children’s Services and ex-Director of Children’s Services in Hackney, to lead a review of the role and function of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) within the context of local strategic multi agency working. This was to include the child death review process, and consideration of how the intended centralisation of serious case reviews (SCRs) would work at local level. This review took place between January and March 2016. The review team consulted a number of leaders and experts in children’s services including Lord Laming and Baroness Jay and in total, the review considered over 600 responses.

5.2 The report concluded that although there were highly effective LSCBs, the ‘duty to cooperate’¹ was not a sufficient vehicle to bring about effective collaboration between the key agencies of health, the police and local government. It recommended that Local Safeguarding Boards should be replaced by a stronger statutory partnership of the key agencies (police, Clinical Commissioning Groups and local authorities) who would in turn determine local safeguarding arrangements.

5.3 The intent was to:

- Introduce a more effective statutory framework to focus the arrangements of child protection and to ensure key agencies collaborate to deliver more effective services
- Move away from an over prescriptive system to one that encourages and authorises local areas to determine how they organise themselves to improve outcomes for children

5.4 The government response in May 2016 endorsed the findings of the report and stated that the goal was to support and enable local agencies to work

together in a system where:

- Excellent practice is the norm

¹ Section 10, Children Act 2004

- Partner agencies hold one other to account effectively
- There is early identification of 'new' safeguarding issues
- Learning is promoted and embedded
- Information is shared effectively
- The public can feel confident that children are protected from harm

5.5 The Children and Social Work Act 2017 received Royal Assent in April 2017. Section 30 of the Act removes the requirement for local areas to have Local Safeguarding Children Boards. Sections 16 – 23 introduce a duty on three key partners (local authorities, police and CCG) to make arrangements with other partners as locally determined to work together to protect and safeguard children. These arrangements must identify and respond to the needs of children in the area and also identify and review serious child safeguarding cases which raise issues of importance in relation to the area.

5.6 Where a case is reviewed under the supervision of the safeguarding partners, they must:

- Ensure that the reviewer provides a report on the outcome of the review
- Ensure that the reviewer makes satisfactory progress
- Ensure that the report is of satisfactory quality
- Provide the report to the Secretary of State and the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel.

Other key elements of the duty are:

- The safeguarding partners must publish the arrangements
- The arrangements must include the provision of a scrutiny function by an independent person of the effectiveness of the arrangements
- The child death review partners for a local authority area in England must make arrangements for the review of each death of a child normally resident in the area.

5.7 The DfE issued the revised version of *Working Together to Safeguard Children* in 2018. This statutory guidance sets out the requirements for the three safeguarding partners, while allowing them freedom to determine how they organise themselves to meet those requirements and improve outcomes for children locally.

Since that time, council officers have been in discussion with partners, especially the Metropolitan Police and the CCG and with the London Boroughs of Bexley and Greenwich which are part of the same police command and are also part of a DfE funded 'Early Adopter' scheme for the new arrangements.

5.8 The reforms aim to simplify and strengthen the existing system – putting children first and helping them to be better protected. This paper seeks to set out the proposals for the new arrangements in Lewisham.

6. Timescales

6.1 The implementation of the new safeguarding arrangements require the partnership to publish a plan by end of June 2019 and to implement this by end of September 2019 by which time LSCBs will be abolished. As part of an Early Adopter programme, the expectation is that our partnership arrangements are signed off by April 2019

7. Early Adopter programme

- 7.1 The Early Adopter Project funded by the DfE was established to look at how the three boroughs of Lewisham, Bexley and Greenwich could work more closely together focusing on a number of areas;
- To establish an annual programme of safeguarding partnership improvement and delivery priorities that are shared across the new police borough command area and three neighbouring London Boroughs
 - To establish a shared mechanism and processes for initiating local learning reviews, which incorporate a shared tri-borough serious incident and learning sub group acting as the initial sponsor of local learning reviews to be led by one of the three participating local authorities and published across the local area. This strand is also considering the provisions of a bi-annual learning and improvement report for the local tri-borough area
 - To establish a tri –borough arrangement for reviews of child deaths.
 - To complete the implementation of the Bexley local learning hub (which brings frontline practice challenges to the board) and to consider roll–out of the hub model and priorities as part of the tri- borough arrangement.

This gives the opportunity for greater effectiveness and stronger tri-borough working going forwards.

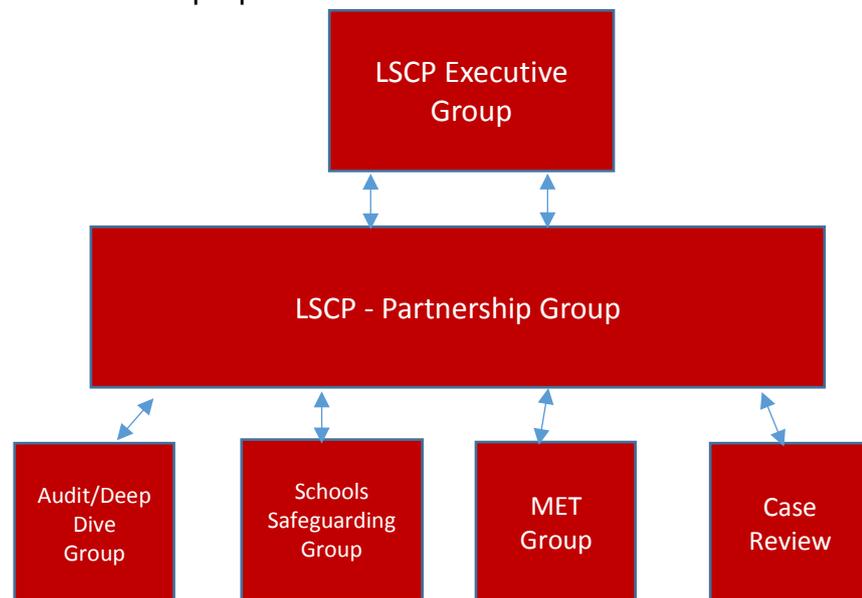
8. Proposals

- 8.1 It is proposed that the new arrangements be called the Lewisham Children’s Safeguarding Partnership. The responsible lead in the Council is the Chief Executive who will exercise this role through delegation to the statutory Director of Children’s Services (Executive Director for Children and Young People) who will sit on the Executive Group (Para 8.2). The Chief Executive will also fulfil her role by receiving reports from and meeting with The Independent Scrutineer.
- 8.2 Key strategy and decision making would sit with an Executive Group comprising the lead representatives and a senior advisor from each of statutory partners (council, health, police) with flexibility to co-opt other relevant professionals where appropriate. The Executive would be a strategic leadership group responsible and accountable for the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements in Lewisham borough.
- 8.3 A Partnership Board with representatives from key relevant agencies (as defined in The Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Relevant Agency (England) Regulations 2018) (such as probation, housing, the voluntary sector) will work closely with the Executive to inform and support the development of priorities, share learning and ensure that their agencies meet their statutory responsibility to safeguard children. The Lead Member for Children’s Services will sit on this Board as a ‘participant observer’, a role he currently plays on the existing LSCB. The current LSCB has Lay Members. It is proposed to appoint these to the new Board for 18 months to ensure continuity of community representation.

8.4 The current LSCB operates through a number of sub-groups which identify and action service improvements. This will be rationalised into the following:

- Audit – responsible for involving frontline operational leads, managers, staff and parents and children (where appropriate) in multi-agency audits to determine what is working and what needs to improve in multi-agency safeguarding practice. This makes recommendations for change to the Executive and Partnership Board.
- Schools Safeguarding Group – a model where schools meet to steer their work on safeguarding and ensure active involvement in the partnership. This is a new sub-group based on a model used successfully in RB Greenwich and which is supported by our schools.
- Learning From Individual Cases – responsible for recommending when notifications to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel should be made, undertaking rapid reviews and reviewing cases locally that raise issues of importance in relation to safeguarding in the area
- MET (missing, exploited, trafficked) – responsible for working collaboratively to provide oversight of the Lewisham response to CSE, sexually harmful behaviour, exploitation by criminal gangs, modern day slavery and county lines, online abuse and extremism.

8.5 The chart below sets out the proposed structure:



8.6 Each local authority will maintain and be responsible for its own safeguarding arrangements. However, in recognition of the tri-borough police Basic Command Unit and the similar safeguarding issues and movement of children and families across borough boundaries, a Tri Borough Strategic Executive group composed of representatives from the Greenwich Executive Group, the Lewisham Executive Group and the Bexley Working Group will meet twice a year to develop shared priorities and approaches.

8.7 The Child Death Overview Panel will no longer be a sub group of the Lewisham partnership. The chair of Lewisham's current CDOP has been instrumental in developing a new Child Death Review process which will cover Lewisham, Bexley and Greenwich.

9. Scrutiny

9.1 There is no longer a requirement to have an independent chair but there is a requirement to ensure that there is independent scrutiny of the safeguarding arrangements. Therefore the 'leadership' role of the independent chair is no longer required and the three statutory partners (council, health, police) will need to consider who will speak on behalf of the partnership in promoting safeguarding but also on publication of serious case reviews.

9.2 It is therefore proposed, as is being introduced in other boroughs, to establish the role of Independent Scrutineer. This Independent Scrutineer will seek assurance that all agencies are fulfilling their responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

9.3 The Scrutineer needs to be independent from the statutory partners and have expertise in child safeguarding and an understanding of local need and effective partnerships. They should oversee the development of the scrutiny system and the delivery of an annual scrutiny plan. Scrutiny should be informed by the following areas:

- Reviewing the Partnership's annual report
- Reviewing audits and performance data, including s11 audits
- Determine the effectiveness of arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases
- Involvement in the escalation and conflict resolution process
- Have a direct line of sight to frontline practice including conversations/feedback with frontline practitioners
- Ensuring the voice of the child and service users is at the heart of all aspects of scrutiny by talking with and receiving direct feedback from children, young people and families to test the interconnectedness between performance, practice and the voice of the child, young person and family

9.4 The Scrutineer would meet with and report to the Chief Executive.

9.5 Scrutiny can also be enhanced by development of peer review with other boroughs. The three borough arrangements is considering developing a framework of peer review which could consider how effectively the arrangements are working for children and families as well as for practitioners, as well as how well the safeguarding partners are providing leadership. The Safeguarding Partnership will report annually to the council's Children and Young People's Select Committee in the way that the LSCB does currently. Its Annual Report will also go to other partners for consideration.

10. Financial implications

- 10.1 Working in partnership means organisations and agencies should collaborate on how they will fund their arrangements. The three safeguarding partners and relevant agencies for the local authority area should make payments towards expenditure incurred in conjunction with local multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding and promoting welfare of children.
- 10.2 The safeguarding partners should agree the level of funding secured from each partner, which should be equitable and proportionate, and any contributions from each relevant agency, to support the local arrangements. The funding should be transparent to children and families in the area, and sufficient to cover all elements of the arrangements, including the cost of local child safeguarding practice reviews.
- 10.3 The table below shows the various partners and the funding contribution from each. Lewisham CYP supports the partnership with £83,280. The total funding available is £182,550 for the year. The Metropolitan Police Constitution is set by MOPAC as £5k per borough.

Funding Body	2018/19 Budget £
Lewisham Council	83,280
CAFCASS	550
Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust	22,555
London Community Rehabilitation Company	1,000
London Fire Brigade	500
NHS Lewisham CCG	45,110
London Probation	2,000
South London and Maudsley	22,555
Metropolitan Police	5,000
Total Contribution	182,550

- 10.4 In 2018/19 the budget was spent as follows:

2018/19 Spend	£
Salaries *	154,970
Training	15,000
Stationery	12,580
Net Budget 2018/19	182,550

* includes cost of serious case reviews

- 10.5 At the time of writing it is anticipated that 2019/20 will be in line with the current 2018/19 funding level in totality and individual contribution from each partner. Lewisham CYP is currently liaising with each partner to gain confirmation. Until this is confirmed the total value of funding remains a risk, although we are hopeful the full funding will be confirmed as has been the case in previous years.

11. Legal implications

- 11.1 This report sets out the new requirements imposed by the Children and Social Work Act 2017, and there are no additional legal implications to comment upon.

12. Crime and Disorder Implications

- 12.1 The police are a key partner in the safeguarding partnership and crime as it relates to the Safeguarding of children is part of the considerations of the safeguarding partnership, mindful of the parallel role of the Safer Lewisham Partnership which has some overlap in representation.

13. Equalities Implications

- 13.1 Equalities considerations are vital throughout the working of an effective children's safeguarding partnership, considering such issues as overrepresentation of groups among those experiencing harm and/or underrepresentation in those accessing help and support. The partnership will also pay particular attention to vulnerabilities such as disability. It will be important that the partnership is representative of the local community and promotes a diverse workforce for children.

14. Environmental Implications

- 14.1 There are no specific environmental implications arising from this report.

15. Conclusion

- 15.1 Members are asked to agree to the arrangements proposed in the report.

If there are any queries arising from this report, please contact sara.williams@lewisham.gov.uk.