

Shadow Dorset Council

Date of Meeting	Shadow Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 4 February 2019
Lead Member	Councillor Steve Butler
Officer	Nick Jarman – Director for Children’s Services
Subject of Report	New Safeguarding Children Partnership Arrangements
Executive Summary	<p>Significant changes have recently been made to multi-agency working as part of the Children and Social Work Act 2017. The Act abolishes Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) and creates new duties and a system of collective accountability for Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), local authorities and police to make arrangements locally to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area.</p> <p>Senior leaders from Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), the 3 current Local Authorities and Dorset Police have overseen and engaged in an option appraisal to consider potential models for future safeguarding children partnership arrangements to meet the new requirements of <i>Working Together 2018</i>.</p> <p>The outcome of the option appraisal was that a Pan Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership would provide the most effective mechanism for addressing current and emerging safeguarding children challenges.</p> <p>The proposal is for a new Safeguarding Children Partnership Arrangement which complies with the new legislation and guidance and improves the impact and effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding of children in Dorset.</p>
Impact Assessment:	Equalities Impact Assessment: Completed and attached
	<p>Use of Evidence:</p> <p>The proposed changes in Safeguarding Partnership Arrangements are a legal requirement under the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and the Working Together to Safeguard Children Guidance 2018.</p>

New Safeguarding Children Partnership Arrangements

	<p>Budget: The funding level for the current LSCB arrangements will be continued at the same level into 2019/20, this means that there will be no change in funding for the coming year.</p>
	<p>Risk Assessment:</p> <p>Having considered the risks associated with this decision using the LGR approved risk management methodology, the level of risk has been identified as: Current Risk: LOW Residual Risk LOW</p>
	<p>Other Implications:</p> <p>There is a clear timetable for the proposed new arrangements to be published and submitted to the Secretary of State for Education (29.06.19) Implementation must take place within 3 months of publication and by 29th September at the latest.</p>
Recommendation	<p>That the Shadow Overview and Scrutiny Committee support the following recommendations to be considered by the Shadow Executive Committee on 11 March 2019:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Shadow Executive is requested to approve the pan Dorset safeguarding children partnership plan. 2. The Shadow Executive is requested to provide delegated authority to the Executive Director – People (Children) for the plan to receive independent scrutiny ahead of submission to the Secretary of State for Education by 29th June 2019.
Reason for Recommendation	<p>To ensure that the Local Authority and their key partner agencies are compliant with the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and the associated guidance.</p>
Appendices	<p>EqIA</p>
Background Papers	<p>None</p>
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Nick Jarman
Joint Director for Children, Adults & Communities

New Safeguarding Children Partnership Arrangements

1. Introduction.

- 1.1 Following Lord Laming's inquiry into the death of Victoria Climbié, the Children Act 2004 required all Local Authorities in England and Wales to set up a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) whose function would be to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in their area, through collective accountability across agencies and organisations.
- 1.2 The role of the LSCB has been to coordinate work by individual agencies and ensure that each organisation acts effectively when they are doing this. The LSCB publishes multi-agency policies and procedures for child protection in their area, which should be responsive to local and national concerns and provide assurance that multi-agency working is effective.
- 1.3 Statutory guidance was provided setting out how Local Safeguarding Children Boards should work in accordance with the Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004. This guidance, called "Working Together to safeguard children" has been regularly updated in line with changes in legislation and new thinking around child protection.
- 1.4 The most recent revision of the guidance was published in July 2018 following the passage of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and taking account of the Wood report into the effectiveness of LSCBs. The Wood report concludes in summary that LSCBs were not effective. The Act creates new duties and a system of collective accountability for Police, health and Local Authorities (the "key safeguarding partners") to make arrangements locally to promote and safeguard the welfare of children in their area.

2 Timetable for change.

- 2.1 It is important that plans are in place within the timescales for the new framework as it is the government's intention that Local Safeguarding Children's Boards will end in 2019 to be replaced by Safeguarding Partnership Arrangements.
- 2.2 Safeguarding partners must publish their arrangements and submit them to the Secretary of State for Education by 29 June 2019. Prior to submission, the arrangements must have been subject to independent scrutiny.
- 2.3 Following publication of their arrangements, safeguarding partners have up to three months from the date of publication to implement the arrangements. The implementation date must be made clear in the published arrangements. All new local arrangements must have been implemented by 29 September 2019.

3 Finance.

- 3.1 In line with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, the safeguarding partners have reviewed the financial contributions from each partner to ensure that there is sufficient budget to cover all elements of the service. This analysis found that 98.3% of the funding has come from Local Authorities, the Police and the CCG, with a total contribution from these agencies of £270106.
- 3.2 It has been agreed that this sum and the current contributions will be maintained in 2019/20 to enable a smooth transition from the former LSCBs and enable an appropriate infrastructure is established for the new arrangements.

New Safeguarding Children Partnership Arrangements

4 **Purpose of this report.**

- 4.1 Following the publication of Working Together 2018, senior leaders across the current 3 Local Authorities, Police and Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) have been considering future partnership arrangements in line with the new requirements.
- 4.2 The attached report is the culmination of the work of the senior leadership group and engagement with other relevant partners. It sets out the proposal for a future Pan Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership, which provides a larger population of children and will enable a single, more joined up approach to safeguarding vulnerable children.
- 4.3 The plan needs now to be approved through the governance arrangements of the partner agencies (3 Local Authorities, CCG and Police). This will be followed by the engagement of an independent scrutineer who will provide a critical analysis of the plan prior to it being submitted to the Secretary of State by the end of June 2019.

5. **Recommendation**

- 5.1 The Shadow Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider and support the following recommendations which will be made to the Shadow Executive Committee on 11 March 2019:
- 5.2 The Shadow Executive is requested to approve the pan Dorset safeguarding children partnership plan.
- 5.3. The Shadow Executive is requested to provide delegated authority to the Executive Director – People (Children) for the plan to receive independent scrutiny ahead of submission to the Secretary of State for Education by 29th June 2019.