

<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Safeguarding Children Partnership Arrangements</b>		
<b>Date assessment started:</b>	15/01/19	<b>Version No.</b>	<b>1</b>
		<b>Date of completion:</b>	<b>15/01/19</b>
<b>Revision History</b>			
<b>Type of strategy, policy, project or service</b>			
<b>Is this Equality Impact Assessment (please tick)?</b>			
<b>Existing</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Changing, update or revision</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>New or proposed</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Other (please explain)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Is this an internal or external Equality Impact Assessment (please tick)?</b>			
<b>Internal</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>External</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<b>Both</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Officers involved in the assessment</b>	Mary Taylor/Nick Jarman		

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<b>Directorate or Service</b>	Children's Social Care

<b>Step 1: Aims</b>
<b>What are the aims of your strategy, policy, project or service?</b>
<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>
<b>What is the background or context to the proposal?</b>
<p>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</p>

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their area, through collective accountability across agencies and organisations.

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.

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.

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 report concluded that LSCBs are not as effective as they could be.

The 2017 Act creates new duties and a system of collective accountability for Police, health and Local Authorities to make arrangements locally to promote and safeguard the welfare of children in their area.

### Step 2: Intelligence and Communications

#### **What data, information, evidence and research were used in this EqlA and how has it been used to inform the decision-making process?**

The option appraisal included the development of an initial long list then a detailed assessment of a short list of potential models against the following criteria:

1. Ensures excellent practice is the norm
2. Ensures learning is promoted and embedded
3. Enables the public to feel confident that children are protected from harm
4. Enables partner agencies to hold one another to account effectively
5. Enables new safeguarding issues to be identified
6. Enables information to be shared effectively
7. Opportunity to reduce business support costs
8. Maximises leadership and staff capacity

Learning and experience from “early adopter” sites elsewhere in the country, who have already moved into the new arrangements, provided valuable ideas and insight to provide the most effective arrangements.

Following assessment of the options against the appraisal criteria, a Pan Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership was identified as the preferred model to enable a single more, joined up approach in addressing vulnerability and risk for children and young people across Bournemouth, Christchurch, Dorset and Poole.

The purpose of the Safeguarding Children Partnership is to ensure that agencies and others work together to safeguard children and promote their welfare. This is undertaken through co-ordination of services and through an accountability framework by which agencies can both support each other and hold each other to account. Direct work with children and families is not currently undertaken by the board, and this will remain the case under the new partnership arrangements. Individual cases will continue to be considered where there is a need for a “Child

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Safeguarding Practice Review” (previously called Serious Case Review) or as part of a multi-agency audit, however, this would be for the purpose of professional learning and responsibility for direct work with the child and family would remain with the appropriate agency.

The Safeguarding partnership will continue to be responsible for providing multi-agency policies and procedures and safeguarding training., as well as forming task and finish groups to jointly address wider safeguarding and/or practice concerns.

The full proposal for the new arrangements will be considered at the following committees:

04.02.19 – Shadow Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Cllrs Batstone and Garcia could be invited to this so that they also are included in the scrutiny)

11.03.19 – Shadow Executive Committee to seek approval

### **What data do you already have about your service users, or the people your proposal will have an impact on?**

The Wood report, commissioned by government, undertook a national review of Local Safeguarding Children Boards and found that they were not effective in providing a robust multi-agency response to safeguarding children. As a result of this changes were made to these arrangements which were written into legislation in the 2017 Children and Social Work Act and into Working Together to Safeguard Children guidance in 2018.

The guidance references the Equality Act 2010, which puts a responsibility on public authorities to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination and promote equality of opportunity. It goes on to say

“This applies to the process of identification of need and risk faced by the individual child and the process of assessment. No child or group of children must be treated any less favourably than others in being able to access effective services which meet their particular needs”

An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken by the Department of Education in May 2016 on the Children and Social Work Bill. The EqlA did not identify direct equality impacts to any of the protected characteristics and the introduction of new Safeguarding Children Partnership Arrangement would have a beneficial impact on all children engaged with child protection and safeguarding.

### **What engagement or consultation has taken place as part of this EqlA?**

A multi-agency planning event was held on 04.12.18 where the proposed plans were discussed. Following this a discussion paper was sent out to all agencies with a request for any comments to be provided from agencies by 31.12.18. The changes in legislation and guidance have been discussed at the Safeguarding Children Boards over the course of the last 6 – 12 months and all partners have been able to hear the proposals and comment on them.

The changes are a legal requirement and therefore engagement has been centred on how we put the new arrangements in place.

The feedback was received from a range of agencies and this has been incorporated into the proposed plan. Those individuals and agencies who provided feedback received a response to say

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that their comments had been incorporated into to the plan, or to point them to the part of the plan which answered their query.

**Is further information needed to help inform this proposal?**

**No.**

**How will the outcome of consultation be fed back to those who you consulted with?**

This was not a consultation but an engagement with agencies and organisations who are currently and will be involved in ensuring the effectiveness of safeguarding children in Dorset. Those individuals and organisations who provided feedback have received a response and the final agreed plan will be circulated.

Safeguarding children partners must have published their new arrangements before 30 June 2019, and submit to the Secretary of State for Education, we then have up to three months from the date of publication to implement the arrangements. The plan must be independently scrutinised prior to being submitted, this will be commissioned by the partners following the plans being taken through the individual partner agencies governance processes. The new arrangements must be implemented by 29<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

**Step 3: Assessment**

**Who does the service, strategy, policy, project or change impact?**

*If your strategy, policy, project or service contains options you may wish to consider providing an assessment for each option. Please cut and paste the template accordingly.*

**For each protected characteristic please choose from the following options:**

<b>Positive Impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive impact on a large proportion of protected characteristic groups</li> <li>• Significant positive impact on a small proportion of protect characteristics group</li> </ul>
<b>Negative Impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disproportionate impact on a large proportion of protected characteristic groups</li> <li>• Significant disproportionate impact on a small proportion of protected characteristic groups.</li> </ul>
<b>Neutral Impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No change/ no assessed significant impact of protected characteristic groups</li> </ul>
<b>Unclear</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not enough data/evidence has been collected to make an informed decision.</li> </ul>

*Please note in some cases more than one impact may apply – in this case please state all relevant options and explain in the ‘Please provide details’ box.*

**Age**

*Positive*

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<b>What age bracket does this affect?</b>	Primarily children from pre-birth up to 18 years, however, whole family working means that it will involve working with parents, carers and others.
<b>Please provide details</b>	The change to the legislation and guidance is an improvement measure and therefore the anticipated impact is positive.
<b>Disability</b>	<i>Positive</i>
<b>Does this affect a specific disability group?</b>	No, however, children who are disabled can be more vulnerable to abuse than their peers and therefore there is a focus on ensuring that children who are disabled are protected is implicit in the work of the partnership
<b>Please provide details</b>	The change to the legislation and guidance is an improvement measure and therefore the anticipated impact is positive.
<b>Gender Identity</b>	<i>Positive</i>
<b>Please provide details</b>	As above
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>	<i>Positive</i>
<b>Please provide details</b>	As above
<b>Race and Ethnicity</b>	<i>Positive</i>
<b>Please provide details</b>	As above
<b>Religion or belief</b>	<i>Positive</i>
<b>Please provide details</b>	As above
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	<i>Positive</i>
<b>Please provide details</b>	
<b>Sex</b>	<i>Positive</i>
<b>Please provide details</b>	There is no evidence that either gender is more or less likely to suffer abuse.
<b>Marriage or civil partnership</b>	<i>No impact</i>

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<b>Please provide details</b>	
<b>Other Socially Excluded Groups</b>	Families and children who are socially isolated or appear on the edge of society, due to school exclusion, poverty, being care leavers etc may be more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. The new arrangements will have a positive impact due to a clearer focus on how agencies work together to provide safeguarding services.
<b>Please provide details</b>	

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### Step 4: Action Plan

Provide actions for **positive**, **negative** and **unclear** impacts.

If you have identified any **negative** or **unclear** impacts, describe what adjustments will be made to remove or reduce the impacts, or if this is not possible provide justification for continuing with the proposal

Issue	Action	Person(s) responsible	Deadline	How will it be monitored?
Arrangements to be scrutinised through each agency's governance arrangements	Paper to go to Shadow overview and scrutiny committee	Nick Jarman	04.02.19	
Paper to be presented and approval sought to progress with the proposed plan.	Paper to go to Shadow executive committee	Cllr Steve Butler	11.03.19	
Plan to be independently scrutinised	Independent person to be commissioned	Partnership leads	Approx 29.05.19	
Approval to be sought from Secretary of State for Education	Plan to be published and submitted.	Partnership leads	29.06.19	
New Partnership arrangements to be implemented		Partnership leads	29.09.19	

### Step 5: Sign Off

Officer completing this EqlA	Date
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<b>Diversity Action Group Chair</b>	<b>Date</b>