

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S
COMMITTEE****NEW SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN ARRANGEMENTS****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide details of the proposal for new safeguarding children arrangements under the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 and to seek endorsement of the preferred option, attached as **Appendix 1**.
2. The report also seeks approval for the lead representative functions to be delegated to the Corporate Director for Children and Families.

Information

3. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 introduced a new duty on three agencies, namely the local authority, the chief officer of police and clinical commissioning group (together referred to as the 'safeguarding partners'), to make arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area. The new safeguarding arrangements will replace Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) which will cease to exist once the new arrangements are in place.
4. Statutory guidance¹ providing details of the new requirement on 'safeguarding partners', was published on 29th June 2018. The guidance states that the three safeguarding partners should agree on ways to co-ordinate their safeguarding services, act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others, and implement local and national learning including from serious child safeguarding incidents.
5. The local safeguarding arrangements are required to include:
 - arrangements for the safeguarding partners to work together to identify and respond to the needs of children in the area
 - arrangements for commissioning and publishing local child safeguarding practice reviews and
 - arrangements for independent scrutiny of the effectiveness of the arrangements.
6. Once agreed the safeguarding arrangements should be published. Implementation of new safeguarding arrangements is required to be started by 29th June 2019 and completed by 29th September 2019 at the latest. The safeguarding partners are required

¹ Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

to specify which organisations and agencies should be classed as 'relevant agencies' and those agencies must then act in accordance with the arrangements.

7. Under the previous statutory guidance, LSCBs were required to review all deaths of children normally resident in the area to identify how any future deaths may be prevented. With the closure of LSCBs this responsibility will pass to the 'child death review partners' (the local authority and clinical commissioning group) and a separate piece of work to take this forward is being led by the Consultant in Public Health on behalf of the Children's Integrated Commissioning Hub.
8. Nottinghamshire County Council has been working with lead representatives from the other safeguarding partners in the area, and the NSCB Independent Chair, to develop options for the new safeguarding arrangements. This work has included a review of the current arrangements under the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) and an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of those arrangements drawing on the most recent Ofsted inspection (published July 2015) which graded the NSCB as 'good'. New models being developed in other areas were also reviewed using the information provided by 'early adopters' to the Association of Independent LSCB Chairs. Members of the NSCB have also been consulted and a preferred option for the new arrangements, referred to as the 'Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership', has now been agreed by the safeguarding partners (see **Appendix 1**).
9. The preferred option ensures that the safeguarding partners have a central strategic role and provides clarity around leadership and accountability. Under the preferred option lead representatives from the safeguarding partners will form a Strategic Leadership Group (SLG) responsible for agreeing the safeguarding arrangements, setting safeguarding priorities for the area, supporting and engaging partner organisations and ensuring that local and national learning is implemented.
10. A Safeguarding Assurance and Improvement Group sits beneath the SLG and will have a membership of senior representatives from the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies with key safeguarding performance responsibilities. The Safeguarding Assurance and Improvement Group will be led by an independent chair and be responsible for the scrutiny of safeguarding and coordination of improvement activity.
11. Connectivity with the wider partnership of agencies will be through the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership forum. The forum will provide the opportunity to expand engagement with organisations from the current NSCB membership (20 organisations) and strengthen links with schools, sports clubs and private providers. The focus of the forum will be communication, consultation, coordination and networking.
12. The preferred option includes two sub groups: the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Group which will lead on case reviews and the monitoring of progress against associated action plans and the Learning and Workforce Development Group which will coordinate the multi-agency training programme and manage updates to the inter-agency safeguarding children procedures.
13. The statutory guidance expects organisations and agencies to collaborate on how they will fund their arrangements. The three 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 NSCB is funded, in part, via partnership contributions and a specific meeting of the safeguarding partners has been arranged to review the contributions made and agree how the new safeguarding arrangements should be financed in the future.

14. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 states that it will be essential that the safeguarding arrangements are strongly led and promoted at a local level by the local authority Chief Executive, Lead Member of Children's Services, Police and Crime Commissioner and chief officers in all organisations. Delegation of lead representative functions is permitted and in Nottinghamshire the Chief Executive for Nottinghamshire County Council has been briefed on the work undertaken to date and will delegate lead representative functions to the Corporate Director for Children and Families.
15. A high level plan has been developed to manage the transition to the new safeguarding arrangements in line with statutory guidance. Further detail will be developed in preparation for the publication of the arrangements in December 2018. The new arrangements will then be implemented over a three month period starting in January 2019. During this time the NSCB will continue to exist although in effect its work will be limited to any ongoing serious case reviews with responsibility for the safeguarding arrangements transferring to the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership. The NSCB will then cease to exist from 31st March 2019, unless there are any ongoing serious case reviews at that time in which case a 12 month grace period is allowed for the completion of such reviews.

Other Options Considered

16. Under the statutory guidance, Nottinghamshire County Council is a safeguarding partner and is therefore required to jointly develop safeguarding arrangements with the other partners. Alternative models for the safeguarding arrangements have been explored by the safeguarding partners as part of the process described earlier.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

17. The preferred option provides the best opportunity for building on the strengths of the current arrangements and addressing the challenge of working across a large geographic area and engaging with a significant number of organisations and agencies whose involvement is needed to safeguard and promote the welfare of children

Statutory and Policy Implications

18. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

19. It is anticipated that the support required for the new safeguarding arrangements can be contained within the existing resources and funding for the current NSCB.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That:

- 1) the preferred option for new safeguarding children arrangements, attached as **Appendix 1**, be endorsed.
- 2) the Corporate Director for Children and Families act as the lead representative for Nottinghamshire County Council.

Councillor Philip Owen
Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee

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Constitutional Comments (LM 19/09/18)

20. The Policy Committee is the appropriate body to consider the contents of the report.

Financial Comments (SAS 01/10/18)

21. The financial implications of the report are contained within paragraph 19 above.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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