



PROTOCOL BETWEEN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

January 2010

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This protocol sets out the relationship (including governance and scrutiny arrangements) between Nottinghamshire Children's Trust Board and Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB). It will be reviewed every 12 months following publication.

2. Legislative Background

- 2.1 Working Together (2006) described the requirement for Local Safeguarding Children Boards and Children's Trust Boards to develop and implement an ongoing and direct relationship in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. This requirement has been further reinforced by subsequent legislation and guidance including the Apprenticeship, Learning, Children and Skills Act (2009), "Children's Trusts: Statutory Guidance on inter-agency cooperation to improve the well-being of children, young people and their families" (DCSF, 2008), "The Roles and Responsibilities of the Lead Member for Children's Services and the Director of Children's Services" (DCSF, 2009), "The protection of children in England: A Progress Report, Laming" (March 2009) and The protection of children in England: action plan the Government's response to Lord Laming (May, 2009).

3. Functions of Nottinghamshire Children's Trust Board and Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board

- 3.1 The purpose of the Children's Trust Board is to deliver improvements for children, young people and families, by providing strong leadership and being central to the efforts of all partners to improve outcomes for all children and young people and to narrow the gap for the most vulnerable. The main responsibilities of a Children's Trust Board are to develop an integrated strategy, including joint planning and commissioning, and to pool or align budgets, ensuring that resources are available in partner organisations to carry out planned programmes. This role involves developing a vision for improving outcomes for children and young people through the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP), leading on the



performance monitoring of achievement of targets, and responding to performance monitoring information.

- 3.2 Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) were established as statutory bodies by the Children Act 2004.

The core objectives of the LSCB, as set out in Section 14 (1) of the Children Act 2004, are to:

- (a) co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority and
- (b) ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for that purpose.

Details of the role and function of the LSCB are laid out in Working Together (2006). It is recognised that in this that the Board operates within the framework set out by the Children's Trust Board.

4. Relationship between Nottinghamshire Children's Trust Board and Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board

- 4.1 The function of both Boards includes responsibility and accountability for keeping children and young people safe. Whilst their roles in this regard are complementary, they are also distinct.

- 4.2 The Children's Trust Board is responsible for the improvement of outcomes across all aspects of children and young people's lives, whilst the work of the NSCB contributes to this wider goal by providing a safeguarding focus.

- 4.3 The Children's Trust Board is responsible for the overarching strategic framework for the delivery of improved outcomes for children and young people. Within this framework, the NSCB plays a specific role to ensure the Children's Trust pays due regard to promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children.

- 4.4 It follows that a major aspect of the NSCB's role is to challenge and scrutinise individual agencies of the Children's Trust, as well as the partnership as a whole, to ensure they are meeting this requirement effectively and in a co-ordinated way. The Children's Trust Board will, in turn, scrutinise the work and effectiveness of the NSCB. Therefore, although the NSCB must operate within the framework of the Children's Trust, it must also maintain a separate identity and independent voice to



ensure this relationship of mutual challenge can be implemented effectively.

- 4.5 The following summarises the legislative and statutory requirements (see 2.1) that drive the development of the relationship between the two Boards.

Nottinghamshire Children's Trust Board

- 4.5.1 should consider children's safeguarding needs across the whole spectrum of improved outcomes for children and young people
- 4.5.2 should raise the profile of safeguarding and child protection across the wider Local Strategic Partnership, including children's services, health and police and lead a change in culture across frontline services that enables them to work more effectively to protect children
- 4.5.3 should take a strong lead on emphasising to all partners the importance of universal, targeted and responsive safeguarding
- 4.5.4 should ensure that planning and commissioning of services takes account the need to safeguard and promote children's welfare
- 4.5.5 is responsible for the development, production, review and performance management of the CYPP and in this respect should
 - 4.5.5.1 consult with the NSCB during the development of the Children and Young People's Plan, including the coverage and performance of services that contribute to the "Staying Safe" outcome
 - 4.5.5.2 with support and challenge from the LSCB, ensure that the CYPP covers strengths and weaknesses regarding safeguarding, what has been achieved in the year and what more needs to be done by each partner to improve outcomes in safeguarding
 - 4.5.5.3 should scrutinise the annual report of the NSCB and respond to it through the CYPP, ensuring the inclusion of clear targets for keeping children safe



4.5.5.4 may wish to take an overview of the NSCB's work as part of its local monitoring arrangements.

Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board

- 4.5.6 is part of the wider context of Children's Trust arrangements, but must have a clear and distinct identity with the local Children's Trust governance arrangements
- 4.5.7 within this wider context, its role is to ensure the effectiveness of arrangements made by individual agencies and the wider Children's Trust to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- 4.5.8 is responsible for challenging every partner of the Children's Trust, through the Children's Trust Board, on their success in ensuring that children and young people are kept safe
- 4.5.9 is required to publish an annual report and to submit it to their Children's Trust Board. These reports should provide an honest assessment of the local safeguarding arrangements and clearly identify the challenges to be addressed and overcome
- 4.5.10 should work within the framework established by the CYPP.

Both

- 4.5.11 must ensure ongoing communication between both Boards to avoid duplication of work or gaps in services or policies.

5. Implementation of relationship between Children's Trust Board and Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board

- 5.1 In order to facilitate the strong relationship between Nottinghamshire Children's Trust Board and NSCB as required by legislation and statutory guidance, the following has been agreed:
- 5.2 The Chair of Nottinghamshire Children's Trust Board will sit as a "participant observer" on the NSCB and, in a reciprocal arrangement, the NSCB chair will sit as a "participant observer" on Nottinghamshire Children's Trust Board. In practice, this means attending meetings and receiving all written reports. They will engage in discussions, seek clarity and ask questions, but will not be part of the decision making process.

- 5.3 NSCB will be involved in the development of the CYPP from its inception. It will take responsibility for the development and monitoring of the “Stay Safe” elements of the Plan and will also scrutinise all elements of the Plan during its development and before its publication.
- 5.4 At each 6-month and annual review of the CYPP, both Boards will receive a formal report of progress against targets.
- 5.5 Relevant issues arising from each NSCB meeting will be considered within the agenda-setting process for the subsequent Children’s Trust Board meeting, and vice versa. At the end of every meeting of each Board, members will agree items to be considered at the next meeting of the other Board. At least one agenda item at each Board meeting will always be available for issues to be addressed from the other Board.
- 5.6 Quarterly meetings will be held between respective business unit managers to ensure ongoing communication between, and connectivity of, relevant areas of business progressing through Boards. This will also help to avoid duplication of work and gaps in policies and services and ensure an aligned agenda-setting process between Boards. Minutes of Board meetings will be shared to assist this process.
- 5.7 Organisations represented on both Boards will ensure connectivity between their representatives (where different) to facilitate consistent responses within meetings and effective communication with their organisations between meetings.

6. Scrutiny and challenge

- 6.1 The Boards will fulfil their respective scrutiny and challenge functions in the following ways:

Nottinghamshire Children’s Trust Board

- 6.1.1 Will examine the NSCB annual report, identify key issues for their attention and agree necessary action which may include responding through the CYPP
- 6.1.2 The Chair will attend the NSCB as a participant observer. They will question and challenge where appropriate and report key issues to the Children’s Trust Board for consideration

Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board

- 6.1.3 Following every 6-month review of the CYPP, the NSCB will consider performance information and raise any concerns with the Children's Trust Board regarding achievements against safeguarding outcomes.
- 6.1.4 The Chair will attend the Children's Trust Board as a participant observer. They will question and challenge where appropriate and report key issues to the NSCB for consideration.
- 6.2 Both Boards will develop and monitor an agreed suite of performance information, including national and local, and quantitative and qualitative indicators.
- 6.3 In addition to these methods of mutual challenge the following routes may be instigated when required.
- 6.3.1 Either Chair making a formal written request for information or consideration of an area of concern.
- 6.3.2 Either Chair making a request for an item to be placed on either Board meeting agenda to address a particular area of concern.
- 6.3.3 Either Chair requesting a meeting between Board Chairs (and other relevant representatives) to consider and agree a way forward regarding issues that have not been resolved by the above.
- 6.4 Where an area of concern cannot be resolved within the above framework, a resolution meeting will be held between Board Chairs, the Director of Children's Services and Nottinghamshire County Council Chief Executive Officer, as a minimum.
- 7. Role of the Leader and Chief Executive Officer of Nottinghamshire County Council**
- 7.1 The Leader of the Council and Chief Executive Officer have a responsibility to ensure that the Authority is well led, managed, accountable and effective.
- 7.2 As part of this role, the Leader and Chief Executive Officer will consider the NSCB Annual Report regarding the effectiveness of arrangements for



Safeguarding Children in Nottinghamshire, including the effectiveness of governance and partnership arrangements in this regard.

- 7.3 Their assessment, based on information within the NSCB Annual Report, will be included within the Children's Trust Annual Report and will reflect the Children's Trust response to the NSCB Annual Report.

8 Role of the Safeguarding Children Forum

- 8.1 This group, made up of Elected Members, will exercise a scrutiny role in relation to safeguarding children arrangements in Nottinghamshire. This will include scrutinising the role of the NSCB and Children's Trust Board in ensuring effective safeguarding arrangements. This role is currently under review but will include:

- 8.1.1 reviewing the effectiveness of and the relationship between the NSCB and Children's Trust Board
- 8.1.2 considering performance data collected in relation to safeguarding children, outcomes from serious case reviews, audit and inspection
- 8.1.3 considering the NSCB annual report and the CYPP.