

**For General Release**

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>CABINET 7 MAY 2019</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Changes to Local Safeguarding Children Board Arrangements</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Rob Henderson Executive Director for Children, Families and Education Di Smith Independent Chair CSCB</b>
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	<b>Cllr Alisa Flemming Cabinet member for Children, Young People and Learning</b>
<b>WARDS:</b>	
<b>CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT/AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON:</b> To safeguard children and promote their welfare in line with the Council's ambition for independence of children and their families	
<b>FINANCIAL IMPACT:</b> The new multi-agency arrangements will be funded by safeguarding partners and agencies, including Croydon Council. It is expected that funding for 2019/20 will be at the same level as that provided to the Croydon's Safeguarding Children Board in 2018/19.	
<b>KEY DECISION REFERENCE NO.: 0819CAB</b> This is a Key Decision as defined in the Council's Constitution. The decision may be implemented from 1300 hours on the expiry of 5 working days after it is made, unless the decision is referred to the Scrutiny & Overview Committee by the requisite number of Councillors.	
The Leader of the Council has delegated to the Cabinet the power to make the decisions set out in the recommendations below	
<b>1. RECOMMENDATIONS</b> Cabinet is asked to agree the proposed changes to Croydon's Safeguarding Children Board arrangements as set out in the report.	

## **2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The report outlines the changes to safeguarding partnership arrangements in response to the implementation of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and the revised national guidance on multi agency arrangements as outlined in *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018*.
- 2.2 The report reflects the work undertaken by the Executive Group of the Croydon Safeguarding Children Board (CSCB) to develop new partnership arrangements that reflect the new equally shared responsibilities between the Local Authority (LAs), the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the Police.

## **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Government's review undertaken by Sir Alan Wood CBE regarding the role and functions of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs), published in May 2016, found widespread agreement that the current system of local multi-agency child safeguarding arrangements needed to change. The review proposed a new model that would ensure collective accountability across local authorities, the police and clinical commissioning groups (health). It also recommended a new system of local and national reviews, to replace serious case reviews; and new arrangements for undertaking child death overview reviews. The key recommendations are now included in the Children and Social Work Act 2017 ("the Act"). Section 30 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 'abolishes' Local Safeguarding Children Boards by deleting sections 13 to 16 of the Children Act 2004. Under the Children and Social Work Act 2017, the three statutory safeguarding partners (LAs, Chief Officers of Police and CCGs) must make arrangements to work together with relevant agencies to safeguard and protect the welfare of children in the area. These are referred to as Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements.
- 3.2 The statutory guidance *Working Together to Safeguard Children* has been revised and requires the three safeguarding partners (LA, CCG and Police) to 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.
- 3.3 This report outlines how the three safeguarding partners in Croydon (Croydon Council, NHS Croydon CCG and the Metropolitan Police Service - South Area Basic Command Unit) have responded to the changes outlined in *Working Together 2018* and maps out the proposed arrangements for meeting the new requirements.
- 3.4 The Executive Group of the CSCB has been working as a task and finish group for the last nine months shaping the proposed safeguarding arrangements in accordance with the new statutory requirements. The broader CSCB membership has been consulted and kept regularly informed and encouraged to comment and advise on the emerging proposals. In developing the new proposals the Executive Group has outlined a commitment to:

- build on the positive work already undertaken to improve the effectiveness of partnership arrangements for safeguarding following the Ofsted inspection in 2017;
- use the new arrangements as an opportunity to further improve the partnership focus on safeguarding priorities and the effectiveness of multi-agency working;
- identify the opportunity to improve effectiveness through joint working with other partnerships e.g. Safeguarding Adults Board and Safer Croydon Partnership;
- reducing unnecessary bureaucracy and simplifying the structure;
- engaging with all relevant agencies in Croydon, including schools and the voluntary sector, to build strong and effective multi-agency safeguarding arrangements to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children, young people and families.

3.5 The purpose of these local arrangements is to support and enable local organisations and agencies to work in a system where:

- children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted;
- partner organisations and agencies collaborate, share and co-own the vision;
- organisations and agencies challenge appropriately and hold one another to account;
- there is early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues;
- learning is promoted and embedded in a way that local services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice, and
- information is shared effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and families

#### 4. **PROPOSED MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN ARRANGEMENTS**

4.1 The statutory guidance states that 'strong leadership is critical for the new arrangements to be effective in bringing together the various organisations and agencies. It is important therefore that the lead representative from each of the three safeguarding partners plays an active role. The lead representatives for safeguarding partners are: the local authority chief executive, the accountable officer of a clinical commissioning group, and a chief officer of police.' *Working Together 2018*

4.2 The lead representatives may delegate their functions but remain accountable. The lead representatives: the Chief Executive of Croydon Council; the Accountable Officer for NHS Croydon CCG and the Borough Commander for MPS South BCU will form a **Lead Representative Safeguarding Partners Oversight and Accountability Group** and will meet three times a year to ensure the safeguarding partnership arrangements are robust and effective.

4.3 The lead representatives will delegate their functions for any actions or decisions taken on behalf of their agency to a nominated senior officer who will have responsibility and authority for ensuring full participation in the multi-

agency safeguarding children arrangements. These nominated senior officers will form the Croydon Safeguarding Partners Executive Group.

4.4 The membership of the **Croydon Safeguarding Partners Executive Group** will include the following:

- Executive Director for Children, Families and Education, Croydon Council
- Director of Quality and Governance, NHS Croydon CCG
- Detective Superintendent – Safeguarding, MPS South BCU

The Executive Group will hold collective responsibility for the new safeguarding arrangements and will form the 'engine room' of the partnership where the statutory partners set the safeguarding agenda. The Executive Group will have an Independent Chair and will meet monthly to focus on key strategic multi-agency decisions and actions impacting on safeguarding across the partnership. The core membership will be the three strategic partners but other agencies will be drawn in as part of the planned cycle of meetings throughout the year. The Executive Group will meet with the Safeguarding Adults Board Executive twice a year to ensure coherence on joint issues and priorities.

4.5 The current CSCB arrangements will cease under the new arrangements and the Board will be replaced by the **Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership**. This group will meet three times a year and include broad representation from relevant agencies and stakeholders across the partnership, including the current CSCB membership. The meetings will not be business meetings but events designed to support multi-agency learning, sharing of best practice and also opportunities for scrutiny and challenge. The Executive Group will provide regular progress reports on the three partnership priorities at these meetings and there will be an opportunity for the broader partnership to challenge the three strategic partners, shape the future partnership agenda and inform future priorities.

4.6 The current complex arrangement of CSCB sub-groups will be replaced by three **Priority Groups** each chaired by a member of the Executive Group. Each priority group will be responsible for the development and implementation of a delivery plan and for the promotion of effective multi-agency practice. It is proposed that the priority groups are established in April/May 2019. The priority groups in the first year will focus on three existing CSCB priorities to ensure effective transition in the areas of:

- Neglect
- Vulnerable Adolescents
- Children with Disabilities.

4.7 The Neglect Priority Group will work to ensure that children at risk of neglect are seen, heard and helped. The group will be responsible for the implementation of the new multi-agency Neglect Strategy and ensuring robust and coordinated multi-agency intervention and support.

4.8 The focus of the Vulnerable Adolescents Priority Group will be the development of a coherent multi-agency response to the findings of the CSCB's Vulnerable Adolescents Review. This group will also take on the responsibilities currently undertaken by the Children and Young People (CYP) at Risk of Missing and Exploitation sub group. In further developing the remit of this group there will be

active engagement with the Safer Croydon Partnership to take account of developments relating to Croydon's Violent Crime Reduction Network.

4.9 The Children with Disabilities Priority Group will work to ensure that children with disability are seen and heard and that they are effectively protected from harm by robust and coordinated multi-agency intervention and support.

4.10 A chart outlining the structure of the new arrangements is shown at Appendix 1 and the current CSCB arrangements are shown at Appendix 2 for the purposes of comparison. Implications for current CSCB sub groups in light of these proposed changes are outlined below:

- The Child Death Overview Panel will remain until September 2019 when it becomes part of the broader regional arrangement under South West London Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) and will from then be known as the Local Child Death Overview Panel.
- CYP at Risk of Missing and Exploitation Sub Group will become the new Vulnerable Young People/Adolescents Priority Group.
- Serious Case Review Sub Group will become the Serious Child Safeguarding Review Group.
- Quality Assurance Practice and Performance (QAPP) Group will become the Quality Improvement Group with a focus on improving multi-agency practice and performance.
- Learning and Development Group will remain for the time being with consideration of amalgamation with the Safeguarding Adults Board arrangements next year.
- As the Health and Education sub groups are single agency groups they will no longer appear on the partnership structure chart but will report to the relevant representative on the Executive Group i.e. CCG (Health) and Croydon Council (Education).

4.11 There is a statutory requirement to outline how the effectiveness of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements will be scrutinised by an independent person. In Croydon there is a desire to ensure continuity and safe transition from the current CSCB to the new arrangements and for that reason the proposal is to maintain the role of Independent Chair. To ensure alignment with the statutory guidance the role will be developed into that of Independent Chair/Scrutineer and will involve:

- Chairing the Executive Group and Serious Child Safeguarding Review Group
- Reporting regularly to the Croydon Children's Improvement Board
- Providing support challenge and scrutiny to the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements with a focus on outcome and impact
- Engage with stakeholders (including children and young people and families)
- Support partners in the development of their Annual Report and provide evaluative comment and challenge
- Attend and support the oversight and accountability meetings with the Chief Executive of the Council, the Accountable Officer from the CCG and the Borough Commander.

4.12 The Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee will receive and scrutinise an Annual Report on the effectiveness of the Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership each year in September.

## **5. RESPONDING TO CHANGES IN LEGISLATION AND STATUTORY GUIDANCE**

5.1 Under the Children and Social Work Act 2017, the three statutory safeguarding partners (LAs, Chief Officers of Police and CCGs) must make arrangements to work together with relevant agencies to safeguard and protect the welfare of children in the area. These are referred to as Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements and they replace the current requirement to have a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).

## **6 FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

6.1 The total available funding for 2019/20 is £372k. This will cover CSCB costs to the end of August 2019 and will then fund the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements from September 2019 to the end of the financial year.

6.2 The contribution from Croydon Council is in line with previous years and will be £282k for 2019/20.

6.2 Other partners will continue to fund the new arrangements with the same level of contributions for 2019/20 as those made to the CSCB in 2018/19; as detailed below:

<b>Partner</b>	<b>Contribution 2019/20 £'000</b>
South London and Maudsley Trust (SLAM)	14
Metropolitan Police	5
Clinical Commissioning Group	34
Croydon Health Services	34
Probation Service (NPS & CRC)	2
Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)	1

Approved by: Kate Bingham (Interim) Head of Finance on behalf of the Director of Finance, Investment and Risk

## **7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

7.1 The Head of Social Care & Education Law comments on behalf of the Director of Law and Governance that the Children and Social Work Act 2017 makes clear that it is no longer a statutory requirement for areas to have Local

Safeguarding Children's Boards. It is up to the three key statutory partners (Council, CCG and Police) to determine what local arrangements should be. These partners are to determine who other relevant partners are. Whatever arrangements are agreed moving forward, independent scrutiny of safeguarding is still required.

Approved by Doutimi Aseh, Head of Social Care & Education Law on behalf of the Director of Law and Governance & Deputy Monitoring Officer

## **8. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT**

- 8.1 The imperative to maintain improvements made in partnership working by the CSCB since the Ofsted inspection of 2017 through this transition period is recognised. Maintaining the same level of business and specialist support is essential to smooth transition and the three statutory safeguarding partners are committed to maintaining the same level of staffing resource to support the new arrangements.

Approved by: Nadine Maloney, Head of Service, Human Resources, Children Families & Education on behalf of the Director of Human Resources.

## **9. EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 9.1 The multi-agency safeguarding arrangements will aim to ensure that all children and young people in Croydon are supported to keep safe and to ensure their wellbeing. There is a commitment to ensuring that all children, young people and families benefit from the effectiveness of multi-agency working regardless of disability, gender, religion, race or sexual orientation.

Approved by Yvonne Okiyo, Equalities Manager

## **10. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

- 10.1 There are no direct implications contained in this report.

## **11. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT**

- 11.1 The report contains a commitment to working closely with the Safer Croydon Partnership in relation to responding to the Vulnerable Adolescents Review and the Violence Reduction Network.

## **12. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS/PROPOSED DECISION**

- 12.1 The Children and Social Work Act 2017 requires the three statutory safeguarding partners to publish their new multi-agency arrangements to replace the Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

### **13. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

13.1 In developing the proposals consideration has been given to the learning emerging from Early Adopter areas and those outlined in the report are considered to be the best fit for Croydon as they build on the improvements secured since the Ofsted of 2017 and comply with the new statutory requirements for change.

---

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Di Smith, Independent Chair, Croydon  
Safeguarding Children Board x 62366

**APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:** Appendix 1 – Proposed Multi Agency  
Safeguarding Partnership Structure Chart  
Appendix 2 – Current CSCB Structure Chart

**BACKGROUND PAPERS:** None