



**WORKING AGREEMENT BETWEEN BROMLEY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD AND BROMLEY HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

The report proposes that the Bromley Health and Wellbeing Board (H&WB) agree to a formal working agreement between the Bromley H&WB and Bromley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) to maximise opportunities for safeguarding children in the local area.

**FOR INFORMATION AND DECISION**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report provides the Bromley Health and Wellbeing Board (H&WB) with an overview of the role and responsibilities of Bromley Local Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) and summarises its priorities for 2015-18.
- 1.2 The report proposes that the H&WB agree to a formal working agreement between the Bromley H&WB and the BSCB as set out in the protocol included in Appendix A.
- 1.3 The Board is asked to consider:
  - a) The complementary but distinct roles the Health and Wellbeing Board (H&WB) and Bromley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) have in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people in Bromley.
  - b) The BSCB's current priority areas for focus during 2015-18.
  - c) Approval of the proposed protocol for joint working between the Bromley H&WB and the BSCB (Appendix A).
  - d) How else the two Boards might work together to promote 'safeguarding is everyone's business' and to ensure that there is a coordinated approach to strategic planning between the various partnership boards in Bromley.

## 2. BACKGROUND

### *Statutory requirements for Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB)*

- 2.1 Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 requires that every area establish a Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB). The LSCB has a range of roles and statutory functions including developing local safeguarding policy and procedures and scrutinising local arrangements. The statutory responsibilities of the LSCB are:
- a) to coordinate 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; and
  - b) to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes
- 2.2 The LSCB must include at least one representative of the local authority and include representation of: the Police; Local Probation Trust; Youth Offending Team; the NHS Commissioning Board and clinical commissioning groups; NHS Trusts and NHS Foundation Trusts all or most of whose hospitals, establishments and facilities are situated in the local authority area; CAFCASS (Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service); and the governor or director of any secure training centre or prison in the area of the authority.
- 2.3 Members of an LSCB should be people with a strategic role in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children within their organisation. They should be able to: speak for their organisation with authority; commit their organisation on policy and practice matters; and hold their own organisation to account and hold others to account.
- 2.4 The role of the LSCB is to scrutinise and challenge the work of agencies both individually and collectively. The LSCB does not commission services and is not operationally responsible for managers and staff in the constituent agencies.

### *Bromley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB)*

- 2.5 The BSCB is chaired by an independent chair, Annie Callanan, and is supported by a small team, with an agreed set of subgroups and activities.
- 2.6 There are a number of LSCB subgroups which meet at least quarterly where much of the business of the Board is taken forward. These include:
- **Quality Assurance and Performance Monitoring** - this group examines performance data, audit and survey findings and supports the Board in its scrutiny and challenge role.

Chair: Annie Callanan, independent chair.

- **Training** - this group oversees the existing LSCB multi-agency training programme ensuring that the local children's workforce is equipped to deliver sound safeguarding practice whilst responding to local priorities and national developments and learning.

Chair: Anita Gibbons, Head of Quality Assurance, LBB.

- **Case Review** - this group considers how local agencies can learn from national and local case review findings and oversees the implementation of local action plans arising from case reviews.

Chair: Sonia Colwill, Bromley CCG.

- **Child Death Overview Panel** - this group considers the circumstances relating to the deaths of children, identifying any modifiable factors and relevant practice implications.

Chair: Dr Jenny Selway, Consultant in Public health, LBB.

- **Policy and Procedures** – this group co-ordinates the development of new local policies, procedures and guidance regarding children's welfare and safeguarding, and analyses the implications of relevant national multi-agency policies, procedures, guidance or research findings.

Chair: Sadie McClue, Bromley CCG.

- **Vulnerable Children** – this new sub group will progress, monitor and scrutinise the coordination and effectiveness arrangements of local plans, policies and procedures in relation to CSE, Children missing from home, school or social care placement, Trafficked Children, FGM, Domestic Abuse, Gangs, Disabled Children, and radicalisation/extemism.

Chair: Jane Bailey, Director of Education, LBB.

- **Chairs Group** - this group oversees the work of the subgroups, short life working groups and partnership groups of the Board and effectively steers the direction and progress of the Board's work, responding to key issues arising.

Chair: Annie Callanan, independent chair.

2.7 In addition to the standing sub groups, there are short-term and ad hoc groups to progress specific business. Currently this includes a communications sub group, chaired by a lay member of the Board. In 2015, there was a Task and Finish Group on FGM (Female Genital Mutilation).

2.8 Following the Ofsted inspection in April/May 2016 and inadequate grading for children's services, a Children's Services Improvement Governance group [SIG] (chaired by the Leader) and a Children's Services Improvement Team [SIT] (chaired by the Chief Executive)

were established. The Independent Chair of the BSCB is a member of the SIG and the BSCB Business Manager is a member of the SIT to ensure improvement work in the partnership is fully integrated with the specific improvement work in London Borough of Bromley.

### *BSCB priority areas*

2.9 The BSCB has five priority areas for focus during 2015-2018. These are detailed in the BSCB Business Plan. Below is a summary:

- i. Board Resilience
  - A board which is confident of its responsibilities with a revised statement of purpose
  - Effective scrutiny system
- ii. Service Responses. Ensure that:
  - early Help assessments and services meet needs;
  - agencies prove they have sufficient qualified/trained staff;
  - effective information sharing takes place;
  - schools are aware and accountable of their safeguarding responsibilities:
  - there is an assured and timely response to all children who go missing from school to address any safeguarding issues.
- iii. Community Engagement
  - Understanding of diverse community in LBB and barriers to engagement
  - Young people are better informed of safeguarding and engaged
  - Improved public awareness of safeguarding, including a specific campaign on the risks of co-sleeping
  - The voice of children and young people drives and improves practice and policy
- iv. Learning and Improvement
  - Learning from case reviews and audits impacts on frontline practice
  - The Board has good oversight of risks in the system and can assess the performance of multi-agency child protection work
  - A confident and skilled workforce is able to identify and respond to neglect, child abuse and domestic violence
- v. Specific Safeguarding Concerns

- Increase awareness of emerging threats to children, for example through sexual exploitation (CSE), gangs, child trafficking, radicalisation and female genital mutilation and appropriate policies and strategies to address those threats
- Reduce impact of domestic abuse
- Reduce admissions to hospital for self harm.

2.10 There are many opportunities for the H&WB to add value to the work of the BSCB; in particular on areas of national focus and where the contribution of services outside of the membership of the LSCB is critical to ensuring progress in priority areas of work. Examples include priority areas such as child sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation, and missing children; and services for adults who are parents and dealing with issues such as poor mental health, substance misuse and domestic violence.

### **3. JOINT WORKING AND GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD AND LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD**

3.1 Health and Wellbeing Boards have a unique role in providing a forum where key leaders from the health and care system work together to improve the health and wellbeing of their local population and reduce health inequalities. H&WBs are the executive body responsible for agreeing what the needs of the local population are, promoting integration, and supporting alignment and joint commissioning.

3.2 Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013 does not outline in detail how the relationship between LSCBs and H&WBs, and other key partnership bodies, should be secured; this is for local determination. The two partnerships are separate and there are no requirements for the boards to report to each other. However, given the important role that both Boards have to help, protect and care for children and young people this relationship should be clearly articulated. Ofsted inspections of Local Authorities' children's social care services and of LSCBs have specifically asked to see a working agreement or memorandum of understanding between the partnership boards. Bromley was able to show this draft agreement prior to ratification from either Board.

3.3 A draft protocol outlining a proposed joint working arrangement between the two boards is included in Appendix A. The aim of this protocol is to promote 'safeguarding is everyone's business' and to ensure that there is a coordinated approach to strategic planning between the H&WB and the BSCB.

- 3.4 The protocol also sets out the proposed governance arrangements which will enable the Health and Wellbeing Board (H&WB), and the Bromley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB), to assess whether they are fulfilling their statutory responsibilities to help (including early help), protect and care for children and young people.
- 3.5 In order to deliver the draft protocol, it is proposed that the following arrangements would be put in place to ensure effective co-ordination and coherence in the work of the H&WBs and the LSCB from 2016:
- a) Between October and January each year, the Independent Chair of the BSCB would present to the H&WB its Annual Report outlining performance against business plan objectives in the previous financial year. This would be supplemented by a position statement on the Board's performance in the current financial year. This would provide the opportunity for the Health and Wellbeing Boards to understand where it may be able to support the performance of the BSCB, to draw across data to be included in the JSNA and to reflect on key issues that may need to be incorporated in the refresh of the Health and Wellbeing Strategies.
  - b) Between October and March each year, a member of the Health and Wellbeing Board to present to the BSCB the annual review of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the update on the JSNA with the proposed priorities and objectives to enable the BSCB to consider whether it may be able to support the Health and Wellbeing Board to drive delivery of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- 3.6 Bromley Safeguarding Children Board ratified this working agreement on 13 July 2016.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board approve the protocol for joint working between the H&WB and the Bromley Safeguarding Children Board.

#### **Background papers:**

Children Act 2004

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015

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## **APPENDIX A**

### **Protocol to set out governance arrangements between the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Bromley Safeguarding Children Board**

#### **Purpose of the Protocol**

1. The purpose of this protocol is to set out the governance arrangements which will enable the Health and Wellbeing Board (H&WB), and the Bromley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB), to assess whether they are fulfilling their statutory responsibilities to help (including early help), protect and care for children and young people.
2. The aim of this protocol is to promote 'safeguarding is everyone's business' and to ensure that there is a coordinated approach to strategic planning between the H&WB and the BSCB.

#### **Statutory framework**

3. H&WB's were established by the Health and Social Care Act 2012. They are intended to be a forum where key leaders from the health and care system work together to improve the health and wellbeing of their local population and reduce health inequalities.
4. The Children Act 2004 required each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). It is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations in each local area will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to ensure that these agencies are effective.
5. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 does not outline in detail how the relationship between LSCB's and H&WB's, and other key partnership bodies, should be secured; this is for local determination. However, given the LSCB's scrutiny and challenge role, and the fact that they do not commission or directly delivery services, there is a strong case that the relationship between them is clearly articulated.

#### **Role and responsibilities**

6. The H&WB has strategic influence over commissioning decisions across health, public health and social care through its Joint

Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the development of its Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

7. The H&WB Board is the executive body responsible for agreeing what the needs of the local population are, promoting integration, and supporting alignment of and joint commissioning. The purpose of the Board is to provide strong and effective leadership across the local authority and NHS partners to improve the health and wellbeing of local residents and reduce inequalities in outcomes. The Board sets a clear direction, across traditional boundaries, to deliver change and fresh thinking in the provision of health, adult and children's services social care and housing services.
8. The BSCB is required to: a) coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Bromley Safeguarding Children Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and b) to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for these purposes.

### **Working together**

9. The H&WB and the BSCB agree that strategic planning across partnerships will be coordinated to secure coherent delivery of business, to avoid duplication and gaps.
10. The H&WB and BSCB will take an integrated approach to the JSNA and ensure comprehensive safeguarding data analysis is included. The JSNA will drive the formulation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategies and the BSCB's Business Plan.
11. The Independent Chair of the BSCB will present an annual report, on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children across the borough, to the Chair of the H&WB. The report will provide the H&WB with an assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. This assessment will be clearly reflected in, and will form part of, the H&WB Strategy in respect of services for children and families.
12. The H&WB will formally share with the LSCB: the JSNA, the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the commissioning intentions and progress against these. The LSCB will provide relevant feedback on any key aspect of the H&WB plans as set out above, in respect of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

13. This process will provide opportunity for sharing learning and expertise and to enable Boards to feed any improvement and development needs into the planning process for future years' strategies and plans.
14. In addition to the above the LSCB and H&WB will have members in common who can ensure that key information in relation to trends, concerns and action plans are communicated to relevant Boards in a coordinated way. The LSCB Chair will also, at any time necessary, bring to the H&WB or its members, any matters which require their attention outside of the opportunities outlined above.
15. Post Ofsted improvement work to improve outcomes for children in Bromley is led by the Service Improvement Governance (SIG) and delivered by members of the Service Improvement Team (SIT). Members of the BSCB and H&WB are members of the SIG and are able to report back progress against the Improvement Plan.
16. The H&WB and LSCB will work together to ensure that they include the views of young people in their development of key strategies.

### **Outcomes of joint working**

17. The role of the LSCB in relation to the HWBB would be one of equal partners underpinned by this protocol. The LSCB has a statutory responsibility to challenge and hold agencies to account for the safety of local children and young people. This protocol is designed to ensure these functions are discharged effectively in the London Borough of Bromley without duplicating functions or creating additional structures. Other outcomes include:
  - a. Ensuring safeguarding is "everyone's business" and is reflected in the public health agenda;
  - b. Supporting the Health and Wellbeing Board to drive delivery of safeguarding outcomes through the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, and of safeguarding on wider determinants of health outcomes (such as domestic abuse);
  - c. Cross-Board partnership working to embed safeguarding across the health and wellbeing sector.

**Signed**

Cllr David Jefferys

Chair of Bromley Health and  
Wellbeing Board

Annie Callanan

Independent Chair of Bromley  
Safeguarding Children Board