

Statutory framework

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 apportions equal responsibility for arrangements with three 'safeguarding partners' (Local Authority, CCG and Police) - shared and equal duty to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area.

Supported by 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018' and 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'

Key changes

- Safeguarding Children Boards no longer mandatory, most areas moving to Safeguarding Partnerships
- Serious Case Reviews to be replaced by national and local systems for Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews
- Transfer of responsibility for Child Death Reviews to Child Death Review Partners (DfE to DoH)
- Requirement for independent scrutiny arrangements
 beyond independent chairing

Wood Report (2016)

- Concerns about leadership with the Board multiagency arrangements
- Too many meetings, not related to front-line practice
- Lack of impact and evidence of outcomes to children's lives
- Poor co-ordination through system, down to individual young people
- Duty to co-operate does not guarantee accountability across services; not a full systems approach

What could be the benefits locally?

- Lean Board structure more attention to priority issues
- Focus on *leadership, commitment and accountability* across *'safeguarding partners'* and *'relevant agencies'*
- Greater emphasis on hearing from children and young people
- Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews less emphasis on the report, more on learning and impact
- Opportunities to integrate with other partnerships SCC
 Cabinet have agreed that:
 - the Safeguarding Partnership arrangements can be integrated with the Children's Trust arrangements.
 - that sub-regional opportunities for sharing tasks and capacity can be explored
 - Subject to the view of 'safeguarding partners' and 'relevant agencies'

Tier 1:Safeguarding Partners Executive

- LA, CCG and A&S Constabulary, with co-opted members as required
- Requirement to:
 - 'act as a strategic group in supporting and engaging others' [in a multi-agency safeguarding context]
 - 'have equal and joint responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements'

Safeguarding Partners Executive (Tier 1)

- Function of Executive is to provide accountability across the partnership
- Continue to need wider partnership engagement at Tier 2 and 3 for new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements to be effective and to deliver on safeguarding priorities
- Agreement to merge with the Executive of Children's Trust as of October 2019, accountable to the three lead agencies and to the Health & Wellbeing Board.

The Children's Trust

- Deliver the Children and Young People's Plan, 2019-2022.
- Children tell us that their priorities are:
 - A happy family life, including support for parents
 - Health physical and emotional
 - Education building skills for life
 - Positive activities
- Support partners to achieve added value to improve outcomes for children and young people.

'Safeguarding partners' and 'relevant agencies' (Tier 2)

- Partners to be consulted on:
 - How 'relevant agencies' should be involved in the new partnership arrangements.
 - Themed conference style events three times per year?
 - Wide partnership engagement, to include representatives from 'Safeguarding Partnerships' – eg Team Around the School, One Teams, MASH etc?
 - How these arrangements will dovetail with Children's Trust responsibilities.

Delivery Functions (Tier 3)

- Creation of a cost-effective structure/efficiencies
- Local arrangements still required for:
 - Learning and improvement function
 - Child safeguarding practice reviews
 - Embedding learning/training
 - Quality assurance and performance function
 - Child exploitation function
 - Capturing and acting on the voice of the children
- Partners to be consulted on any other functions needed, and any natural alignments with other groups under other strategic partnerships.

Scrutiny arrangements

- Using a range of measures and mechanisms not just SCRs and data:
- Section 11 audit
- Multi-agency audits
- Case reviews and good practice/safeguarding conversations
- Consolidate existing feedback from children, families and practitioners
- Voice of the child
- Annual reports
- Independent scrutineers/peer review with other areas in region
- Role for some existing scrutiny arrangements

Timeline

- Format of local Executive agreed March 2019
- Agree local arrangements (quality/CSR/T&D) April/May 2019
- Agree participation in Consortium arrangements regionally – April/May 2019 (subject to regional partners)
- March/April 2019 governance agreed by key safeguarding partners
- 22 June 2019 arrangements complete
- 29 June 2019 arrangements with Secretary of State
- 1 October 2019 new arrangements take effect