

Local Safeguarding Arrangements

Update of the Published Arrangements

June 2021



1. Introduction

- 1.1 This is an interim update of the Hull Safeguarding Children's Partnership (HSCP) local safeguarding published arrangements. The arrangements were first published, as required by legislation, in June 2019. This update should be read in conjunction with the annual report (1st October 2019 – 30th September 2020) and the update of the annual report (1st October 2020 – 31st March 2021).
- 1.2 The first annual report set out in some detail Hull's progress in implementing the new arrangements set out as published in June 2019. For a variety of reasons, the model agreed (and published) for the partnership was not assessed to be working well enough and in July 2020, the Executive Board agreed a need to review the model and make revisions where necessary to ensure 'fit for purpose' arrangements for the long-term future.
- 1.3 The review focused on the assessed need to strengthen arrangements in three main aspects:
 - 1.3.1 Strengthening arrangements for independent scrutiny and challenge and for ongoing assurance activity;
 - 1.3.2 Building the dedicated capacity needed to lead and drive partnership work, and;
 - 1.3.3 Re-engaging in a meaningful way at strategic level with the wider group of key 'relevant agencies' who had been marginalised and disenfranchised within the published model and by the process for designing the new arrangements.
- 1.4 This update describes the main changes agreed to the published arrangements to date and will be fully updated once final decisions have been taken about replacing the 'learning hub' which was a core element of the original, published model and about how plans currently being pursued to develop a formal strategic alignment with the community safety and adults safeguarding boards evolve.

2. Background and Context

- 2.1 The Children and Social Work Act 2017 abolished Local Child Safeguarding Boards (LSCBs). In their place a duty was placed upon local authorities, the police and clinical commissioning groups to establish multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. The three partners had an equal and shared statutory duty to publish their new, replacement arrangements by 29th June 2019 and to implement these by 29th September 2019.
- 2.2 The annual report described the process of designing the new arrangements which were published in June 2019 and implemented in September 2019.
- 2.3 The shared ambition, principles and values described in the published arrangements have not changed; the means by which these will be achieved has been re-visited, reviewed and reinvigorated.

3. The Executive Board

3.1 The Executive Board continues to be constituted as described in the published arrangements (made up of the safeguarding executive leads nominated by the three statutory partners – police, local authority and clinical commissioning group) and with the same meeting and reporting arrangements, but with the important addition of direct representation on behalf of Hull's schools and learning partnership, currently by a chief executive of one of Hull's local multi-academy trusts.

4. Independence, Scrutiny and Assurance

4.1 The Executive Board has agreed and established a role of independent chair (effective from December 2020). The post holder chairs monthly meetings of the Executive Board and quarterly meetings of the relevant agencies group (see below) and will play a key role in independently challenging and holding to account the safeguarding partners.

4.2 The Board also established the role of Independent Scrutineer. A pool of scrutineers will be appointed from a range of backgrounds and disciplines, so that independent expertise can be secured most relevant to the scrutiny topic.

4.3 The Board also agreed and published its Scrutiny and Assurance Framework in October 2020.

5. HSCP Business Unit

5.1 The published model described the creation of a 'learning hub' made up of one representative from each of the statutory partners, with a Programme Manager role, overseen by a part-time manager and supported by two business support roles.

5.2. This model has now been suspended as an outcome of the review. A full-time HSCP Manager role has been created to lead and drive forward the work of the partnership. The business support roles have been retained, along with two dedicated training and development roles leading on designing and providing multi-agency safeguarding training.

5.3 The overall capacity needed will be reviewed in July 2021. Final decisions will be reflected in a full refresh of the published arrangements by 30th September 2021.

6. HSCP Governance

6.1 Changes have been made to the governance (structure) of the partnership, to strengthen the way in which improvement is overseen and driven. The revised arrangements are reflected in the diagram below.

6.2 The published arrangements described a VEMT (Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing & Trafficked) sub-group, but by the time of implementation, and with

the intention of streamlining arrangements, the Executive Board had taken the decision that contextual safeguarding could be effectively overseen by the EHASH Board. The EHASH Board, providing multi-agency strategic oversight of the 'front door' was not described in the structure diagram of the published arrangements but is now also a sub-group reporting directly to the HSCP Executive Board.

- 6.3 The Board has subsequently agreed the need to re-establish a separate strategic sub-group focusing on contextual safeguarding and to an additional sub-group with a focus on learning and development. These decisions are reflected in the structural diagram (Appendix 1).
- 6.4 Work is also underway between the HSCP, safeguarding adults, community safety and health and wellbeing boards to explore opportunities for closer collaboration and alignment, especially in relation to cross-cutting priorities. Once final decisions are reached about a more formal combined strategic board, these arrangements will also be reflected in the final update.

7. Relevant Agencies

- 7.1 The published arrangements described relevant partners, most of whom are former statutory members of the LSCB, as 'stakeholders' with whom there would be regular engagement.
- 7.2 This group of key safeguarding partners, across the statutory and voluntary sectors, is now known as the 'Relevant Agencies Group' and a structure has been established to ensure regular meetings with the Chair.

8. Conclusions

- 8.1 This update briefly describes the key changes made to the arrangements originally published in June 2019. A full revision will be made and published in September 2021, once final decisions have been taken in relation to the business support unit and the developing partnership with other key local strategic boards.

Appendix 1: HSCB Governance Structure

