

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**CHILDREN, FAMILIES, LEARNING AND LEISURE
CABINET MEMBER**

WORKING TOGETHER TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN 2018 AND LOCAL IMPLICATIONS

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Cabinet Member of the new Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 statutory guidance which sets the new requirements for multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and for child death review arrangements, including the implications for key strategic leaders and elected members across the council; and
- 1.2 To update the Cabinet Member on our 'early adopter' status, our recent developments to establish local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and our child death review arrangements.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Legislative Context

- 2.1 The Children and Social Work Act 2017 received Royal Assent in April 2017. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, published on 4 July 2018, clarifies that:
 - the three safeguarding partners (the local authority, clinical commissioning group and chief officer of police) will make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children including identifying and responding to their needs
 - the two child death review partners (the local authority and clinical commissioning group) will make arrangements to review all deaths of children normally resident in the local area, and if they consider it appropriate, for those not normally resident in the area
- 2.2 The three safeguarding partners should 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.
- 2.3 Safeguarding partners must set out how they will work together and with any relevant agencies. Relevant agencies are those organisations and agencies whose involvement the safeguarding partners consider may be required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children with regard to local need.
- 2.4 The purpose of these local arrangements is to support and enable local organisations and agencies to work together in a system where:

- children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted
 - partner organisations and agencies collaborate, share and co-own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children
 - organisations and agencies challenge appropriately and hold one another to account effectively
 - there is early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues and emerging threats
 - learning is promoted and embedded in a way that local services for children and families can become more effective and implement changes to practice
 - information is shared effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and families
- 2.5 In order to work together effectively, safeguarding partners with other local organisations and agencies should develop processes that:
- facilitate and drive action beyond usual institutional and agency constraints and boundaries
 - ensure the effective protection of children is founded on practitioners developing lasting and trusting relationships with children and their families.
- 2.6 To be effective, these arrangements should link to other strategic partnership work happening locally to support children and families for example the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Safeguarding Adults Board and Community Safety Partnership.
- 2.7 There is a requirement to publish new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and child death review arrangements by June 2019 and implement by 29 September 2019. However, North Lincolnshire has been chosen as an “early adopter” of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements by the Government and as such, we are required to work towards full implementation of the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements no later than October 2018. The local arrangements are in development and we are on track to publish our plan by the end October 2018. It is proposed that the new child death review arrangements are published in March and implemented from April 2019, which is ahead of the statutory requirements.

Leadership

- 2.8 Working Together sets out key roles for individual organisations and agencies to deliver effective arrangements for safeguarding. These arrangements will be strongly led and promoted, specifically by local area leaders, including the local authority Chief Executive and Lead Member for Children, Mayor, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Chief Officer CCG and through the commitment of chief officers in all relevant agencies. All three safeguarding partners have equal and joint responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements underpinned by equitable and proportionate funding including through any contributions from relevant agencies.
- 2.9 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. Locally, these lead representatives have delegated their functions to the Director of Children and Community Resilience, North Lincolnshire Council; the Director of Nursing and Quality, North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group and the Chief Superintendent, Humberside Police. These safeguarding partners have the responsibility and authority for ensuring full participation with the

new arrangements, though the lead representatives remain accountable for any actions or decisions taken on behalf of their respective agency.

- 2.10 The lead representatives and those they delegate authority to, are able to:
- Speak with authority for the safeguarding partner they represent
 - Take decisions on behalf of their organisation or agency and commit them on policy, resourcing and practice matters
 - Hold their own organisation or agency to account of how effectively they participate and implement the local arrangements.
- 2.11 The agreed ambition is to develop an 'equitable and robust partnership' that can respond to identified needs, provide cohesive agency responses and achieve early intervention and improved outcomes for children. Through the innovative partnership, we will be able to meet the requirements to identify, evaluate, plan, implement, review and assure effective multi-agency practice. It is agreed that this is to be an equitable partnership that delivers effective practice within the context of wider developing practice and identified priorities within the 'Place' of North Lincolnshire in the context of wider policy development.

Local arrangements

- 2.12 In September 2017, Ofsted judged Children's Services and the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) to be outstanding, one of only three to be judged as such in the country. As an outstanding authority for our children's services and LSCB, we are in a really strong position to further strengthen the already robust arrangements and lead the way as early adopters of the new arrangements, which will be an opportunity to bring together leaders and agencies responsible for helping and protecting children as we move to beyond outstanding. As part of the early adopter programme, we will also develop new innovative approaches to multi-agency safeguarding processes and produce clear learning that can be shared across other areas.
- 2.13 A key focus of the plan is the developing scrutiny and assurance framework. It is proposed that the Council's scrutiny and overview process is referenced in the local arrangements as one of the mechanisms for ensuring the Council, as one of the individual safeguarding partner organisations, has scrutiny and oversight of how the Council (and partner organisations) contribute to the arrangements and fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities. Strategic leaders and elected members will also have other opportunities to be involved in scrutiny and assurance processes through the assurance events and line of sight arrangements.
- 2.14 The new arrangements will also lead to the establishment of a new Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements Board, on which the three safeguarding partners will be represented, along with other core members as appropriate. The child death review arrangements and plan will report into this Board. Underpinning partnership and governance arrangements are being refreshed and developed as appropriate, in which there are opportunities for key strategic leaders and elected members, as system leaders, to shape and influence and to have oversight of arrangements through chairing and/or attending key boards and partnerships, for example the Children and Young People's Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 For the Cabinet Member to:

- note the publication of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, which includes new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and child death review arrangements and acknowledge the implications for key strategic leaders and elected members in implementing our local multi agency safeguarding arrangements.
- note our 'early adopters' status and the timeline for publishing and implementation of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements (end October 2018) and child death review arrangements (April 2019).

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 In September 2017, Ofsted judged Children's Services and the Local Safeguarding Children Board to be outstanding in terms of leadership by the local authority and a strong partnership with a shared commitment to working together to safeguard and protect children. As such, we are in an excellent position to lead the way as early adopters of the new arrangements and to develop new innovative approaches to multi-agency processes in helping and protecting children and sharing learning that can be shared across other areas. In addition, we are in a strong position from which to develop new child death review arrangements and implement these with the relevant partners.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 There are no specific resource implications associated with this report. As an early adopter, there is some seed funding available to contribute to the development and implementation of our new arrangements. Safeguarding partners are also working together to agree equitable and proportionate funding arrangements.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

6.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment will be completed as part of the development of the new arrangements; therefore, a further IIA is not applicable to the contents of this report.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

7.1 The views of children, young people and families are at the centre of the development and implementation of the new arrangements.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That the Cabinet Member notes the publication of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, which outlines the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and child death review arrangements and acknowledges the implications for key strategic leaders and elected members in implementing our local arrangements

8.2 That the Cabinet Member notes our 'early adopters' status and the timeline for publication and implementation of the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and also our child death review arrangements.

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018