

PROTOCOL TO SET OUT JOINT ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD (HWBB), CHILDREN YOUTH AND LEISURE COMMITTEE, AND KINGSTON LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (LSCB).

Purpose of the protocol

1. The purpose of this protocol is to set out the governance arrangements which will enable the Children, Youth and Leisure Committee, Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB), and the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) to assess whether they are fulfilling their statutory responsibilities to help (including early help), protect and care for children and young people. The aim is to identify jointly clear improvement priorities which will be incorporated into all the partners' delivery plans in order to improve outcomes for the most vulnerable children in Kingston.

Statutory framework

2. "Working Together to Safeguard Children" (Department for Education guidance published in 2015) provides the statutory guidance which sets out the legislative requirements and expectations on individual services to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; and provides a clear framework for Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) to monitor the effectiveness of local services. It does not outline in detail how the relationship between LSCBs, Health and WellBeing Boards and other key partnership bodies should be secured. This is therefore for local determination.
3. Given LSCBs scrutiny and challenge roles and the fact that they themselves are not commissioning or direct delivery bodies, there is a strong case for ensuring that the relationship between the LSCB and other key partnerships at local level is clearly articulated.
4. It is anticipated that, as the Local Safeguarding Adult Board (LSAB) also gains a statutory footing during 2015, this protocol will be amended to include a "Think Family" approach for every item presented to the HWBB and the implications for the LSAB, LSCB, Children, Youth and Leisure Committee and HWBB. However, in principle, this is an agreement, that any item presented at the HWBB will be considered against implications for children and adults. This principle should extend to consideration of commissioning and reorganization plans, scrutiny of local and national inspections and audits, planned sector changes, and any other pertinent matters.

Roles and Responsibilities

Local Safeguarding Children Board

5. The Local Safeguarding Children Board is a statutory, multi-agency, partnership which, as a body that is **fully independent** of the Council, is responsible for coordinating the work to safeguard children locally and monitor and challenge the effectiveness of local arrangements, coordinate and ensure shared priorities. The Board was established in 2006. The LSCB's role, functions governance and operations are set out in Chapter 3 of "Working Together to Safeguard Children" 2015. The functions of an LSCB are also set out in primary legislation and regulations and its core objectives are as follows:
to (a) 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.
6. Membership of the Board comprises representatives of Learning and Children's Social Services (Kingston Council), Housing Services, (Kingston Council), Adult Social Care Services (Kingston Council), Safer Kingston Partnership, South West London and St George's Mental Health Trust, NHS Kingston Clinical Commissioning Group, Kingston Hospital NHS Trust, Your Healthcare CIC, Metropolitan Police, Probation and CRC Services, Children and Family Court Advisory Services, Voluntary sector, Diocese of Southwark, Kingston College, local schools, legal services (Kingston Council) and lay members, who represent the local community.

Children, Youth and Leisure Committee

7. In Kingston, the council has delegated the following responsibilities to the Children, Youth and Leisure Committee: Looked After Children, Safeguarding, Children's Centres, Commissioning for Children's Services, Special Educational Needs, Pupil Referral Units, Youth Service, Achieving for Children, Education Partnerships, and Children's Public Health.
8. The Committee is chaired by the Lead Member for Children, Youth and Adult Learning, who also sits on the Health and Wellbeing Board (as does the Shadow Member for Children, Youth and Adult Learning). The Lead Member is also a "participating observer" of the LSCB. In practice, this means attending the LSCB meetings as an observer and receiving all written reports.

Health and Wellbeing Board

9. In Kingston, one of the key roles of the Health and Wellbeing Board is to "ensure that health, social care and health related services work in an integrated way, working with other appropriate agencies and departments and exploring further joint commissioning opportunities". Other key roles are: to improve health and wellbeing and narrow the gaps in health inequalities and to ensure that the needs of the population are assessed through the statutory Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and that a Health and Wellbeing Strategy is developed, implemented and monitored which reflects the priorities identified in the JSNA.
10. The Board can hold partner agencies to account for delivering improvements to the provision of health, adult and children's services, social care and housing services.

Working Together

11. The LSCB has working relationships with other strategic bodies in Kingston, including the Safer Kingston Partnership-leads on crime reduction and community, safety; the Kingston Clinical Commissioning Group - health decision making and the Strategic Kingston Partnership -overall strategic direction. The Chair of the LSCB is a member of the Children's Partnership Board which is convened by Achieving for Children to bring together and consult partners on the provision of children's services in Richmond and Kingston.
12. The Children, Youth and Leisure Committee, HWBB and the LSCB agree that strategic planning across partnerships will be coordinated to secure coherent delivery of business, to avoid duplication and gaps. Through this protocol, the LSCB wishes to ensure that there are agreed safeguarding children priorities for the HWBB and its partnership organisations and other strategic bodies in the Royal Borough that reflect and align with those of the LSCB, clearly set out in any plans, and that can be evidenced, for example in relation to the prevention and intervention regarding Child Sexual Exploitation.
13. "Working Together" 2015 requires the LSCB Chair to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Kingston to be submitted to the Chair of the Health and WellBeing Board and to the local Police and Crime Commissioner. In Kingston, this annual report is presented annually for information to the Children, Youth and Leisure Committee, usually by the Chair of the LSCB, reflecting the priority which Kingston Council places on children's safeguarding. The report will give an assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. This assessment will be clearly reflected in and will form part of the strategic plan produced by the Health and Wellbeing Board in respect of services for children and their parents and carers.
14. Through this process the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Children, Youth and Leisure Committee and the LSCB will jointly identify areas for improvement in respect of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and children and together will hold key partner agencies to account for the delivery of these improvements. This can take place in a number of ways:
 - The LSCB Board and the LSCB have members in common who can feed in both directions, trends, concerns and action plans;
 - The LSCB Chair can at any time bring to the Children, Youth and Leisure Committee or its members, and / or the HWBB or HWBB Members any matters which require attention, outside of LSCB opportunities to scrutinize the HWBB Strategy and JSNA;
15. The Health and Wellbeing Board will formally share with the LSCB, the JSNA and the strategic HWBB plan, the commissioning intentions and progress against these. The LSCB will use the learning and improvement framework to provide relevant feedback on any key aspect of the HWBB plans as set out above, in respect of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children (while recognising that the formal *local authority* responsibility for advising and deciding on child safeguarding lies with the Children Youth and Leisure Committee) .

16. The Independent Chair of the LSCB will attend the HWBB and the Children, Youth and Leisure Committee on an as and when basis, but at least twice a year; one of these occasions will be to present the LSCB annual report to the Children, Youth and Leisure Committee. This will be to consider HWBB plans, priorities and commissioning in relation to child safeguarding and early help on the basis that, in so far as these require formal approval by the local authority, this approval lies within the remit of the Children, Youth and Leisure Committee, against the background of LSCB intelligence and its safeguarding assessment for Kingston.
 17. Under the current appointment arrangements, the Chair of the Children, Youth and Leisure Committee, who is the lead member for Children (although not holding as an individual any formally delegated decision making powers, unlike in some authorities with Executive governance systems) is a member of the LSCB and HWBB and therefore provides a key link between the Children, Youth and Leisure Committee, the LSCB and the HWBB. (The Shadow Member is also a member of the HWBB, reflecting the vital importance of close political cooperation in this vital responsibility.)
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j “Think Family”. In November 2009 DCSF and its partners across Government published the first two sets of ‘Think Family’ guidance – for joint working between children’s and family services and, respectively, drug and alcohol treatment services and offender management services.