

**Memorandum of Understanding
Safeguarding Children and Adults in
Sefton**

Draft

Introduction

This memorandum of understanding makes explicit the key responsibilities and accountabilities relating to the way Sefton links the key strategic partnerships in Sefton relating to Safeguarding both Children and Adults, namely:

- Sefton Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)
- Health and Well-being Board (HWBB)
- Sefton Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB)
- Sefton Safer Communities Partnership (SSCP)
- Corporate Parenting Board

This document also references the key role of Sefton Council's Overview and Scrutiny committees.

The legislation and guidance that underpins the legal status, objectives and functions of these partnerships is as set out in Appendix 1.

Safeguarding – Local Safeguarding Children Board

- The key accountability and responsibility for safeguarding children up to their 18th birthday lies with the LSCB
- The LSCB will inform the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment via the LSCB Annual Report and continually when learning about practice, systems and local safeguarding children arrangements.
- The LSCB will scrutinise and challenge the Children and Young Peoples Plan and other commissioning plans and arrangements that impact upon safeguarding arrangements for children; eg. Community Safety Partnership plans and commissioning of adult services re. Domestic Abuse and Adult Mental Health
- The LSCB will consider and take account of the JSNA, learning from the LSAB and learning from the CSP when drafting its business plan and prioritising forthcoming activities.

Safeguarding – Local Safeguarding Adults Board

- The key accountability and responsibility for safeguarding adults 18 years and over lies with the LSAB
- The LSAB will consider and take account of relevant aspects of the LSCB Annual Report, JSNA and learning from the CSP, when planning priorities.
- The LSAB will furnish the CSP, LSCB and H&WB with a report annually, highlighting the effectiveness of the local safeguarding adults system, key learning gained by the LSAB and forthcoming priorities.

Sefton Health and Well-being Board - HWBB

- The H&WB is responsible for producing the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the publication of the Health and Wellbeing which will identify and set the commissioning priorities for our vulnerable population.
- The H&WB will consider and take account of the business plans and annual reports from both Safeguarding Boards.
- The H&WB will consider and take account of learning from local reviews, including Domestic Homicide Reviews and SCRs, when taking forward the priorities within the Health and

Wellbeing Strategy

- The H&WB will ensure that the LSAB, LSCB and CSP are facilitated to inform the JSNA and the priorities outlined within the Health and Wellbeing Strategy .
- The H&WB will challenge the implementation of priorities by the CSP, LSCB and LSAB and the decision making in relation to priorities being set by each partnership

Sefton Safer Communities Partnership (SSCP)

- This partnership leads on activities related to Domestic Abuse, Criminal Justice, Organised Crime Groups, Anti-Social Behaviour. Preventing a range of work to keep communities and individuals safe.
- The SSCP is responsible for producing an annual Partnership Plan and Strategic Intelligence Assessment.
- The key accountability and responsibility for tackling domestic and sexual abuse rests with this group, and takes account of the impact on Children living with Domestic Violence. This group also takes a lead on tackling Human Trafficking and Preventing Terrorism. The CSP has a distinct role within local activities to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation and via membership within the relevant sub-group, works closely with the LSCB.

Looked After Children – Accountabilities

Corporate Parenting Board (CPB)

- When a child becomes "looked after", the tasks of their parents become the corporate responsibility of the Council. This is known as "corporate parenting" and it is the collective responsibility of the council to prioritise the needs of children in care and seek for them the same outcomes any good parent would want for their own children.
- Three defining themes are associated with delivering good outcomes for Children in Care – excellent corporate parenting; high aspirations, stable relationships; and taking time to listen to the voice of the child.
- Sefton Council has a well established Corporate Parenting Board for our children and young people in care.

Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)

- The LSCB has an important role to play in ensuring that local services and arrangements for these children are effective in keeping them safe and maintains lead responsibility for safeguarding all children and young people including Sefton Looked after Children and those placed in Sefton by other Local Authorities.
- The LSCB will maintain oversight of the numbers of children coming into care and seek to understand the reasons why.
- The LSCB will monitor that children are taken into care when they need to be and without delay. The LSCB will seek to understand if children are coming into care because the range of services that provide support to families are not providing the right support early enough.

Formal links

In order to make formal links there are members of each Board that sit on the other Boards. These dual roles ensure that Children and Young People who are looked after by the council are at the forefront of decision making across all of these Boards. These members are:

The Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People chairs the Corporate Parenting Board and is a member of the Health and Wellbeing Board and represents his own statutory roles as Elected Member for Children and as a Participating Observer of the LSCB. Additionally the Director of Children's Services is the Director of Adults Services and as such is a member of the H&WB, LSCB and LSAB. The LSCB Chair will attend the H&WB to present the LSCB Annual Report.

In Sefton the Chair of the LSAB is also the Chair of the LSCB. The Director of Public Health is also a link to the LSAB and H&WB. Probation and Police are represented across the LSCB, CSP and LSAB.

As part of Sefton's Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy an Executive Domestic Violence Group is in place, comprising representatives from the SSCP, LSCB and LSAB

Additional responsibilities for safeguarding vulnerable people in Sefton

- The two Safeguarding Boards are independent of each other but need to ensure that they take a whole family approach to setting their priorities and reporting performance.
- The Chair of the LSCB will attend the Sefton Overview and Scrutiny Committee on request. The role of the Committee is to provide scrutiny and challenge to the work of the Council, including how it is undertaking its functions as a key LSCB member agency.
- The Local Authority Chief Executive is responsible for the appointment and performance of the Independent Chair of the LSCB as laid out in Working Together 2015; and agrees the appointment of chair of the LSAB.
- Each Chair will meet with the Chief Executive and the respective Corporate Director, and lead member on a quarterly basis.
- There is a requirement for LSCBs to work together particularly in relation to children living in Sefton known to other Local Authorities as well as Sefton children living elsewhere.

Appendix 1

STATUTORY BASIS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARDS

Health and Wellbeing Board (H&WB)

H&WB is a statutory body established by S.194 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

The Board's functions are set out in S.195 (duty to encourage integrated working) and S.196 (duty to undertake a joint strategic needs assessment of health and social care needs and prepare a joint health and wellbeing strategy)

The legislation is underpinned by Department of Health statutory guidance issued in March 2013 on preparation of joint strategic needs assessments and joint health and wellbeing strategies

The H&WB is chaired by the Council Lead Member and Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing and has agency representation from health, Health Watch, housing, district Councils, children's services, voluntary sector, adult social care, providers.

The HWBB will discharge Children's Trust Arrangements

Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)

The LSCB is a statutory body established by Section 13 of the Children Act 2004. Section 14 sets out the objectives of the Board which are to

- Co-ordinate 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
- To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes

Regulation 5 the Local Safeguarding Children Board Regulations 2006 sets out the functions of the Board.

Working Together 2015 is the relevant statutory guidance.

The LSCB has an independent Chair.

Local Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB)

The LSAB's role is to ensure that:

- there are appropriate procedures in place in all agencies and between partners in respect of adult safeguarding
- training is available to all staff working with adults across all sectors and a multi-agency basis
- the key strategic priorities for safeguarding adults at risk are agreed and formed the basis of our ongoing work
- where necessary, serious case reviews and learning reviews will be

convened to identify key learning

Upon enactment of the Care Bill the objectives of the LSAB are to help and protect vulnerable adults by coordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of what each of its members does.

The LSAB has an independent Chair.

Sefton Safer Communities Partnership (SSCP)

The role of this partnership is to:

- Provide strategic leadership in all areas of community safety.
- Improve outcomes in crime prevention, reduction and detection through local partnerships and through joint commissioning where possible.
- Support and enhance services offered to victims of crime and ensure that effective partnerships are maintained and developed.
- Increase offender accountability within the criminal justice system and the community.
- Communicate and raise awareness of the services available; the training available and the successes we have achieved.
- Engage with statutory and voluntary partners to achieve buy in and support for existing services.
- Increase confidence in the criminal justice system.

The Chair of the partnership is the Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment. There is agency representation from the Local Authority, Police, Probation, HM Courts, Voluntary Sector, Crown Prosecution Service and Clinical Commissioning Group.

