

# Multi-agency Safeguarding Arrangements for Children and Adults at Risk

Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 13 March 2019

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Wards:	All
Locality Affected:	All
Parishes Affected:	All

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## 1. Purpose and Reasons

1.1 This report introduces the Multi-agency Safeguarding Arrangements for Children and Adults at Risk that the Chief Constable, the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Accountable Officer and the Local Authority Chief Executive are proposing in response to the legal requirements set out in the Care Act 2014, the Children & Social Work Act 2017 and the statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.

- The Care Act 2014 requires that local authorities work with their partners to maintain an Adult Safeguarding Board.
- The Children and Social Work Act 2017 removes the requirement for local authority areas to have Local Safeguarding Children Boards and strengthens the requirements on the 3 statutory partners (the local authority, police and CCG) to determine the most appropriate multi-agency arrangements for protecting and safeguarding children in their area.
- Working Together 2018 is the statutory guidance that sets out what the safeguarding partners must do to meet their safeguarding children responsibilities.

As part of the review of their multi-agency safeguarding responsibilities the partners have considered the benefits of bring together the arrangements for children and adults at risk under a Swindon Safeguarding Partnership. Swindon's safeguarding partners intend to coordinate their safeguarding services and work together with relevant organisations and agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults at risk with regard to local need.

1.2 Whilst there is an ongoing and unchanged requirement under the Care Act for a Swindon Local Safeguarding Adult Board, the new arrangements for children must be in place in line with the publishing and implementation timescales set out in Working Together 2018 (Transitional Arrangements). The key dates are as follows:

Safeguarding partners have up to 12 months, from 29 June 2018, to agree their local arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area. They must have published their arrangements by 29 June 2019, but may do so at any time before the end of that period.

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Following publication of their arrangements, safeguarding partners have up to three months from the date of publication to implement the arrangements. The implementation date should be made clear in the published arrangements. All new local arrangements must have been implemented by 29 September 2019.

Once the arrangements have been published and implemented, the Swindon Local Safeguarding Children Board will cease to exist.

## 2. Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is invited to:

- 2.1 endorse the proposed multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and to recommend that Swindon Borough Council, the Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group and Wiltshire police approve the formation of the Swindon Safeguarding Partnership set out in this report and at appendix 1.
- 2.2 Note that as a result of the legislation, and upon commencement of the new arrangements, the Swindon Local Safeguarding Children Board will cease to exist.

## 3. Detail

- 3.1 The document at Appendix 1 – *Multi-agency Safeguarding Arrangements for Children & Adults at Risk* - sets out in detail how the safeguarding partners in Swindon intend to coordinate their safeguarding services and how they will work together with relevant organisations and agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults at risk with regard to local need.
- 3.2 As defined in the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work 2017) and the Care Act 2014, the lead representatives of the safeguarding partners are:
  - The Chief Executive of the local authority
  - The Accountable Officer for the clinical commissioning group for an area, any part of which falls within the local authority area
  - The chief officer of police for an area, any part of which falls within the local authority area.

In Swindon, the lead representatives have delegated their responsibilities for the safeguarding arrangements to:

- Swindon Borough Council – David Haley, Corporate Director Childrens Services
- Swindon Borough Council – Sue Wald, Corporate Director Adult Social Services and Health

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- Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group – Gill May, Director of Nursing and Transformation
  - Wiltshire Police – Deborah Smith, Detective Superintendent Head of Public Protection

The three safeguarding partners will each seek approval for the new arrangements through their respective governance structure.

Although the lead representatives have delegated their responsibilities to those named above they remain accountable for any action or decisions taken on behalf of their respective agency. Decisions involving policy, resourcing and commissioning will include full participation by Cabinet Members and the PCC.

- 3.3 The safeguarding partners in Swindon are committed to a partnership model that focuses on continuous learning and improvement with a clear line of sight on frontline safeguarding practice. The partners will promote a shared commitment to work together to improve outcomes for children and adults at risk.

The Swindon Safeguarding Partnership will support, enable and challenge local organisations and agencies to work together in a system where:

- The views, needs and experiences of children and adults at risk and those that care for them are central to safeguarding arrangements and processes
- Children and adults at risk are safeguarded and their welfare promoted
- Partners collaborate and own the shared responsibility for achieving improved outcomes for children and adults at risk.
- 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 adults can become more reflective and implement changes to practice
- Information is shared effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and adults.

The Swindon Safeguarding Partnership believes that effective safeguarding is founded on practitioners developing lasting and trusting relationships with the children and adults they work with as well as each other. The Partnership will look beyond organisational constraints and boundaries to build a culture which improve outcomes for all.

- 3.4 In determining their arrangements the safeguarding partners had close regard to the following list of issues that must be included in the published arrangements if

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they are to be considered compliant with Working together 2018. Appendix 1 therefore sets out:

- How the safeguarding partners will work together to identify and respond to the needs of children in the areas;
- Arrangements for commissioning and publishing local child safeguarding practice reviews;
- How the effectiveness of the arrangements will be scrutinised by an independent person, including how the arrangements will be reviewed and how any recommendations will be taken forward.
- Who the three local safeguarding partners are
- The geographical boundaries covered by the safeguarding arrangements;
- Which relevant agencies the safeguarding partners will work with, why they have been chosen and how they will work together;
- How the arrangements will include the voice of children and families;
- How the arrangements will be funded
- How all early years settings, schools (including independent schools, academies and free schools) and other educational establishments will be included in the safeguarding arrangements;
- How the safeguarding partners will use data and intelligence to assess the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families;
- How inter-agency training will be commissioned, delivered and monitored for impact, and how multi-agency audits will be undertaken;
- How the learning from child safeguarding practice reviews will be embedded across local organisations and agencies;
- How the threshold document setting out local criteria for action aligns with the arrangements;
- Where the safeguarding partners' annual report will be published.

## 4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 None. As set out above, there is a legal requirement that the statutory partners have multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in place.

## 5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

### Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 The statutory safeguarding partners are required to resource the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements on an equitable and proportionate basis. The contributions, both financial and in-kind, will be set out in a Memorandum of Understanding that will be signed by the three partners.

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## Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 There are no direct legal or human rights implications arising from this report

## All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 Staffing: It is proposed that there be a restructuring of the business support arrangements. Currently there are separate business support teams for the LSAB and the LSCB. It is proposed that there be just one team in future and the formal process for this restructuring commenced on February 27<sup>th</sup> 2019.

## Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.4 A DIA has not been completed in relation to this report.

## **6. Consultees**

- 6.1 In drawing up their proposals, the Safeguarding Partners have consulted with members of the current Local Safeguarding Children Board and the Local Safeguarding Adult Board.
- 6.2 The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and the Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

## **7. Background Papers**

- 7.1 Link to [Care Act 2014](#)
- 7.2 Link to [Working Together 2018 \(Guidance and Transitional Arrangements\)](#)

## **8. Appendices**

- 8.1 Appendix 1: Swindon Safeguarding Partnership – Multi-agency Safeguarding Arrangements for Children and Adults at Risk.