



JOINT MANAGEMENT BOARD

| | |
|--|--|
| ITEM 7 | DATE: 12TH JUNE 2018 |
| LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ARRANGEMENTS | |
| REPORT BY: Detective Chief Superintendent Clark | |

Executive Summary

A form of this report has been presented to the three Lancashire Councils, the executive bodies of the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and the Police. It sets out the recommended option for the replacement of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) to comply with the new area children's safeguarding arrangements. The broad principles and recommendations in the report have been accepted across the partnership.

The principle changes that this transition will bring to the police, is that the Constabulary will be one of 3 statutory and equal partners responsible for all of the safeguarding agenda for children throughout Lancashire. This may not seem much of a change from the current principles; however as one of the 3 agencies with the said responsibility the Chief Constable along with his equitable colleagues in the Local Authority and the CCGs are equally responsible for ensuring compliance to statute concerning all aspects of the safety and wellbeing of children throughout Lancashire.

The recommended option is to change the LSCB structure to one strategic board and three geographic tactical boards to focus on operational service delivery. Basic Command Unit (BCU) subgroups will be developed to ensure there will be local connectivity and capacity. Local boards will be arranged alongside the Constabulary's place-based footprint for consistency. The idea in principle is that the format of the 3 Local Safeguarding Adults Boards (LSABs) will follow this strategic arrangement in the fullness of time. The LSABs are not under a statutory compulsion to change their working practices though there is unilateral agreement in principle so to do.

Recommendation

The Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable are asked to note the change of Structure to the LCSB.

| | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Signature Police and Crime Commissioner Date | Signature Chief Constable Date |
|--|--------------------------------------|

PART I/II

1. Background and Advice

- a) Under the Children Act 2004, as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017, Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) will be replaced. Under the new legislation, the three agencies are identified as key safeguarding partners (Local Authorities, Chief Officers of Police and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and must make arrangements to work together with relevant agencies (as they consider appropriate) to safeguard and protect the welfare of children in the area.
- b) Also under the new guidance, two agencies (Local Authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups) are identified as the child death review partners and must set up child death review arrangements. These will remain the Child Death Overview Panels but with no formal link to the new safeguarding arrangements.
- c) The current Serious Case Review arrangements will be replaced by Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, which may be conducted at local or national level. The National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel was established on 29 June 2018 and transitional guidance has been published setting out the responsibility of safeguarding partners when a serious incident occurs from that date onwards. This arrangement will remain until such time as the new safeguarding arrangements are implemented locally.
- d) Working Together to Safeguard Children (July 2018), sets out the statutory guidance to which all new safeguarding arrangements must adhere. This guidance sets out specific detail of the functions to be carried out by new arrangements. Chief Officers/Executives of the new statutory partners (or their nominees) have reviewed these proposals and make the proposal outlined below to establish effective new arrangements and ensure specific compliance with the responsibilities set out in these guidance documents.
- e) Under the guidance it is permissible for the new arrangements to cover more than one local authority area. This report sets out proposals for the three Local Safeguarding Children Boards in Blackpool, Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire to be replaced by new arrangements that will cover all areas. It is proposed that the new arrangements are called the Blackpool, Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire Safeguarding Children Strategic Partnership Board.
- f) Alongside the approval of the framework for the new arrangements by Blackpool, Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire Councils full detailed arrangements for this partnership must also be endorsed by the governance boards of the CCGs, and by the police, as set out earlier in this report. Following agreement, arrangements for internal partnership governance and the business support functions will be completed by the Chief Officers of each of the named safeguarding partners as required.
- g) To inform these proposals, representatives from each council and representatives from other safeguarding partners have been in discussions by way of a working group. Other partners have been kept informed that discussions were on-going

but they do not have a decision-making role in how the arrangements are established.

h) The working group has considered proposals set out in this paper for the new arrangements based on:

- The parameters set out by the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018;
- Analysis of the effectiveness of outstanding Local Safeguarding Children Board functions reviewed by Ofsted;
- Analysis of published reports of Multi-Agency Joint Targeted Area Inspections; and
- Concerns from partner agencies about the current level of duplication and risk of inconsistent safeguarding responses present in the current LSCB arrangements.

Geographical Area

- i) The Blackpool, Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire Safeguarding Children Strategic Partnership Board will co-ordinate safeguarding services and act as a strategic leadership group across the unitary authorities and county. Activity by the partnership will include the identification of the needs of children and young people living in diverse urban and rural areas and ensuring that effective action is taken to safeguard them.
- j) Driving forward effective local arrangements requires attention to the detail of what works and where improvement is needed. In order to achieve this level of detail across the diverse areas of need, the new arrangements will be supported by joint thematic sub groups and will include reporting and scrutiny of some key functions in particular geographical areas, or in themes, for example similar ward characteristics on deprivation.
- k) The new arrangements will be subject of review and this will include analysis of future opportunities to build on existing practice which brings together a number of sub-groups where the effectiveness of the co-ordination and scrutiny of arrangements across the three geographical council areas can be sustained and improved.

Conclusion

- I. There is a desire to aim to improve the effectiveness of services provided to children in Lancashire through a joint strategic approach, a single business unit to drive activity and 3 focussed and effective geographic groups as described above which would be coterminous with the current police divisions. Once the design of the strategic partnership has been agreed by the management boards of all strategic partners, work will be developed to agree the accountability, scrutiny and remit of the local geographic groups.

- m. Dates for completion of this work- generic plans to the DFE by 29th June 2019 for implementation by 1st September 2019. In all likelihood as there are HR implications for staff currently employed in the LSCB Business units involved some of this work will be subject to transition arrangements which are yet to be agreed.
- n. This is a statutory responsibility with which the Constabulary has to comply. However, as the current way of working across all 3 LSCBs is costly and exceptionally time consuming in terms of meeting times and sub groups, these changes are welcome.

2. Link to Police and Crime Plan

These proposals directly link into the *Supporting Vulnerable People and Victims* section of the Police and Crime plan.

3. Consultation

A form of this report has been presented to the three Lancashire Councils, the executive bodies of the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and the Police.

4. Implications:

Risk

The ongoing work will mitigate any risks. The working group chaired by DCS Clarke with scrutiny from Chief Officers and Chief Execs seeks to develop a set of strategic principles and intrusive and responsive geographical groups which focus on the areas of greatest risk to children across the county.

4.1 legal considerations

The new procedures will comply with the statutory requirements of all relevant legislation.

4.2 Financial considerations

The exact budgetary costs are unclear at this stage. However, there is a commitment from all partners to make these new arrangements more focussed and cost effective. The budget for 2019/20 will remain unchanged. A further paper will be submitted once the local arrangements have been agreed.

4.3 Equality considerations

Nil

5. Background Papers

Nil

| Officer declaration | Date |
|---|-------------|
| LEGAL IMPLICATIONS – As above | |
| FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS – As above | |
| EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS – As above | |
| CONSULTATION – As above | |
| <p>Director to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (Monitoring Officer)</p> <p>I have been informed about the proposal and confirm that financial, legal and equalities advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire.</p> <p>Signature.....Date.....</p> | |