

# Agenda Item 89.

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Protocol Agreement between the Wokingham Safeguarding Children Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	<b>Health and Wellbeing Board on 9 April 2015</b>
<b>WARD</b>	<b>None Specific</b>
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	<b>Judith Ramsden, Director of Children's Services</b>

## **OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY**

The Protocol Agreement between the Wokingham Safeguarding Children Board and Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) specifies the interface between the Boards. It sets out the roles and responsibilities and expectations on the Boards, their Chairs and members to ensure safeguarding effectiveness and demonstrate its effectiveness in meeting its statutory responsibilities for safeguarding under section 13(3) Children Act 2004.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Health & Wellbeing Board agrees the revised Wokingham Safeguarding Children Board and Health & Wellbeing Board Protocol.

## **SUMMARY OF REPORT**

The Wokingham Safeguarding Children Board & HWBB Protocol sets out the relationship between WSCB and the HWBB specifying the roles and interfaces between the boards, their membership, governance and the respective roles of their Chairs.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

*The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.*

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	N/A	N/A	N/A

### Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

N/A

### Cross-Council Implications

N/A

### Reasons for considering the report in Part 2

N/A

### List of Background Papers

N/A

## **Protocol Agreement between Wokingham Safeguarding Children Board and Health and Well-Being Board**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1. The Local Safeguarding Children Board's role is to promote the safeguarding of children in the local area including providing critical challenge to both individual organisations and other partnerships. The Health and Well Being Board brings together key leaders from the health and care system to improve the health and wellbeing of the local population and reduce health inequalities.

1.2. This document sets out the expectations of the relationship and working arrangements between Wokingham Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) and the Health and Well-being Board (HWBB). It covers their respective roles and functions, membership of the two boards and arrangements to secure effective co-ordination and coherence between the two Boards.

1.3. The Chairs of the HWBB and the WSCB have formally agreed to the arrangements set out in this document, which will be reviewed annually.

### **2. RELATIONSHIP**

2.1. The Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and the Health & Well Being Board have important but distinct roles in keeping children safe. The WSCB is responsible for scrutinising and challenging partner organisations in their work to keep children safe and includes the duty to promote co-operation to improve the wellbeing of children in the local area and to ensure the effectiveness of the arrangements made by wider partnership and individual agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

2.2. Both the HWBB and the WSCB will work together through the Chairs to ensure that action taken by one body does not duplicate the work of the other, and to ensure that policies, procedures, protocols and practice are co-ordinated.

### **3. RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **3.1. Health & Well-Being Board**

3.1.1. Health and Well-Being Boards were established by the Health and Social Care Act 2012. They are intended to be a forum where key leaders from the health and care system work together to improve the health and wellbeing of their local population and reduce health inequalities. Its focus is on securing the best possible health outcomes for all local people including children and young people.

3.1.2. Board members are expected to collaborate to understand their local community's needs, agree priorities and encourage commissioners to work in a more joined up way. As a result, patients and the public should experience more joined-up services.

3.1.3. The Board has a duty to produce a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy based on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and taking into account the Public Health Outcomes Framework. Together, these will provide the overall framework for identifying local needs and the actions to improve local health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities throughout the life course. The Board will drive performance forward in each of its chosen priority areas.

## **3.2. Local Safeguarding Children Board**

3.2.1. The WSCB is a statutory partnership - Section 13 of the Children Act (2004) requires each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) for their area and specifies the organisations and individuals (other than the local authority) that should be represented on LSCBs.

3.2.2. The statutory guidance Working Together To Safeguard Children (2013) sets out the role and functions of LSCBs in accordance with statutory legislation. Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006 sets out that the functions of the LSCB - Developing multi agency policies and procedures for child protection, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority, including policies and procedures in relation to:

- The action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety and welfare, including thresholds for intervention;
- Training of persons who work with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children.
- Recruitment and supervision of persons working with children;
- The safety and welfare of children who are privately fostered
- Investigation of allegations concerning persons working with children;
- Cooperation with neighbouring children's services and their board partners;

## **3.3. Governance and Accountability**

3.3.1. In order to provide effective scrutiny, the WSCB is independent and should not be subordinate to, nor subsumed within, other local structures. Legislation requires the WSCB to have an Independent Chair so that it can exercise its local challenge function effectively. The local authority Chief Executive and, where appropriate, the Lead Member will hold the Chair to account for the effective working of the WSCB.

3.3.2. The individual members of the WSCB have a duty as members to contribute to the effective work of the WSCB; including making the WSCB's assessment of performance as objective as possible, and in recommending or deciding on the necessary steps to resolve any problems. This should take precedence, if necessary, over their role as a representative of their organisation.

3.3.3. LSCBs do not commission or deliver direct frontline services though they may provide training. While LSCBs do not have the power to direct other organisations they do have a role in making clear where improvement is needed. Each Board partner retains their own existing line of accountability for safeguarding.

#### **4. CHAIRS' RELATIONSHIP**

4.1. The WSCB is required by legislation to have an Independent Chair whereas the Chair of the Health & Well Being Board is an elected local authority Member. In practice, the two Chairs will work co-operatively to ensure the delivery of improved health and well-being outcomes for children and their safeguarding.

4.2. The Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council should be satisfied that local partnership arrangements are improving outcomes for children and supporting safeguarding.

#### **5. COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

5.1. Safeguarding is everyone's business. As such, all key strategic plans whether they are formulated by individuals, or by partnership forums, should include safeguarding as a cross-cutting theme. The H&WBB has a role in informing the strategic connections of safeguarding across the partnership and agreed priorities, just as the WSCB has a contribution to make to wellbeing. The H&WBB also has a role in coordinating commissioning opportunities and evaluating outcomes, of which safeguarding, prevention and protection will be part.

5.2. Specifically, the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment should inform the formulation of the Health and Well-Being Strategy and the WSCB's Business Plan. The development of both should inform each other in a reciprocal nature and the Boards should regularly update each other on progress made, in a context of mutual scrutiny and challenge.

5.3. In order to secure the opportunities set out above, each year the Independent Chair of the WSCB will present an annual report outlining performance against the Business Plan objectives in the previous financial year. In return, the HWBB will present to the WSCB the review of the Health and Well-Being Strategy, the refreshed JSNA and the proposed priorities and objectives for the refreshed Health & Well-Being Strategy.

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