

## Report of Mark Peel, Independent Chair Leeds Safeguarding Children Board

### Report to Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

**Date: 15 March 2018**

### Subject: Leeds Safeguarding Children Board Transitional Arrangements

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

#### 1.0 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To update the Scrutiny Board on the developments of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in Leeds following the Wood Report and changes to the Children and Social Work Act 2017.
- 1.2 Leeds Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is a statutory body established under the Children Act 2004 and 'Working Together to Safeguard Children (2010)'. It is independently chaired and consists of senior representatives of all the principle stakeholders working together to safeguard children and young people in the City.  
  
Its statutory objectives are to:
  - Co-ordinate local work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
  - To ensure the effectiveness of that work
- 1.3 Leeds has a strong history of multi-agency partnerships which resulted in a 'Good' OfSTED rating of both the Local Authority and the LSCB in 2015. The LSCB along with the strong political support it receives, continues to be a driving force in developing and maintaining safeguarding partnerships, challenging the safeguarding system and ensuring that the safety and welfare of children and young people remains a priority. Leeds LSCB has also been recognised nationally for its innovative work to safeguard children and promote their welfare.
- 1.4 In 2016 Alan Wood undertook review into the role that LSCBs play in protecting and safeguarding children. In his [report](#) Alan Wood argues that strong, effective multi-agency arrangements are ones that are responsive to local circumstances and fully engage the right people.

He noted that the current system needs to change in favour of a new model that will ensure collective accountability across the system rather than just Children's Services.

- 1.5 Following on from the recommendations of the Wood Report 2016, the change in legislation to the [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#) and subsequently the upcoming revision of Working Together to Safeguard Children (WTSC), statutory requirement to have a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) will come to a conclusion on the 1st April 2018.
- 1.6 New safeguarding arrangements will need to be put in place under the new revision of WTSC 2018 by September 2019. Under WTSC 2018, local authority areas will need to establish Safeguarding Children Partnerships which will draw together the three key agencies who collectively, will hold new statutory responsibilities for safeguarding children and young people; namely the Local Authority (through Children and Families), Health (through the local CCG) and Police. Whilst the Safeguarding Children Partnership will include and relate to all agencies with responsibilities and interests in the safeguarding of children and young people, including for example, Education and those in the Third Sector, the three agencies with statutory responsibilities will together share particular duties with respect to setting the strategic direction for safeguarding, and for the overall governance of the partnership.
- 1.7 Following consultations undertaken in 2017 through the Leeds LSCB, agreement has been reached on the following matters which, in sum, establish a Safeguarding Children Partnership and lay out the way the partnership will work during its transitional year.

## **2.0 Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership**

- 2.1 Local safeguarding arrangements have already been agreed for April 2018-2019. These arrangements will permit a transitional period to assess and adapt to the impact of these new safeguarding arrangements, whilst also progressing a developmental 'conversation' between the key agencies with respect to a more 'equitable and proportionate' resourcing formula suggested in the new WTSC 2018 or the geographical boundary of the LSCP given new permissions in this regard.
- 2.2 An intermediary body acting on behalf of the LSCP will be key to maintaining and promoting a shared safeguarding vision and agenda for Leeds and the present LSCB Business Unit is deemed to be ideally placed to take on this role. Arrangements for the supervision of the Board Manager(s), presently undertaken by Children and Families will in future be directly provided by the Independent Chair.
- 2.3 The staff of the LSCP Business Unit will continue to be 'nested' within an agency with regard to employment, leave, pension and so forth, and for the sake of continuity and simplicity it remains appropriate for that to be LCC.
- 2.4 New arrangements of responding to serious child safeguarding concerns notification to the Child Safeguarding National Review Panel and commissioning of Local Reviews require further discussion and agreement by the LSCP Executive and Board as a priority subsequent to these new arrangements coming into effect.

Pending this, present arrangements will continue with the LSCP Business Unit administering the process through to the Learning and Local Review Sub-Committee to production and any publication of reviews undertaken.

- 2.5 The LSCP Business Unit will have responsibility for taking forward the safeguarding priorities set by the Board, through the work of Sub-Committees and other mechanisms as appropriate.
- 2.6 Arrangements with regard to the Child Death Overview Panel will remain with the LSCP Business Unit unless and until alternative arrangements are notified to the Board. Arrangements for reviewing child deaths over the transitional period are presently being discussed.

### **3.0 Recommendations**

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) is recommended to:
- Support the new arrangements over the 2018/19 period
  - Request for the LSCP to provide further updates on progress during 2018/19

## **4 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

- [Alan Wood Review of Local Safeguarding Boards May 2016](#)
- <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/16/contents/enacted>

---

<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.