



PROTOCOL SETTING OUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE MEDWAY HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD (HWB), THE MEDWAY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (MSCB), KENT AND MEDWAY SAFEGUARDING ADULT BOARD AND MEDWAY CHILDREN'S ACTION NETWORK

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This Protocol is a framework for effective joint-working between the Medway Health and Wellbeing Board, the Medway Safeguarding Children Board, Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adult Board, and the Medway Children's Action Network (CAN).

2. Background Information

- 2.1 Medway Council works in partnership with the NHS, other public sector providers and the voluntary and community sector to improve the experience of service users (both adults and children) and their carers. Recent health and social care reforms have introduced new structures and processes. It is essential that all partners and the public understand the complementary roles and responsibilities of the respective boards and partnerships.
- 2.2 This protocol sets out:
- The distinct roles and responsibilities of the Boards,
 - The inter-relationships between the Boards in terms of safeguarding and wellbeing, and
 - The means by which we will secure effective co-ordination and coherence between the Boards.
- 2.3 Safeguarding is everyone's business. As such, all key strategic plans whether they are formulated by individual agencies or by partnership forums should include safeguarding as a cross-cutting theme. This will ensure existing strategies and service delivery - as well as emerging plans for change and improvement - must take account of the impact on safeguarding arrangements across the authority. It is therefore essential that there is a high level of consultation with agency leads on safeguarding or the relevant safeguarding board.

3. Health and Wellbeing Board

- 3.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is a committee of Medway Council established under section 194 Health and Social Care Act 2012. It brings together decision makers from local government, the NHS and representatives of the people of Medway via Healthwatch, to improve health and wellbeing across the area.
- 3.2 The Health and Wellbeing Board's main functions are set out in Chapter 3 Part 2 of the Council's Constitution. The Board seeks to:-

- Assess the needs of the local population through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- Produce a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) to inform the commissioning of health, care and public health
- Provide greater integration across health and social care
- Lead on local health improvement and prevention activity
- Support the local voice and the exercise of patient choice.

4. Medway Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB)

- 4.1 The MSCB is a statutory body established pursuant to section 13 Children Act 2004. It has a clear scrutiny function and the authority to hold any member partner to account for its safeguarding activities. Its members comprise senior representatives from Medway Council, Medway health bodies, Kent Police, Medway schools, community and voluntary sector, Kent Probation, HMYOI Cookham Wood, Medway Secure Training Centre.
- 4.2 The key objectives of the MSCB as set out in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013' are:
- To co-ordinate local work to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children;
 - To ensure the effectiveness of that work.
- 4.3 A key objective in undertaking these roles is to enable children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully. A 'good' safeguarding board is cited as one that:
- Coordinates the activity of statutory partners and monitors the effectiveness of local arrangements;
 - Coordinates multi-agency training in the protection and care of children which is effective and evaluated regularly to measure impact; and
 - Provides robust and rigorous evaluation and analysis of local performance to identify areas for improvement and influences the planning and delivery of high-quality services.

5. Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board

- 5.1 Safeguarding Adults Boards (SAB) will become a statutory requirement for local authorities when section 43 of the Care Act 2014 is brought into force. . The objective of an SAB is to help and protect adults in its area where they have needs for care and support and are experiencing, or are at risk of, abuse or neglect, and are unable to protect themselves because of their needs.
- 5.2 The way in which an SAB must seek to achieve its objective is by co-ordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of what each of its members does.

6. Medway Children's Action Network

6.1 Medway CAN is a non statutory partnership and an action group of key multi-agency leaders to develop and implement improvements to services for children. It aims to realise the vision for Medway that all services are ambitious for all children and ensure they have the best start in life. Ensuring our children are confident individuals, successful learners, effective contributors and good citizens.

6.2 Medway CAN:

- Champions the voice of the child in Medway
- Promotes engagement of children, young people and their families
- Informs and influences the commissioning intentions of the Council and its partners in relation to Early Help
- Promotes the engagement of the VCS and statutory partners in improving outcomes. It's key focus is on the local early help offer

6.3 Medway CAN is responsible for developing an annual commissioning plan, which is informed by the JSNA, the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, and the MSCB Business Plan

7. Formal interfaces

7.1 The interface between the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Safeguarding Boards and Medway CAN at key points include:

- The needs analyses that drive the formulation of the JHWS and the Safeguarding Boards' Business Plans. This needs to be reciprocal in nature ensuring that both Safeguarding Boards' needs analyses are fed into the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Joint Commissioning Plan, and that the outcomes of the JSNA are fed back into Safeguarding Boards' and Medway CAN's planning;
- Ensuring each Board/partnership is regularly updated on progress made in the implementation of the JHWS and the individual Board Business Plans in a context of mutual scrutiny and challenge
- Annually reporting evaluations of performance on Plans to provide the opportunity for reciprocal scrutiny and challenge and to enable Boards to feed any improvement and development needs into the planning process for future years' strategies and plans.

7.2 The opportunities presented by a formal working relationship between the HWB, the Safeguarding Boards and Medway CAN are summarised as follows:

- Securing an integrated approach to the JSNA, ensuring comprehensive safeguarding data analysis in the JSNA, in line with statutory guidance.
- Aligning the work of the respective Safeguarding Boards' Business Plans with the JHWS and related priority setting.

- Ensuring safeguarding is “everyone’s business”, reflected in the public health agenda and related determinant of health policies and strategies.
- Evaluating the impact of the JHWS on safeguarding outcomes, and of safeguarding on wider determinants of health outcomes.
- Cross Board scrutiny and challenge and “holding to account”: the HWB for embedding safeguarding, and the Safeguarding Boards for overall performance and contribution to the JHWS.
- Identifying a coordinated approach to performance management.
- Ensuring Safeguarding risks are managed through transformational change and commissioning.

8. Arrangements to secure co-ordination between the Boards.

- 8.1 In order to secure the opportunities identified above it is proposed that the following arrangements are in place to ensure effective co-ordination and coherence in the work of the four Boards/Partnerships.
- 8.2 Between September and November each year the Independent Chairs of the two Safeguarding Boards will present to the HWB their Annual Reports outlining performance against Business Plan objectives in the previous financial year. This would provide the opportunity for the HWB to scrutinise and challenge the performance of the Boards, to draw across data to be included in the JSNA and to reflect on key issues that may need to be incorporated in the refresh of the JHWS.
- 8.3 Between October and February the HWB to present to the Safeguarding Boards the review of the JHWS, the refreshed JSNA and the proposed priorities and objectives for the refreshed JHWS to enable the Safeguarding Boards to scrutinise and challenge performance of the HWB and to ensure that their refreshed Business Plans appropriately reflect relevant priorities set in the refreshed JHWS and related commissioning strategies.
- 8.4 In April/May the Boards will share their refreshed Plans for the coming financial year to ensure co-ordination and coherence.

Signed: Chair of Medway Safeguarding Children Board: _____

Date: _____

Signed: Chair of Medway Adult Safeguarding Board: _____

Date: _____

Signed: Chair of Medway Health and Wellbeing Board: _____

Date: _____

Signed: Chair of Medway Children’s Action Network _____

Date: _____