

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

21 OCTOBER 2014

REVISED PROTOCOL SETTING OUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN KEY STRATEGIC BOARDS IN MEDWAY

Report from: Barbara Peacock, Director Children and Adults
Services

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The report accompanies the revised protocol for partnership working, which was amended at the last meeting and has been revised, taking note of additional advice from legal.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

- 1.1 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 and there are a number of strategic boards and partnerships, with complementary roles and functions, all of which have a role in relation to safeguarding.
- 1.2 Recent Ofsted inspections of Children's Social Care services have identified a need for a clear and agreed protocol, signed by strategic partnerships, which clarify these respective roles and responsibilities.

2. Background

- 2.1 A protocol has been drafted which set outs an expectation that each Board will have the opportunity to see, comment on and challenge the safeguarding priorities of other strategic bodies, and be updated on progress on their work.
- 2.2 The protocol was taken to other named strategic boards and partnerships for comment and sign up during September and October.
- 2.3 When this protocol was considered at the special meeting on 9 September 2014 Members of the Board requested some amendments to the protocol as set out below:

The Legal Officer present clarified that in relation to 8.3 of the protocol that this statement did not usurp the Council's Overview and Scrutiny functions relating to this Board.

The Deputy Director, Children and Adults stated that he had read that paragraph as referring to scrutiny as challenge which the Board would undertake when assessing whether commissioning plans were taking account of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

A suggestion was made that the first bullet point on page 120 of the agenda could be widened to 'other directly relevant strategies' rather than just those connected with Public Health. Clarification was also sought as to the penultimate bullet point to explain that performance management referred more to the co-ordinated approach that was needed.

Decision:

A delegation was given to the Chairman, in conjunction with the relevant officers, to make the minor amendments to the protocol as set out above, (including adding the Corporate Parenting Board as an additional signatory). The amended protocol should then be cleared by legal services and circulated to all Board Members before being signed by the Chairman on behalf of the Board.

- 2.4. The attached protocol sets out the revised document.

3. Advice and Analysis

- 3.1. The purpose of this report is to ask the Health and Wellbeing Board members to note the changes to the protocol attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 3.2. There are no policy or structure implications.

4. Risk Management

- 4.1 Failure to have an agreed protocol, which evidences clarity and understanding on the part of Board members about roles and responsibilities between strategic Boards, presents a risk to the Council in relation to future Ofsted inspection grading.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 All strategic Boards are in the process of being consulted about this protocol and will have opportunity to review and comment on the document

6. Financial and legal implications

- 6.1 There are no financial implications in relation to agreeing the protocol.
- 6.2 Colleagues from legal services have reviewed and cleared the protocol document.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the revised protocol and if in agreement, ask for the chair to sign to evidence acceptance.

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Background documents:

None