



**PROTOCOL SETTING OUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE MEDWAY
HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD (HWB), THE MEDWAY SAFEGUARDING
CHILDREN BOARD (MSCB), MEDWAY COUNCIL CORPORATE PARENTING
BOARD, 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, Medway Council Corporate Parenting 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 has a statutory duty to encourage those who arrange for the provision of any health or social care services in the area to work in an integrated manner for the purpose of advancing local people's health and wellbeing. Its main functions are set out in Chapter 3 Part 2 of the Council's Constitution, and include assessing the needs of the local population through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and producing a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) to inform the commissioning of health, care and public health.

4. Medway Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB)

4.1 The MSCB is a statutory body established pursuant to section 13 Children Act 2004. It can 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 required by Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 and 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.

The functions that the MSCB must undertake to fulfil these objectives are set out in the Local Safeguarding Boards Regulations 2006 and can be summarised as follows:

- 4.2.1 developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area;
 - 4.2.2 communicating the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising awareness of how this can best be done, and encouraging this;
 - 4.2.3 monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by the Council and its Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and advising them on ways to improve
 - 4.2.4 participating in the planning of services for children in the area;
 - 4.2.5 undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the Council and its Board partners on lessons to be learned
 - 4.2.6 collecting and analysing information about the deaths of children normally resident in the area and putting in place procedures for ensuring that there is a co-ordinated response by the Council, its Board partners and others to an unexpected child death.
- 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.
- 4.4 The Board has statutory powers under section 14B of the Children Act 2004 to require information to be provided to it to enable or assist it to perform its duties

5 Medway Corporate Parenting Board

5.2 The purpose of the Corporate Parenting Board is:

- to ensure that Medway Council and its partner agencies effectively discharge their duties towards looked after young people and care leavers
- to ensure young people are supported, through a variety of methods, to communicate their needs, wishes and feelings about the care they receive to Elected Members, and,
- to be proactive in securing better outcomes for looked after children through appropriate challenge, engagement and discussion with officers, partner agencies and other Elected Members.

6. Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 SABs will have very wide statutory powers. An SAB can do ‘anything that appears to it to be necessary or desirable for the purpose of achieving its objectives’.

7. Medway Children’s Action Network

- 7.1. 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.
- 7.2. Medway CAN is not a decision making body. It exists to:
- Champion the voice of the child in Medway
 - Promote engagement of children, young people and their families
 - Inform and influence the commissioning intentions of the Council and its partners in relation to Early Help
 - Promote the engagement of the VCS and statutory partners in improving outcomes. It’s key focus is on the local early help offer

- 7.3 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

8. Formal interfaces

- 8.1. The interface between the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Safeguarding Boards, Corporate Parenting Board 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 review and challenge
- Annually reporting evaluations of performance on Plans to provide the opportunity for reciprocal review and challenge and to enable Boards to feed any improvement and development needs into the planning process for future years' strategies and plans.

- 8.2. The opportunities presented by a formal working relationship between the HWB, the Safeguarding Boards, Corporate Parenting Board 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 other directly relevant policies and strategies
- Evaluating the impact of the JHWS on safeguarding outcomes, and of safeguarding on wider determinants of health outcomes.
- Cross Board challenge and "holding to account": the HWB for embedding safeguarding, the Safeguarding Boards for overall performance, the Corporate Parenting Board in relation to Looked After Children and contribution to the JHWS.
- Identifying a coordinated approach to safeguarding.
- Ensuring Safeguarding risks are managed through transformational change and commissioning.

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

- 9.1. 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 five Boards/Partnerships.
- 9.2. Between September and November each year the Independent Chairs of the two Safeguarding Boards and the Corporate Parenting Board 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 hold to account 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.
- 9.3. 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 hold to account 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.
- 9.4. In April/May the Boards will share their refreshed Plans for the coming financial year to ensure co-ordination and coherence.

10. Overview and Scrutiny

- 10.1. None of the opportunities and proposed arrangements for collaborative working or mutual holding to account in this Protocol conflict with the statutory and constitutional functions of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees that scrutinise health-related matters (Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Health and Adult Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Joint NHS Scrutiny Committee with Kent County Council).

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 Corporate Parenting Board:

Date: _____

Signed: Chair of Medway Children's Action Network

Date: _____