

Medway – Together We Can

Make a Difference for Children and Families

PROTOCOL SETTING OUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS RELATING TO THE SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS

- **MEDWAY HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD (HWBB)**
- **MEDWAY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (MSCB)**
- **MEDWAY COUNCIL CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD (CPB)**
- **KENT AND MEDWAY SAFEGUARDING ADULT BOARD (KMSAB)**
- **MEDWAY COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (CSP)**

1. Purpose

2. 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 Community Safety Partnership. It sets out the expectations of the relationship and working arrangements between the partnership boards relating to the safeguarding and wellbeing of children and adults. Shared safeguarding activity across Strategic Boards includes abuse inside and outside of the family, including Forced Marriage, FGM, CSE and radicalisation. It is important that at all safeguarding partners recognise the vulnerability of young people to this form of grooming, exploitation and abuse.

3. Background Information

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 The chair of the respective Boards and the Director for Children and Adult's Services have formally agreed to the arrangements set out in this document and by signing up to this document agree to work together to:
 - Ensure the safety, health and wellbeing of people in Medway are collectively addressed
 - Identify the lead partnership and respective responsibilities for a particular issue or priority.

- Provide clarity of focus for each partnership body in relation to needs and issues, and
 - avoid duplication.
 - Share appropriate information across partnerships and member organisations.
 - Identify where there are problems and work together to formulate solutions taking a joined up and constructive approach across policies or issues of mutual interest.
 - Ensure that there is a shared approach to reviews of serious cases in the county and the learning to emerge from these.
- 3.3 Board Chairs will actively support their Boards in delivering these collective responsibilities
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 Each Board has specific statutory powers, duties and roles. This Protocol is intended to support the effectiveness of each Partnership Board. It is not intended to override or replace the statutory duties and powers of any of the individual agency. Detail of the statutory responsibilities for each Board is included in Appendix A.
- 4. Formal interfaces**
- 4.1 The interface between the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Safeguarding Boards, Corporate Parenting Board and Community Safety Partnership at key points include:
- The needs analyses that drive the formulation of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (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' 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.

4.2 The opportunities presented by a formal working relationship between the HWB, the Safeguarding Boards, Corporate Parenting Board and Medway Community Safety Partnership are summarised as follows:

- Provide support and challenge to the implementation of priorities for children and young people and share consultation and engagement opportunities
- Securing an integrated approach to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (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 Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS), identifying joint areas of work 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.
- Share and consider the learning from local reviews (e.g. Domestic Homicide Reviews and SCRs where appropriate)

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

5.1 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 relevant Boards/Partnerships.

5.2 The Independent Chairs of the two Safeguarding Boards (Between September and December each year) and the Corporate Parenting Board (in April each year) will present to the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) and Community Safety Partnership (CSP) their Annual Reports outlining performance against Business Plan objectives in the previous financial year. This would provide the opportunity for the

HWB and CSP to review 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.

- 5.3 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 review 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.
- 5.4 Between December and April the CSP Chair to present to the HWB and Safeguarding Boards the CSP Strategic Assessment and the proposed CSP priorities and plan.
- 5.5 These arrangements will support but not duplicate or usurp the role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to oversee, scrutinise and challenge policy and decision makers.
- 5.6 Between April and June the Boards/Partnerships will share their refreshed Plans for the coming financial year to ensure co-ordination and coherence.

6. Overview and Scrutiny

- 6.1 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 Community Safety Partnership _____

Date: _____