

Appendix Three

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

- **MEDWAY HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD (HWB)**
- **MEDWAY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP (MSCP)**
- **MEDWAY COUNCIL CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD (CPB)**
- **KENT AND MEDWAY SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD (KMSAB)**
- **MEDWAY COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (CSP)**

1. Purpose

This Protocol is a framework for effective joint working between the Medway Health and Wellbeing Board, the Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership, Medway Council Corporate Parenting Board, Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults 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, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Child Sexual Exploitation (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.

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 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 and the learning to emerge from these.

2.3 Board Chairs will actively support their Boards in delivering these collective responsibilities.

2.4 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.

2.5 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.

2.6 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.

3. Formal interfaces

3.1 The interface between the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Safeguarding Adults Board, Safeguarding Children Partnership, 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'/ Partnerships Business Plans. This needs to be reciprocal in nature ensuring that the Safeguarding Adults Board and Safeguarding Children Partnership 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'/ Partnership planning;

- Ensuring each Board/partnership is regularly updated on progress made in the implementation of the JHWS and the individual Board/ Partnership 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.

3.2 The opportunities presented by a formal working relationship between the HWB, the Safeguarding Adults Board, Safeguarding Children Partnership, 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 Board/ Partnership 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 Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews where appropriate).

4. Arrangements to secure co-ordination between the Boards.
- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 The Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board/ Chair of the Safeguarding Children Partnership (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.
- 4.3 Between October and February the HWB to present to the Safeguarding Adult Board and Safeguarding Children Partnership the review of the JHWS, the refreshed JSNA and the proposed priorities and objectives for the refreshed JHWS to enable the Safeguarding Board/ Partnership 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.
- 4.4 Between December and April the CSP Chair to present to the HWB and Safeguarding Adult Board and Safeguarding Children Partnership the CSP Strategic Assessment and the proposed CSP priorities and plan.
- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 Between April and June the Boards/Partnerships will share their refreshed Plans for the coming financial year to ensure co-ordination and coherence.
5. Overview and Scrutiny
- 5.1 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 Partnership:

Date: _____

Signed: Chair of Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults 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: _____

Appendix A

Strategic Partnership Roles

Health and Wellbeing Board

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.

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.

Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership (MSCP)

The Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership (MSCP) was set up on 2 September 2019 to replace the Local Safeguarding Children Board. These new arrangements were in response to the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and were approved by Cabinet on 9 April 2019.

Medway Council, Kent Police and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) are the three safeguarding partners that make up the MSCP. The purpose of the MSCP is to support and enable local organisations and agencies to work together in a system where:

- Children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted
- Partner organisations and agencies collaborate, share and co-own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children
- Organisations and agencies challenge appropriately and hold one another to account effectively
- There is early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues and emerging threats
- Learning is promoted and embedded in a way that local services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice
- Information is shared effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and families.

The MSCP comprises an Executive and a number of sub groups. The Executive is the main business forum ensuring that the partnership maintains its main focus on

the strategic priorities that impact on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Medway. The Executive is led by the three safeguarding partners – Police, CCG and Local Authority. The Executive is jointly chaired by the three partners on a rotational basis and meets every two months.

Medway Corporate Parenting Board

The Corporate Parenting Board is an advisory body. It has two main functions:

1. To support and make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People on matters related to corporate parenting.
2. To advise, guide and provide leadership to the council on issues relating to looked after children and its corporate parenting responsibility.

To meet this purpose, the Corporate Parenting Board has the following aims and objectives:

- To make sure that the whole council and relevant partner agencies commit to excellent standards of corporate parenting.
- To set high expectations and stable relationships for all children in care.
- To seek improved long term outcomes for children in care and their families – for their happiness; well-being; educational success; and future prospects.
- To make sure that the voice of the child and young person in care influences both policy and the services that they receive, and that young people are engaged with any action intended to develop and improve services or to recruit key staff members.
- To oversee and monitor the key performance indicators for the health, well-being and education of looked after children.
- To consider the outcomes of regulatory visits and inspection reports on provision for children in care and to receive regular reports on:
 - the work of the adoption and fostering services;
 - education and employment
 - provision for leaving care, housing and training for care leavers; and
- To ensure that relevant key plans, strategies and associated resources identify and make explicit the contribution that they make to targets agreed for improvement.
- To celebrate the achievements of children looked after and their carers.
- To develop an informed view of Council provision and services through a programme of well-planned visits and feedback from Board members.
- To ensure that children looked after by the local authority are offered the protection of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, 2 September 1990.
- To establish and maintain specific task groups as necessary to make recommendations to it.

Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board

The Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board is a statutory requirement for Local Authorities as part of section 43 of the Care Act 2014. It is a multi-agency partnership which assures that adult safeguarding arrangements in Kent and Medway are in place and are effective.

It oversees how agencies co-ordinate services and work together to help keep adults who are, or may be, at risk, safe from harm by:

- Challenging each other and other organisations if there is a belief that actions or inactions are increasing the risk of abuse and/or neglect.
- Work together to promote the prevention and protection of adults with care and support needs, by making strategic decisions and ensuring that effective systems and processes are in place.
- Take overarching responsibility for Safeguarding Adults Reviews, ensuring that learning is shared and that remedial actions are robust and lead to practice improvement and improved outcomes for adults at risk.
- Adopt the principle of continuous learning and improvement across the partnership to collaborate, safeguard and promote the wellbeing and empowerment of adults.

The KMSAB is made up of its statutory partners, Medway Council, Kent County Council, Kent Police and the NHS Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Groups, and additional relevant partners. The work of the Board is supported by a Business Group and Working Groups who ensure the delivery of the Board's strategic plan.

The Medway Safeguarding Adults Executive Group (MSAEG) brings together senior representatives from the key agencies responsible for the effective delivery of Adult Safeguarding in Medway. The MSAEG works collaboratively to deliver the strategic priorities of the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board, and address safeguarding priorities specific to Medway, effectively using the specialist skills and experience of the Executive Group members and other relevant professional groups.

Medway Community Safety Partnership

The Community Safety Partnership works to cut crime, help neighbourhoods fight disorder and reduce reoffending, as set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

This partnership leads on activities related to Criminal Justice, Organised Crime Groups, Anti-Social Behaviour and Prevent. The key accountability and responsibility for domestic violence also rests with this partnership.