



Report of: Director of Children’s Services

Meeting of	Date	Agenda Item	Ward(s)
Health and Wellbeing Board	10/10/2013	Item	All

Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt
-----------------------	--	------------

SUBJECT: Protocol between HWBB and ISCB

- Synopsis:** The attached protocol is presented for approval in keeping with good practice requirements to support effective oversight of the joint working arrangements between the HWBB and the ISCB. The most recent consultation document from Ofsted relating to the inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers (June 2013) emphasised the importance of good governance arrangements in terms of the assessment of the effectiveness of Local Safeguarding Children Boards
- Recommendations:** That the HWBB note and agree the attached protocol.
- Background**

It has long been established that the quality of joint working arrangements can have a profound effect on outcomes for children and their families both in terms of safeguarding and promoting welfare. Government guidance and the Ofsted inspection criteria reflect the significance of these arrangements at operational and strategic level. The recent consultation document identifies the possible grade descriptors which will be taken into account when assessing the effectiveness of the ISCB as follows.

The LSCB is likely to be judged to be good if:

The governance arrangements enable statutory partners (including the Health and Well-Being Board and the Children’s Trust) to assess whether they are fulfilling their statutory responsibilities to help (including

early help), protect and care for children and young people. There is evidence that this leads to clear improvement priorities being identified that are incorporated into a delivery plan that improves outcomes.

The LSCB is likely to be outstanding if in addition to meeting the requirements for a good judgement, it provides evidence of being a highly influential strategic arrangement that directly influences and improves performance at the frontline.

The existence of a clear protocol between HWBB and ISCB represents a sound starting point towards achieving this aim.

4. Implications

4.1. Financial implications

There are no additional financial implications identified at this time as the arrangements will be implemented within existing budgets.

4.2. Legal Implications

Section 195 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 imposes a duty on the Health and Wellbeing Board to encourage integrated working between providers of health and social care services, which includes linking effectively with the local children's safeguarding board to ensure cohesive governance and leadership in relation to children

4.3. Equalities Impact Assessment

None required as impact assessment is already addressed within existing respective Boards policies.

4.4. Environmental Implications

None

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

It is essential that the HWBB and ISCB can demonstrate compliance with statutory guidance and can evidence robust leadership, management and governance arrangements in respect of safeguarding children and promoting children's welfare therefore it is recommended:

- That the protocol between HWBB and ISCB is adopted and that the HWBB :
- consult ISCB on issues which affect how children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted,
- take note of recommendations and identified areas for improvement made by ISCB and report back to ISCB on subsequent progress,
- invite the Chair of ISCB to attend the HWBB Board meetings as needed
- ensure that messages and information provided by ISCB are appropriately disseminated within HWBB member organisations
- take an overview of the ISCB's activities as part of its monitoring arrangements, where the work of ISCB falls within its framework

Background papers: Inspection of Services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers Ofsted June 2013

Attachments: Protocol between HWBB and ISCB

Final Report Clearance

Signed by

.....

.....

Date

Received by

.....
Head of Democratic Services

.....

Date

Report author: Lynn Mattai

Tel: 02075274209

Fax:

E-mail: lynn.mattai@islington.gov.uk

APPENDIX 4 - Relationship between Islington Safeguarding Children Board (ISCB) and the Health and Well-being Board (HWBB)

Protocol agreement between Islington HWBB and ISCB

The HWBB's role is to improve the health and wellbeing of the population of Islington. This includes:

- Overseeing the development of a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and ensuring that commissioning plans that relate to health and wellbeing pay due regard to local needs and priorities identified in the JSNA.
- Overseeing the development of a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS)
- Overseeing commissioning plans that relate to health and wellbeing including in some instances devolved responsibility from the NHS Commissioning Board for specialised services
- Ensuring an integrated approach to commissioning across NHS, public health and other Council services to increase efficiency and secure best use of resources, deliver better services and ultimately improve health and well-being outcomes
- Ensuring best use of resources through collaborative working, pooled budgets and joint commissioning of services
- Maintaining an overview of account for improvement in and attainment of key public health outcomes in the NHS, Public Health, and Adult Social Care Outcome Frameworks.
- Considering the wider determinants of health, including housing, education and the environment and the existing public health functions within the local authority to ensure an integrated response to tackling health and wellbeing priorities and inequalities.
- HWBB will have a formal role in authorising Clinical Commissioning Groups and in their annual assessment.

It will also:

- Ensure that the JSNA and JHWS inform and underpin the Corporate Plan in Islington, and wider Council strategies
- Link the work of the Board to the Islington Fairness Commission and successor arrangements.
- Oversee the emergency preparedness for health matters in the borough

ISCB is not a delivery body, it is a scrutiny body. However it would expect to initiate activities which investigate and improve practice in safeguarding. It has the authority to call any agency represented on the HWBB to account for its safeguarding activity. ISCB and its activities are part of the wider context of the Children and Families Board arrangements. The work of ISCB contributes to the wider goals of improving the well-being of all children. Within the wider governance arrangements its role is to ensure the effectiveness of the arrangements made by individual agencies and the wider partnership to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Function

<p>The HWBB has an important role in the support of the work of existing and new commissioning structures. These groups may have existing reporting lines in to other bodies (e.g. The CCG Governing Body) but the HWBB should be an avenue of consultation, engagement and oversight where appropriate.</p> <p>The HWBB will ensure joint working across partners through an officer level group with a reporting line to the Board. This group will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult ISCB on issues which affect how children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted • Take note of recommendations and identified areas for improvement made by ISCB and report back to ISCB on subsequent progress • Invite the Chair of ISCB to attend the HWBB Board meetings, as needed • Ensure that messages and information provided by ISCB are appropriately disseminated within HWBB member organisations • Take an overview of the ISCB's activities as part of its monitoring arrangements, where the work of ISCB falls within its framework 	<p>ISCB will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take responsibility for monitoring action to improve safeguarding including action plans arising from Serious Case Reviews • Not be accountable for the operational work of local individuals and organisations. Each HWBB partner retains their own existing lines of accountability for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children by their services • Hold the HWBB to account on matters of safeguarding in all its activities, providing appropriate challenge on performance and results of performance indicators • Undertake audits and feedback results to the HWBB, advising on ways to improve and highlight areas of underperformance • Feedback learning from Serious Case Reviews and ensure that the lessons are learnt • Highlight gaps in service for the HWBB to consider as part of its commissioning process • Will provide six monthly reports on its findings from its scrutiny activity to the HWBB, including the annual report.
<p>Both organisations will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have an on-going and direct relationship, communicating regularly • Work together to ensure action taken by one body does not duplicate that taken by another • Ensure they are committed to working together to ensure there are no unhelpful strategic or operational gaps in policies, protocols, services or practice 	
<p>Implementation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The chair of Islington HWBB and ISCB will attend respective Board meetings as necessary. They will receive all written reports. When attending respective meetings they will engage in discussions, seek clarity and ask questions, but will not be part of the decision making process • ISCB will be involved in the development of the HWBB strategy. It will be consulted about the needs assessment and contribute to the setting of priorities. ISCB will take responsibility for the oversight and evaluation of the multi-agency safeguarding elements of the strategy • At each review of the HWBB strategy, both Boards will receive a formal report of progress against targets • Relevant issues arising from ISCB meetings will be considered within the agenda-setting process for the HWBB and vice versa • Quarterly meetings will be held between respective business unit managers to ensure on-going communication between, and connectivity of, relevant areas of business progressing through Boards. This will also help to avoid duplication of work and gaps in policies and services and ensure an aligned agenda-setting process between Boards. Minutes of Board meetings will be shared to assist this process

**Leader &
Chief
Executive**

The Leader of the Council and Chief Executive have a responsibility to ensure that both bodies are well led, managed and effective. As part of this role, the Leader and Chief Executive will consider the ISCB annual report regarding the effectiveness of arrangements for safeguarding children in Islington, including the effectiveness of governance and partnership arrangements in this regard.

Families

The primary function of the HWBB relates to commissioning, joint planning and collaborative working and both. Boards will develop and monitor an agreed suite of performance information, including national and local, and quantitative and qualitative indicators

In addition the following routes may be instigated when required:

- Either Chair making a formal written request for information or consideration of an area of concern
 - Either Chair making a request for an item to be placed on either Board meeting agenda to address a particular area of concern
 - Either Chair requesting a meeting between Board Chairs (and other relevant representatives) to consider and agree a way forward regarding issues that have not been resolved by the above
 - Where an area of concern cannot be resolved within the above framework, a resolution meeting will be held between Board Chairs, the Director of Children's Services and Islington Council's Chief Executive, as a minimum
-