



Report of: Executive Member of Children, Young People and Families

Meeting of:	Date:	Ward(s):
Executive	20 June	All

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SUBJECT: SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 This report outlines the changes to the Islington Safeguarding Children Board (ISCB) as a result of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.
- 1.2 The report proposes a multi-agency safeguarding arrangements (MASAs) for Islington which implements the new statutory shared responsibilities between the Local Authority (LA), Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the Police. This change updates the existing ISCB arrangements.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To agree the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements between Islington Council, Islington Clinical Commissioning Group and the Central North Basic Command Unit of the Metropolitan Police Service.

3. Background

- 3.1 In May 2016, the Government published its review, led by Alan Wood, about the role and functions of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs). This review proposed changes to local MASAs and placed collective accountability between local authorities, the police and clinical commissioning groups. It recommended replacing serious case reviews with a new system of local and national reviews and new arrangements for the overview of all child deaths within local areas. The key recommendations were included in the Children and Social Work Act 2017 which abolished the requirement for LSCBs. The Government subsequently revised the statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children to include the requirements for MASAs.

- 3.2 Under the new legislation, the three statutory safeguarding partners “must make arrangements to work together, along with relevant agencies, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area.” The new arrangements must also engage local relevant agencies that can work in a collaborative way to provide targeted support to children and families as appropriate.
- 3.3 In response to the changes, Islington set up a Safeguarding Transition Project Group consisting of the corporate leads from the three new statutory lead safeguarding partners and the current ISCB Chair who collectively led the review of the current ISCB arrangements. There was consultation and discussion with other safeguarding partners through the ISCB meetings, an away day and subgroups.
- 3.4 **Appendix A** sets out the proposed new arrangements in Islington.
- Islington Council, Islington CCG and the Central North Basic Command Unit of the Metropolitan Police Service form the three statutory safeguarding partners in Islington. They will work together, and with any relevant agencies, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children with regard to local need. The statutory safeguarding partners will:
- co-ordinate their safeguarding services;
 - act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others; and
 - implement local and national learning including from serious child safeguarding incidents.
- 3.5 The existing arrangements are recognised by Ofsted to be working well with all partners committed to the safeguarding of children in Islington. Organisations that were previously ISCB members moving into the new arrangements will remain and be named as relevant agencies.
- 3.6 The sub-groups will continue to exist as operational committees that deliver the ISCB Business Plan, supported by the Business Unit. The Early Help sub-group will now fall under the Board under the new arrangements.
- 3.7 Islington’s arrangements will retain independent leadership and oversight of the Board by means of an independently appointed chair.
- 3.8 The Case Review Sub-group will be retained to assume responsibility for taking forward Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPR). It will link in with and contribute to, when necessary, the new National Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (NSPRP). At the time of writing, Serious Case Reviews and Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) reviews are still carried out under legacy safeguarding arrangements. These reviews will be completed in line with existing procedures, *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015* and transitional guidance. Child death reviews are to be completed by 29 January 2020 and Serious Case Reviews by 29 September 2020.
- 3.9 The new MASA arrangements in Islington will take effect from 1 September 2019.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial implications:

The funding arrangements for the MASA will remain unchanged from those for the former ISCB. The total budget is £226k for 2019/20, including contributions from partners which remain unchanged in 2019/20.

4.2 Legal Implications:

- 4.2.1. Local relevant agencies are to act in accordance with the local safeguarding arrangements, which are to be agreed and published by 29 June 2019.
- 4.2.2. The arrangements have to be implemented by 29 September 2019. The implementation date (1 September 2019) has to be made clear in the published arrangements. Once the arrangements are published and implemented, the LSCB for the local area will cease to exist.
- 4.2.3. While the LSCB remains in existence in the local area, the council should report to the LSCB any child safeguarding incidents which it is notifying to the Child Safeguarding Review Panel. The council should do this within five working days of becoming aware that the incident has occurred.
- 4.2.4. Upon publication of the local safeguarding arrangements, the council is to notify the Secretary of State for Education by sending the published link to safeguarding.reform@education.gov.uk. In addition, the council must notify the chair of the relevant LSCB.
- 4.2.5. In sharing information between the safeguarding partners and any relevant agencies, the council is to ensure that it complies with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the GDPR and that a clear audit trail is obtained on the handling of all information.

4.3 Environmental Implications

No environmental implications have been identified.

4.4 Resident Impact Assessment:

The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

5. Reason for recommendations

- 5.1 The proposed changes to the ISCB arrangements fulfil the new statutory requirement to implement multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. The proposal not only retains the strengths of our safeguarding arrangements recognised through official inspections and amongst partners in Islington; it also builds on these strengths to ensure clear collective leadership and accountability for all children, young people and their families.

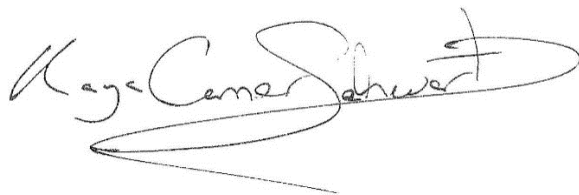
Appendices

- Appendix A: Islington Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements

Background papers: n/a

Final report clearance:

Signed by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kaye Cameron', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

10 June 2019

**Executive Member of Children, Young
People and Families** Date

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