

Protocol on the relationship between Thurrock Safeguarding Adults and Thurrock Local Children's Safeguarding Boards, and Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Board

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This document sets out the relationship between Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Board and Thurrock's two Safeguarding Boards – Thurrock Local Children's Safeguarding Board (LSCB) and Thurrock Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board (TASPB).
- 1.2 The document describes the role and relationship of overview and scrutiny with safeguarding, and with the Health and Wellbeing Board and Safeguarding Boards.
- 1.3 The aim of the protocol is also to set out the role and responsibilities of the Health and Wellbeing Board with regards to safeguarding.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 The LSCB is a statutory body created under the Children Act 2004. It is responsible for challenging all relevant organisations on their performance in ensuring that children and young people are kept safe and are free from abuse in Thurrock. The LSCB is responsible for developing local policies for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
- 2.2 The TASPB is not currently a statutory body, but will become so in April 2015 - or once the Care Bill is enacted. It is possible that new Safeguarding arrangements will be implemented in 2014 subject to Department of Health guidance. The three statutory partners on the new Adult Safeguarding Boards are local authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups, and the Police. The main purpose of the TASPB is to ensure that all organisations providing or commissioning services for adults in Thurrock work in a coordinated way safeguarding and protecting adults from abuse.
- 2.3 The terms of reference of the TASPB and LSCB are attached.
- 2.4 The HWBB is a statutory committee of the Council. It has 'whole systems' responsibility for improving the health and wellbeing of Thurrock's population and reducing inequalities in health and wellbeing. The Board also has responsibility for driving and shaping strategic commissioning aimed at delivering improved health and wellbeing and reduced inequalities in health and wellbeing.
- 2.5 The TASPB and LSCB are not sub-committees of the HWBB. Whilst the work of the safeguarding boards contribute to the wider goal of improving the wellbeing of all adults, children and young people, they have a focus on protecting adults and children from harm by providing leadership, ownership

and co-ordination of multi-agency working at a local level, reducing the risk of abuse and neglect. For Safeguarding Boards to be effective, they must remain independent.

- 2.6 In Thurrock, the LSCB has a direct relationship with the Children and Young People's Partnership Board. The Children and Young People's Partnership Board reports to the HWBB and has responsibility for shaping and delivering children and young people's health and wellbeing agenda. A clear working protocol exists between the LSCB and Children and Young People's Partnership Board and is refreshed bi-annually. There must be consistency between the Children and Young People's safeguarding protocol, and the Health and Wellbeing Board's safeguarding protocol.
- 2.7 The HWBB must ensure that it appropriately considers children's safeguarding in the decisions it makes. The Board will also want to be assured that the Children and Young People's Partnership is doing likewise.
- 2.8 The LSCB will also wish to gain assurance that the HWBB is effectively considering Children's Safeguarding in the decisions it makes and may wish to provide an opinion on certain items being considered, or challenge and scrutinise decisions being made. Examples include the development of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.
- 2.9 The TASP will have a direct and on-going relationship with the HWBB. The Chair of TASP will be invited to attend the HWBB annually – and on an ad-hoc basis as necessary. The Chair will be asked to present to the Board the Annual Report.
- 2.10 The TASP will want to seek assurance that the HWBB are appropriately considering adult safeguarding in the decisions it makes. It may wish to see evidence of this through scrutiny of Board decisions. The HWBB will want to use the TASP as a critical friend and seek its input in to items being considered and decisions to be made. Examples include the development of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, key Commissioning Strategies, and service re-design.
- 2.11 Both Safeguarding Boards produce annual reports. The findings of the reports should be considered and built in to the development of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and its annual delivery plans.

3. Overview and Scrutiny Committees

- 3.1 Both the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee have a key role in a) ensuring that safeguarding considerations have been appropriately considered in the work of the Council and its partners; and b) that the Council's safeguarding arrangements through the Safeguarding Boards are sufficiently robust.
- 3.2 Overview and Scrutiny Committees are able to ensure that safeguarding arrangements are appropriate in a number of ways including:

- Annual safeguarding reports included within the appropriate Committee's work programme;
- Scrutiny of key Council and partner decisions (particularly as part of the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee's work programme) ensuring that they have appropriately considered safeguarding; and
- Appropriate questioning of officers – ensuring that safeguarding has been considered in all aspects of work.

3.3 Overview and Scrutiny Committees may also raise concerns or issues they have that they wish to be investigated. Likewise, Safeguarding Boards will want to ensure that Overview and Scrutiny Committees are appropriately considering safeguarding in all that they do.

3.4 Safeguarding is everybody's business, and Overview and Scrutiny Committees will also have a responsibility for ensuring that safeguarding is the core business of the Council and its partner organisations.

3.5 Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee now has responsibility for scrutinising the work and decisions made by the Health and Wellbeing Board. This should include ensuring that the Health and Wellbeing Board is appropriately considering safeguarding – e.g. through the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, JSNA, and through scrutiny of the Board's work programme or items within it.

4. Evaluation and review

4.1 If there are any areas of significant concern that cannot be resolved in accordance with this Protocol, then a meeting will be held between the Safeguarding Board Chair, Chair of the HWBB, and either the Director of Adults, Health and Commissioning or Director of Children's Services as appropriate. Other persons will be invited as required.

4.2 This protocol should be reviewed by both Safeguarding Boards and the HWBB on an annual basis.

5. Operational Arrangements

5.1 This protocol will be implemented operationally as follows:

- The minutes and agendas of the 3 Board meetings will be shared;
- Safeguarding Board input in to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment – e.g. analysis of safeguarding in the local area;
- Health and Wellbeing Board annual report to include its safeguarding arrangements and any issues relating to safeguarding that have been raised by or highlighted to the Board during the course of the year;
- Both TASP and LSCB to present their annual reports to the Board and include identification of any actions for the HWBB;
- TASP to present its Annual Strategic Plan to the HWBB prior to sign-off, allowing the HWBB to input in to the Plan (LCSB will present its Annual Plan through the Children and Young People's Partnership arrangements);

- Safeguarding Board involvement in the development of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and delivery plans – including evaluation of the impact of the HWB Strategy on safeguarding;
- Cross-board communication and engagement in priority setting;
- Arrangements for cross-Board scrutiny and challenge put in place; and
- Consideration of Safeguarding Board views in items and issues as they arise and as appropriate.

6. Public Engagement

6.1 The wider public have an important role to play in keeping children and young people and adults safe and healthy. The agendas are everyone’s responsibility. Although members of the HWBB, TASPb and LSCB are formally accountable to different parts of the partnership system, collectively they have a shared responsibility for developing and contributing to the delivery of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Citizen involvement including the views of children and young people should be integral to the HWBB and be everyone’s business.

6.2 HealthWatch has a fundamental role in engaging with the public and for flagging up issues of concern – including safeguarding concerns. HealthWatch is a full member of Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Board. HealthWatch is also represented on the NHS Quality Surveillance Group (via HealthWatch Essex acting on behalf of all three HealthWatch organisations in Essex, Thurrock and Southend) and both Safeguarding Boards.

7. Signatories

Graham Carey, Joint Chair, Thurrock Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board

..... Date

Les Billingham, Joint Chair, Thurrock Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board

..... Date

David Peplow, Chair, Thurrock Local Children’s Safeguarding Board

..... Date

Councillor Barbara Rice, Chair, Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Board

..... Date

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