

<b>2 July 2019</b>		<b>ITEM: 5</b>
<b>Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>		
<b>Thurrock New Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements</b>		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> N/A	
<b>Report of:</b> Alan Cotgrove, Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) Manager		
<b>Accountable Assistant Director:</b> Sheila Murphy, Assistant Director of Children's Services		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Roger Harris, Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health		
<b>This report is Public</b>		

### **Executive Summary**

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together 2018 dissolves the requirement for Local Safeguarding Children's Boards and requires new arrangements to be put into place. Government Guidance was also published during 2018 to assist in the transitional process.

The three Strategic Safeguarding Partners, determined under the Children and Social Work Act 2017, comprise of Thurrock Council, Essex Police and Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). The three Partners were required to publish an Implementation Document setting out the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) three months prior to its implementation.

The Implementation document of the new arrangements had to be published no later than June 2019 and implemented no later than September 2019. Thurrock's Implementation document was presented to this Committee in February 2019 then published and came into effect on 7 May 2019.

The new arrangements will be referred to as Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership (Thurrock LSCP).

Following the implementation of the new arrangements workshops were delivered to our partner agencies, explaining in more detail the changes and expectations of their involvement. A shortened version of that presentation is included within these papers (Appendix one)

As part of the changes there is no longer a requirement for an Independent Chair. The Safeguarding Partners are required to put in place a scrutiny process that challenges but is also supportive of the Partnerships aims.

As part of the scrutiny process, Thurrock LSCP request that the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee accept a quarterly report from the Partnership on its contribution to safeguard Thurrock Children and also receive an Annual report from Thurrock LSCP on its effectiveness.

## **1. Recommendation(s)**

- 1.1 The Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the changes to multi agency safeguarding children arrangements in Thurrock. From 7 May 2019.**
- 1.2 The Childrens Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive a quarterly report from the Thurrock LSCP.**
- 1.3 The Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive an Annual report from the Thurrock LSCP.**
- 1.4 The Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider and provide comment on the new safeguarding arrangements effectiveness.**

## **2. Introduction and Background**

- 2.1 The Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Board (Thurrock LSCB) was introduced following requirements set out in The Children Act 2004 and has been supporting multi-agency safeguarding arrangement and their statutory responsibilities for Thurrock.
- 2.2 The Children and Social Work Act 2017 Bill received Royal Assent on 27 April 2017 and requires changes to the current local safeguarding arrangements.
- 2.3 The Government (DfE) provided guidance to support Partners during the transitional arrangements and Working Together 2018 was published in April 2018 setting out the final details expected of the new arrangements.
- 2.4 Thurrock LSCB set up a Strategic Group of the three Partners in December 2017 to develop the new safeguarding requirements as Government guidance became available during 2018.
- 2.5 The new arrangements will be referred to as Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (Thurrock LSCP).
- 2.6 The main areas of change under the new arrangements are:
  - The name changes to Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (Thurrock LSCP).

- Statutory Partners change from five to three.
- Serious Case Reviews change to become Local or National Child Practice Reviews.
- The Child Death Review process is now a separate arrangement (from September 2019).
- No requirement for an Independent Chair.
- Multi-function independent scrutiny process to be introduced.
- Some structure changes to the existing LSCB.

### **3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options**

3.1 This is a statutory requirement

### **4. Reasons for Recommendation**

4.1 To ensure the Council meets its statutory duties with regard to Childrens Safeguarding

### **5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)**

5.1 A consultation process with agencies involved in safeguarding children in Thurrock has been taking place during the transitional arrangements

5.2 Two safeguarding summits have taken place with Essex and Southend Safeguarding Children Board to agree working across Essex arrangements

### **6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact**

6.1 This report impacts on the following corporate priorities:

- People: a place where people of all ages are proud to work and play, live and stay;
- Place: a heritage rich Borough which is ambitious for its future;
- Prosperity: a Borough which enables everyone to achieve their aspirations.

6.2 There are no Local Authority policy changes proposed as part of the new arrangements

### **7. Implications**

#### **7.1 Financial**

Implications verified by: **Nilufa Begum**  
**Management Accountant**

There are no additional financial implications for the new safeguarding arrangement. The Local Authority contribution currently to the safeguarding

arrangements remain in place and will be reviewed during the next financial year.

## 7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Stephen Smith**  
**Team Leader (Social Care)**

The Council are required to ensure that the new safeguarding arrangements meet the statutory requirements. No other legal implications have been identified.

## 7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Roxanne Scanlon**  
**Community Engagement and Project Monitoring Officer**

The new safeguarding arrangements and implementation Plan applies to all Children and families. There are no known negative implications arising for groups or individuals with protected characteristics.

## 7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

None

## 8. Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- Working Together 2015 (Government Document)
- The Children and Social Work Act 2017 (Legislation)
- Child Death Review – Statutory guidance October 2017 (Government Document)
- Changes to Statutory Guidance: Working Together to Safeguard Children and new Regulations February 2018 (Government Document)
- Local Safeguarding Transitional Arrangements April 2018(Government Document)
- Working Together 2018(Government Document)
- Local Safeguarding Partner (Relevant Agencies) (England) Regulations 2018 (Government Document)
- SET Procedures

## 9. Appendices to the report

- Appendix 1: Thurrock LSCP new arrangements slide presentation

**Report Author:**

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Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Partnership