

Subject: Statement of Agreement between the Children and Young People's Trust Board and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board

Date of Meeting: March 21st 2011

Report of: Strategic Director, People

Contact Officer: Name: Steve Barton **Tel:** 29-6105

E-mail: Steve.barton@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This paper presents the proposed Statement of Agreement between the Children and Young People's Trust Board (CTB) and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) for agreement.
- 1.2 The purpose of the Statement of Agreement is to enable members of the CTB and the LSCB to assure that local arrangements are compliant with the Statutory Guidance contained in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to interagency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (2010)'.
- 1.3 The Statement of Agreement is presented alongside the LSCB Annual Report 2009-10 to facilitate discussion at the Board.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 The Children's Trust Board is asked to approve the Statement of Agreement between the Children and Young People's Trust Board and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The Statement of Agreement is designed to enable Board members to assure themselves that the relationship between the CTB and the LSCB is compliant with the Statutory Guidance contained in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to interagency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (2010)'
- 3.2 The agreement sets out the accountability arrangements and working relationship between the CTB and the LSCB. It covers their respective roles

and functions and mutual accountability arrangements. This agreement is about the relationship with the CTB and not the joint services.

- 3.3 The LSCB is a statutory partnership with responsibility for agreeing how relevant local organisations will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The LSCB's role is to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of local arrangements to safeguard all children.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The Statement of Agreement has been approved by the LSCB Executive Committee and has been fully discussed with senior officers in the council.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 There are no financial implications directly resulting from the recommendations of this report.

Finance Officer Consulted: David Ellis

Date: 3 March 2011

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The report must be considered in compliance with the requirement of the Statutory Guidance contained in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to interagency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (2010)'.

Lawyer Consulted: Natasha Watson

Date: 7 March 2011

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 The Statement of Agreement is underpinned by the Equalities policies of CTB and LSCB member agencies.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 None

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 Both the CTB and the LSCB aim to support young people to engage in law abiding and socially acceptable activity and behaviour and this aim is reinforced by the Statement of Agreement.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 The Statement of Agreement is an integral part of ensuring that members of the CTB and LSCB have a clear understanding of arrangements for safeguarding and child protection in Brighton and Hove and will support them in meeting their duties to children in need of protection.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 The Statement of Agreement ensures that there is a clear understanding and relationship between the two key bodies responsible for strategic arrangements for safeguarding and child protection in Brighton & Hove.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Statement of Agreement

Documents in Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

'Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to interagency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (2010)'.

Appendix 1:

STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN BRIGHTON AND HOVE CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD AND BRIGHTON AND HOVE LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

Purpose of agreement:

This agreement sets out the accountability arrangements and working relationship between Brighton and Hove's Children's Trust Board (CTB) and Brighton and Hove's Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). It covers their respective roles and functions and mutual accountability arrangements. This agreement is about the relationship with the CTB and not the joint services.

The CTB and LSCB have formally agreed to the arrangements set out in this document, which will be subject to review annually (from the date of initial agreement).

Role of Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)

The LSCB is a statutory partnership with responsibility for agreeing how relevant local organisations will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The LSCB's role is to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of local arrangements to safeguard all children.

The LSCB's key responsibilities include the following:

- To participate in local planning and commissioning of children's services (through contributing to the Children's and Young People's Plan) – to ensure that safeguarding and promoting welfare is taken into account, or to initiate activities which investigate and improve practice in relation to safeguarding.
- Develop and promote policy and procedure for safeguarding children and young people. This includes training people who work with children, ensuring safe recruitment and working practice, and investigating allegations and concerns.
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by the local authority and Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advise them on ways to improve
- Communicate and raise awareness of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children to those who work with children, including volunteers, and members of the public.
- Collect and analyse information about child deaths, with a view to learning from experience and safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children.
- Undertake Serious Case Reviews where abuse or neglect is known or suspected to be a factor in a child's death or serious injury – especially

where there is cause for concern about the way professionals or agencies have worked together.

- Lead on or contribute to specific safeguarding initiatives, e.g. e-safety, missing children, safer workforce, and sexual exploitation.
- Produce and publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in Brighton and Hove

LSCBs are now expected to have an independent chair so that the LSCB can exercise its local challenge function effectively. There is a statutory list of member agencies and recent guidance has added lay members and school representatives to the list.

Role of Children's Trust Board

The CTB provides the interagency governance of cooperation arrangements to promote children's well being in Brighton & Hove. These cooperation arrangements are made pursuant to Section 10 of the Children Act 2004, whereby arrangements are to be made with a view to improving the well-being of children in the authority's area. . The CTB is responsible for developing a local strategy for improving children's lives by delivering better services – including their health and wellbeing. In particular the CTB promotes strong joint planning and commissioning of services and is responsible for ensuring services deliver improved outcomes for children and young people.

The key responsibilities of the Children Trust Board are as follows:

- Undertaking a joint strategic needs assessment to identify and agree local priority outcomes and setting out these priorities in a Children and Young People's Plan.
- These include identifying vulnerable children and intervening early to ensure they are safe and thriving, narrowing the gap between vulnerable children and others who are not in areas such as educational attainment, and reducing child poverty.
- The CTB will do this by listening to the views of children, young people, and their parents and carers; by promoting joint working, by ensuring effective commissioning of services, by using resources effectively and creatively, by aligning or pooling budgets, and by overcoming unnecessary barriers to sharing and communication.

The relationship between the LSCB and the CTB:

The LSCB is responsible for monitoring and evaluating local safeguarding arrangements whereas the CTB is responsible for bringing together, and monitoring, a common strategy for improving the well-being of children in the authority's area through the Children and Young People's Plan.

- The LSCB should be consulted on issues that affect how children and young people are safeguarded and how their welfare is promoted and to be a formal consultee during the development of the CYPP.
- The LSCB has the authority to call all agencies represented on the CTB to account for their safeguarding activity but is not accountable for the operational work of individual agencies or the CTB.
- The LSCB should provide robust, independent challenge to the safeguarding work of the CTB and its partners.
- The LSCB should provide an annual report to the CTB setting out an assessment of local safeguarding arrangements and its key findings from the monitoring and evaluation of local safeguarding arrangements during the year, and recommendations of areas of safeguarding which should be included in the CYPP.

Roles and responsibilities:

The roles of the LSCB and CTB must have a clear distinction. The LSCB is not an operational subcommittee of the CTB, and should not relate to the CTB in a way that might compromise its separate identity and independent voice. The LSCB must be able to form a view on the quality of local activity to challenge organisations as necessary, and speak with that independent voice

The Independent Chair (IC) of the LSCB is accountable to the Local Authority (LA) locally by virtue of the fact that the LA is responsible for establishing the LSCB. The IC is accountable through the Director of Children's Services (DCS) and/or Council Chief Executive, for the delivery of effective partnership arrangements to safeguard children and for ensuring that the LSCB delivers its statutory functions effectively.

Members of LSCBs retain their own existing lines of accountability for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children by their services as well as being responsible for contributing to effective arrangements for how agencies work together to safeguard children. However statutory guidance requires members to give precedence to their role as LSCB members when recommending or deciding upon the necessary steps to put something right. Members of LSCBs are responsible for;

- Ensuring, including through a programme of monitoring and evaluation, that their agency discharges its responsibilities to safeguard children effectively and taking appropriate action when required, including taking action internally and alerting the LSCB when shortfalls in arrangements are identified.
- Ensuring, including through participating in a programme of multi-agency monitoring and evaluation activity, that all agencies are working together effectively to safeguard children.

Members of CTB are required to contribute to the planning and delivery of services to children and young people in accordance with the CYPP and to

specify their contribution to the joint strategy, including, as appropriate, local representatives of the private and third sectors.

Specific statutory responsibilities of LSCB members include;

- The DCS and Lead Member, working with the Chief Executive of the local Primary Care Trust, play a key part in developing effective joint leadership and clear local accountability arrangements.

The DCS and the Lead Member lead and facilitate local partnership arrangements, including the co-operation arrangements that underpin the local Children's Trust, the Children and Young People's Plan, information sharing databases, the Local Safeguarding Children Board and any section 75 arrangements relating to children's health. These responsibilities are the key to uniting partners and integrating services to make each local area the best possible place for children to grow up.

The DCS has responsibility for the safety and welfare of all children, especially looked after children, across all agencies; this includes:

- statutory responsibility for ensuring that an effective LSCB is in place on behalf of the Local Authority
- being a member of the LSCB and working closely to support the Independent Chair to ensure it functions effectively
- contributing to monitoring the extent to which other Board members act in accordance with the CYPP, and hold them to account through the CTB
- ensuring that children, young people, parents and carers are at the heart of consultation in the strategic planning of services and are able to feed back on their experience of the quality of service.
- considering data on child protection and information emerging from the LSCB and regularly reviewing all points of referral where concerns about a child's safety or welfare are received, to ensure that they are sound in terms of the quality of assessments of any risks of harm to the child, decision-making, onward referral and multi agency working.
- Supporting, advising the LSCB Chair, and monitoring progress

The Lead Member, as an elected representative, should be proactive in developing the local vision and driving improvements for local people, including through the CTB (and CYPP) and the LSCB. The LM should:

- Chair the CTB;
- be a participant observer of the LSCB;
- provide the political leadership needed for the effective co-ordination of work with other relevant agencies with safeguarding responsibilities;
- take steps to assure themselves that effective quality assurance systems for safeguarding are in place and functioning across service areas and levels of need.

The LSCB chair has a crucial role in making certain that the LSCB operates effectively and has an independent voice. The Chair should:

- Not be a member of the CTB but be able to be a participant observer;
- Provide leadership to the LSCB so it fulfils its functions;
- Provide when necessary an independent public voice on behalf of the LSCB;
- Promote partnership and mutual scrutiny.

5 Operational arrangements

In order to deliver local services effectively the LSCB and CTB will:

- Have an ongoing and direct relationship, communicating regularly through identified lead individuals. The DCS and LSCB chair will meet at least quarterly, and the Lead Member will meet with both at least twice per annum;
- 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.

This means that:

- The LSCB will undertake safeguarding audits and feedback the results to the CTB, advising on ways to improve, highlighting areas of underperformance and highlighting gaps in service for the CT to consider as part of its joint commissioning process
- The CTB will consult the LSCB on issues, policies and strategies which affect how children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted, for example; the LSCB has in particular a statutory duty on developing threshold so this will be subject of consultations
- The CTB will take note of recommendations and identified areas for improvement made by the LSCB and report back to the LSCB on subsequent progress
- The CTB will ensure the LSCB is formally consulted during the development of the CYPP
- The CTB will ensure that those issues raised in the LSCB's annual report into the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements are responded to as part of the development of the CYPP
- The CTB will ensure that messages and information provided by the LSCB are appropriately disseminated within CTB member organisations

- The CTB will take an overview of the LSCB's activities as part of its monitoring arrangements, as the work of the LSCB falls within the framework of the CYPP.

Signed:

LSCB Chair.....

Print Name.....

Date.....

CTB Chair.....

Print Name.....

Date.....

DCS.....

Print Name.....

Date.....

