

## **Protocol to support the working relationship between the Brighton and Hove Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB), the Brighton and Hove Local Safeguarding Children Board (B&HLSCB) and the Brighton and Hove Safeguarding Adults Board (B&HSAB)**

Officers have drafted this protocol for the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) and the two Safeguarding Boards to discuss and if minded to approve. It sets out the proposed relationship that should exist between HWB and the children and adult safeguarding boards operating across Brighton and Hove. This paper sets out a proposed framework and protocol within which we will secure effective joint-working between the three Boards.

Given this protocol is going to three Board this paper sets out the distinct roles and responsibilities of each the Boards. It also seeks to clarify the inter-relationships between them in terms of safeguarding and well-being and the means by which we will secure effective co-ordination and coherence between the Boards. The protocol is designed to meet best practice and recommended ways of working.

The recommendations are:

- Between September and November each year the Chairs of the two Safeguarding Boards would present to the HWB their Annual Reports outlining performance against Business Plan objectives in the previous financial year. This would be supplemented by a position statement on the Boards' performance in the current financial year. This would provide the opportunity for the HWB to review and challenge the performance of the Boards, to draw across data to be included in the JSNA and to reflect on key issues that may need to be incorporated in the refresh of the Brighton and Hove Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- Between October and February the HWB to present to the safeguarding boards the review of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the refreshed JSNA and the proposed priorities and objectives for the refreshed Health and Wellbeing Strategy to enable the safeguarding boards to review and challenge performance of the HWB and to ensure that their refreshed Business Plans appropriately reflect relevant priorities set in the refreshed Health and Wellbeing Commissioning Strategy.
- In April/May the Boards will share their refreshed Plans for the coming financial year to ensure co-ordination and coherence.

### **Background to the three Boards**

#### **The Purpose of Health and Wellbeing Boards**

Health and Wellbeing Boards were established by the Health and Social Care Act 2012. They are intended to be a forum where key leaders from the health and care system work together to improve the health and wellbeing of their local population and reduce health inequalities.

Each top tier and unitary authority must have its own health and wellbeing board. Board members are expected to collaborate to understand their local community's needs, agree priorities and encourage commissioners to work in a more joined up

way. As a result, patients and the public should experience more joined-up services from the NHS and local councils in the future.

Brighton and Hove HWB is a formal committee of the city council. For details of the membership, agendas and terms of reference please go to the website <http://present.brighton-hove.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=826>

It is important to note that the Chair of the Brighton and Hove local Safeguarding Children Board is a member of the HWB.

### **The Purpose of Safeguarding Boards Brighton and Hove Local Safeguarding Children Board (B&HLSCB)**

The key objectives for all LSCBs were set out in '*Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013*'. These are:

- To co-ordinate local work to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children;
- To ensure the effectiveness of that work

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development
- Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

A key objective in undertaking these roles is to enable children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully.

The role of an LSCB is to scrutinise and challenge the work of agencies both individually and collectively. The LSCB is not operationally responsible for managers and staff in constituent agencies.

There is a comprehensive website <http://www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/>

which includes a detailed business plan and key priorities.

### **Brighton and Hove Safeguarding Adults Board (B&HSAB)**

Following the Care Act gaining Royal Assent in May 2014 Safeguarding Adult Boards are now in statute, becoming statutory bodies in April 2015. Adult Safeguarding Boards operate within the framework promoted by 'No Secrets' which was published by the Department for Health and the Home Office in March 2000 and by 'Safeguarding Adults' which was published by the then Association of Directors of Social Services in October 2005.

The focus of the work of Safeguarding Adults Boards is 'vulnerable' adults. The forms of abuse which the Board aims to prevent and address could include: physical

abuse, sexual abuse, psychological abuse, financial or material abuse, neglect or acts of omission, discriminatory abuse.

The role of any SAB is to ensure effective safeguarding arrangements are in place in both the commissioning and provision of services to vulnerable adults by individual agencies and to ensure the effective interagency working in this respect.

The chair of the B&HSAB is also on the HWB.

<http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/health-and-social-care/safeguarding-adults-risk>

The website gives key information as well as the business plan and priorities.

### **The need for effective communication and engagement between the Boards.**

Safeguarding is everyone's business. As such, all key strategic plans whether they be formulated by individual agencies or by partnership forums should include safeguarding as a cross-cutting theme to ensure that existing strategies and service delivery as well as emerging plans for change and improvement include effective safeguarding arrangements that ensure that all people of Brighton and Hove are safe and their wellbeing is protected. The two safeguarding boards have a responsibility to review and challenge these arrangements.

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy is a key commissioning strategy for the delivery of services to children and adults across Brighton and Hove and so it is essential that in drawing up, delivering and evaluating the strategy there is effective interchange between the HWB and the two safeguarding Boards.

Whilst currently there is no statutory requirement to secure a formal relationship between the Health and Wellbeing Board and the safeguarding boards there is guidance steering in this direction that may become a requirement and it is obviously seen as best practice.

Whilst *'Working Together 2013'* did not formalise the relationship between the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Local Safeguarding Children Board as had been anticipated there is an expectation that the LSCB's annual report should be submitted to the HWB and of cross-Board engagement in relation to the JSNA. Given Adult Safeguarding Boards are now statutory it would be suitable to ensure they are included especially given the recently expanded terms of reference of the HWB.

The opportunities presented by a formal working relationship between the Brighton and Hove Health and Wellbeing Board and the B&HLSCB and B&HSAB can, therefore be summarised as follows:

- Securing an integrated approach to the JSNA, ensuring comprehensive safeguarding data analysis in the JSNA, in line with *Working Together* guidance
- Aligning the work of the LSCB business plan and SAB Strategic Plan with the HWB Strategy and related priority setting.
- Ensuring safeguarding is “everyone’s business”, reflected in the public health agenda and related determinant of health policies and strategies.
- Evaluating the impact of the HWB Strategy on safeguarding outcomes, and of safeguarding on wider determinants of health outcomes
- Identifying coordinated approach to performance management, transformational change and commissioning
- Cross Board challenge and “holding to account”: for example ensuring the HWB is embedding safeguarding, and the Safeguarding Boards for overall performance and contribution to the HWB Strategy.

### **Arrangements to secure co-ordination between the Boards.**

In order to secure the opportunities identified above it is proposed that the following arrangements would be put in place to ensure effective co-ordination and coherence in the work of the three Boards.

- Between September and November each year the Chairs of the two Safeguarding Boards would present to the Brighton and Hove HWB their Annual Reports outlining performance against Business Plan objectives in the previous financial year. This would be supplemented by a position statement on the Boards’ performance in the current financial year. This would provide the opportunity for the HWB to review and challenge the performance of the Boards, to draw across data to be included in the JSNA and to reflect on key issues that may need to be incorporated in the refresh of the Brighton and Hove Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- Between October and February the Brighton and Hove HWB to present to the safeguarding boards the review of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the refreshed JSNA and the proposed priorities and objectives for the refreshed Health and Wellbeing Strategy to enable the safeguarding boards to review and challenge performance of the Brighton and Hove HWB and to ensure that their refreshed Business Plans appropriately reflect relevant priorities set in the refreshed Health and Wellbeing Commissioning Strategy.
- In April/May the Boards will share their refreshed Plans for the coming financial year to ensure co-ordination and coherence.

### **Conclusion**

The role of the B&HLSCB and B&HSAB in relation to the HWB would be one of equal partners underpinned by this protocol.

The role of Brighton and Hove City Council Scrutiny Panels, to scrutinise performance of safeguarding boards and to be consulted on for policy changes and related service design and commissioning intentions, will remain unchanged, as will

the governance committee of partner agencies to oversee and monitor respective agency contribution and performance to prevent and protect.

BDH 28.08.2014

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