

	<b>Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements</b>
<b>Report of</b>	Chairman of the Committee - Councillor David Longstaff
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	No
<b>Enclosures</b>	Appendix A: Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements
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## Summary

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 amended the Children Act 2004 repealing the provisions around local safeguarding children's boards and introducing a new duty for the three statutory safeguarding partners - London Borough of Barnet; Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group and the Chief Officer of the Metropolitan Police – to make arrangements to work together with each other and with any relevant agencies that they consider appropriate in exercising their functions for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in their area, including identifying and responding to the needs of children in their area. The arrangements, which have been developed by the three partners, in consultation with relevant agencies, can be found at Appendix A. It is a requirement that these arrangements are published by 29th June 2019 and implemented by 29<sup>th</sup> September 2019. It is recommended that the Children, Education and Safeguarding Board approve the arrangements for publishing.

## Officers Recommendations

1. That the Committee approve the Barnet Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements as set out in Appendix A for publishing on the Barnet

**Safeguarding Children Partnership website before 29<sup>th</sup> June 2019.**

- 2. That the Committee delegate authority to the Executive Director for Children and Young People to make further amendments to the arrangements, including agreeing the financial contributions, following discussion with the statutory partners and the Chairman of the Committee.**

**1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED**

- 1.1 This report is required because the Children and Social Work Act 2017 amended the Children Act 2004 repealing the provisions around local safeguarding children's boards and introducing a new duty for the three statutory safeguarding partners - London Borough of Barnet; Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group and the Chief Officer of the Metropolitan Police – to make arrangements to work together with each other and with any relevant agencies that they consider appropriate in exercising their functions for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in their area, including identifying and responding to the needs of children in their area. The arrangements, which have been developed by the three partners in consultation with relevant agencies, can be found at Appendix A. It is a requirement that these arrangements are published by 29<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and implemented by 29<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

**2. STRATEGIC CONTEXT**

- 2.1 The Children and Social Work Act 2017 amended the Children Act 2004 in relation to joint working at a national and local level to safeguard children. The changes give greater autonomy to the safeguarding partners to define the approach to be taken locally. It also makes provision for the establishment of a national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, which will consider cases that raise issues of national importance and will, where appropriate, arrange for these to be reviewed and information about improvements published. In July 2018, the Department for Education published a revised version of Working Together to Safeguard Children, together with transitional guidance. This statutory guidance set out that the three statutory safeguarding partners will have a shared and equal duty in setting out local plans to keep children safe and improve their wellbeing, and will be accountable for how well agencies work together to protect children from abuse and neglect. They will also be responsible for identifying serious child safeguarding cases which raise issues of importance in relation to the area and review cases where they consider it appropriate.
- 2.2 The law underpinning the new safeguarding arrangements came into effect on 29 June 2018. Local areas in England have up to 12 months from this date to develop and publish their arrangements, and a further three months to implement their plans in full. Safeguarding partners must therefore publish their arrangements by 29 June 2019 and all new local arrangements must have been implemented by 29 September 2019.

- 2.4 The Working Together 2018 guidance states that published Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements must include:
- Arrangements for the safeguarding partners to work together to identify and respond to the needs of children in the area;
  - Arrangements for commissioning and publishing local child safeguarding practice reviews
  - Arrangements for independent scrutiny of the effectiveness of the arrangements.
- 2.5 The Working Together 2018 guidance states that Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements must include should also include:
- Who the three local safeguarding partners are, especially if the arrangements cover more than one local authority area;
  - Geographical boundaries (especially if the arrangements operate across more than one local authority area);
  - The relevant agencies the safeguarding partners will work with; why these organisations and agencies have been chosen; and how they will collaborate and work together to improve outcomes for children and families;
  - How all early years settings, schools (including independent schools, academies and free schools) and other educational establishments will be included in the safeguarding arrangements;
  - How any youth custody and residential homes for children will be included in the safeguarding arrangements;
  - How the safeguarding partners will use data and intelligence to assess the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families, including early help;
  - How inter-agency training will be commissioned, delivered and monitored for impact and how they will undertake any multiagency and interagency audits;
  - How the arrangements will be funded;
  - The process for undertaking local child safeguarding practice reviews, setting out the arrangements for embedding learning across organisations and agencies;
  - How the arrangements will include the voice of children and families;
  - How the threshold document setting out the local criteria for action aligns with the arrangements.
- 2.6 In Barnet the statutory partners are:
- London Borough of Barnet
  - Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group
  - The Chief Officer of the Metropolitan Police
- 2.7 The three partners agreed that the geographical footprint for the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements would be the boundaries of the London Borough of Barnet. The three partners have worked together to develop the multi-agency

arrangements to address the requirements set out in the new guidance. Proposals and drafts of the arrangements have been to the current Executive Board of the Barnet Safeguarding Children's Partnership three times over the last 6 months for consultation with relevant agencies.

- 2.6 The proposed arrangements for Barnet are set out in Appendix A and have been developed to address each of the areas set out above, both those that must and those that should be included. There are 17 Early Adopter projects in other local authority areas, which were funded by the Department for Education, which have developed new approaches to establishing their new multiagency safeguarding arrangements. The learning from these Early Adopters has been used in the development of the Barnet Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements. The draft arrangements have also been sent to the Department for Education who have confirmed that they look compliant with the guidelines.
- 2.7 The arrangements will be subject to review at the Leadership Group of the three statutory partners and will be updated at least annually.

### **3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Children Act 2004 (as amended) requires that the three safeguarding partners make arrangements to work together and with relevant agencies for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in their area. The statutory Working Together 2018 sets out further details for the arrangements. It is a requirement that arrangements are published by 29th June 2019 and implemented by 29<sup>th</sup> September 2019. It is recommended that the Barnet arrangements set out in Appendix A are agreed for publication to comply with the requirements and timetable set out in the legislation and guidance.

### **4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

- 4.1 It is a legal requirement to publish arrangements. The Council could consider alternative arrangements, however the arrangements have been formulated following debate at the current local safeguarding children board and consultation with relevant agencies. This option is therefore not recommended.

### **5. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 5.1 In line with recommendation 1, if approved, the arrangements set out in Appendix A will be published on the Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership website before 29<sup>th</sup> June 2019.
- 5.2 The Leadership Forum of the statutory partners will establish the arrangements set out in Appendix A by 29<sup>th</sup> September.

### **6. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

- 6.1 **Corporate Priorities and Performance**

6.1.1 The multi-agency safeguarding arrangements support the council's corporate plan 2019 to 2024, specifically the priorities to: improve services for children and young people and ensuring the needs of children are considered in everything we do; integrate health and social care; and ensure that Barnet is a family friendly borough.

## 6.2 **Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

6.2.1 Section 19 of Appendix A sets out the 18/19 funding arrangements for the safeguarding board. It is anticipated that funding will remain broadly the same from partners, although this is subject to further discussion and agreement. The Council currently contributes £195,000 and future contributions will not exceed this amount without appropriate approval from the Council.

## 6.3 **Social Value**

6.3.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. Before commencing a procurement process, commissioners should think about whether the services they are going to buy, or the way they are going to buy them, could secure these benefits for their area or stakeholders.

## 6.4 **Legal and Constitutional References**

6.4.1 The Children Act 2004 has set out new arrangements for multi-agency working to safeguard children. These are set out in the main body of this report.

6.4.2 Statutory guidance has been published for the new arrangements and the transitional arrangements.

6.4.3 Under the Council's Constitution, Article 7 Committees, Forums, Working Groups and Partnerships, the terms of reference of the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee includes responsibility for all matters relating to children, schools and education.

## 6.5 **Risk Management**

6.5.1 The council has an established approach to risk management, which is set out in the Risk Management Framework.

## 6.6 **Equalities and Diversity**

6.6.1 Equality and diversity issues are a mandatory consideration in the decision-making of the council. The Equality Act 2010 and the Public-Sector Equality Duty, requires elected Members to satisfy themselves that equality considerations are integrated into day-to-day business and that all proposals emerging from the business planning process have taken into consideration the impact, if any, on any protected group and what mitigating factors can be put in place.

## 6.7 **Corporate Parenting**

6.7.1 In line with Children and Social Work Act 2017, the council has a duty to consider Corporate Parenting Principles in decision-making across the council. The outcomes and priorities in the refreshed Corporate Plan, Barnet 2024, reflect the council's commitment to the Corporate Parenting duty to ensure the most vulnerable are protected and the needs of children are considered in everything that the council does.

## **6.8 Consultation and Engagement**

6.8.1 The three statutory partners have worked together, in line with the shared and equal duty, to develop the multi-agency arrangements. Proposals and drafts of the arrangements have been to the current Executive Board of the Barnet Safeguarding Children's Partnership three times over the last 6 months for consultation with relevant agencies.

6.8.2 The draft arrangements have also been sent to the Department for Education who have confirmed that they look compliant with the guidelines.

## **7 INSIGHT**

7.1 There are 17 Early Adopter projects in other local authority areas, which were funded by the Department for Education, which have developed new approaches to establishing their new multiagency safeguarding arrangements. The learning from these Early Adopters has been used in the development of the Barnet Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements.

## **8 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

N/A