

Introduction

"...Regular dialogue between the Children's Trust and the LSCB, should demonstrate that all functions of both the LSCB and the Children's Trust are being effectively discharged." (*Laming: The protection of children in England: A progress report (March 2009)*)

This document is supplementary to the constitutional documents of the Children's Trust and the Safeguarding Board in Peterborough. It identifies the changes to the functions of each to more effectively promote collaborative working to promote and ensure children in Peterborough are safeguarded. Please read in conjunction with the governance diagram.

The Lord Laming in his progress report clarified that the responsibility for improving outcomes for children, including staying safe is the responsibility of the Trust but that the responsibilities of the LSCB is to be assured that multi agency partners in each area are co-operating to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

In order to effectively discharge the requirements of recommendation 9 and recommendation 53 in particular of Lord Laming's report and have that "effective dialogue" the following governance model is proposed:

Childrens Trust represents the co-operation arrangements under Sec 10 of the Children Act 2004 and is responsible for strategic development and delivery of children's services across the five outcomes. Most agencies with a duty to cooperate also have a duty to safeguard.

Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board under sections 13/14 Children Act 2004 has statutory responsibility for ensuring children's services [The Trust] enact Section 11 in all their activities. They must also be assured that those arrangements are effective and having a positive impact on the safety and wellbeing of children and young people co-ordinate and ensure effectiveness.

For the purposes of the governance arrangements in Peterborough, the PSCB's primary function will be that of scrutiny and advisory. The Trust's primary function will be that of delivery and performance. An overarching Safeguarding Strategy will be the means by which both fulfil their functions and responsibilities, and the PSCB will report on the effectiveness of the strategy and both organisations through the annual report as recommended by Lord Laming.

This definition and model enables the functions of the PSCB to be clarified and the shared functions of both the Board and Trust to be identified. The shared functions will be delivered through the stay safe partnership.

Key Functions of the PSCB:

The following sub groups will operate under the auspices of the PSCB:

Policies and Procedures

The PSCB has responsibility for:

- developing and implementing local safeguarding procedures
- ensuring CT appropriately applies policies, procedures and protocols

- engaging with, receiving, researching and disseminating national guidance, good practice and initiatives e.g. The PSCB would build primary relationship with National Safeguarding Delivery Unit NSDU, and Government Office Safeguarding Advisers.

The PSCB will oversee and identify areas of good practice and areas requiring further practice development and/or protocols for local delivery eg; recommendations from an SCR on inspection.

The PSCB will “horizon scan” National good practice and new national guidance and will keep the Trust informed of those.

Serious Case Review Process

The PSCB will have responsibility for:

- managing the process of undertaking a SCR
- appointing an independent SCR panel chair and independent overview writer
- quality assuring the documentation and process
- ensuring Ofsted requirements and national guidance [Working Together] are fulfilled.

The PSCB will lead the reviews of serious cases which may indicate operational safeguarding arrangements within the Children’s Trust and across agencies may not be of a satisfactory standard.

The PSCB will co-ordinate and disseminate the lessons to be learned and monitor the effectiveness of the Board and the Children’s Trust to deliver against the actions recommended by the SCR.

The PSCB has responsibility for ensuring that the collaborative response of the Children’s Trust and the Board for an SCR meets the Ofsted regulatory requirements and inspection standards.

Child Death Overview Panel [CDOP]

The PSCB will have responsibility for the statutory CDOP process. The PSCB will disseminate the work of the panel to the Children’s Trust to inform strategic service development where relevant.

Safeguarding Training

The PSCB will have responsibility for;

- ensuring there is an effective safeguarding training strategy that is compatible with the childrens services Workforce Development Strategy.
- Being assured that the Childrens Trust workforce in individual and integrated services are being appropriately trained.
- Validating training provided.
- Reporting to the trust on the effectiveness of training.

Key Functions of the Childrens Trust

The Children’s Trust will strategically develop and deliver services for all children in Peterborough promoting the priorities of the Children and Young Peoples Plan [CYPP]

and achieving improvements across the five every child matter outcomes. [SHAPE] This is done through structure of the partnership groups which reflect the outcomes and the infrastructure.

- **S**taying safe
- Being **H**ealthy
- **A**chieving and enjoying
- Making a **P**ositive contribution
- Achieving **E**conomic wellbeing

The groups are not mutually exclusive and all children need to “be in good shape” and achieve in all outcomes.

Safeguarding will be a consideration in all outcome groups but is predominantly delivered through the Staying Safe Partnership Group.

In order that this partnership group delivers services of a good standard it will benefit from the close scrutiny and advice of the PSCB.

Similarly the PSCB in order to effectively monitor safeguarding delivery needs a clearer understanding of what is delivered.

This is where a shared delivery and scrutiny role can best fulfil the primary functions of both the Board and The trust.

Childrens Trust and PSCB shared Functions

The following will be shared functions discharged through the stay safe partnership. Member ship will be extended to the Board manager and training manager.

Quality Assurance:

- National Safeguarding Indicators (under consultation post Laming) are a key source of evidence about a local service performance.

The Indicators form part of the area CAA inspection process and is an integrated approach to measure how well partners serve the local population. The Ofsted Inspection of Safeguarding is a key contribution to the CAA. The CT will own the strategy to deliver targets and the PSCB has the responsibility to monitor the effectiveness of targets on performance to safeguard children.

It is therefore more effective for the Board and the Trust to collaborate on a Quality Assurance framework to measure practice availability, process, capacity and outcomes across the trust.

The Stay Safe partnership Group will develop and implement the QA framework for safeguarding.

Section 11 Compliance.

The function of monitoring partners discharge of responsibilities will be incorporated into the Stay Safe Partnership Group.

Communication

Promoting public and professional awareness of local safeguarding issues require a Communication Strategy that includes how safeguarding will be positively marketed and promoted through the media. The impact of such a strategy has greater authority if the

Trust and the Board equally promote safeguarding. It is proposed a collaborative strategy is advertised and implemented through the Stay Safe Partnership Group with a protocol setting key leads for particular stories.

The priorities of the Trust to be delivered will be managed through an overarching safeguarding strategy which will encompass safeguarding requirements at universal, targeted and specialist levels. It will be monitored through the staysafe partnership.

The PSCB will be responsible for the annual report to the Children's Trust which will be drafted through the collaborative group of the stay safe partnership.

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