

Report to:	Cabinet		
Date of meeting:	8/4/2019		
Report of:	Director of People Services	Report number:	PS149
Contact officer:	Bernie Brown	Telephone number	2010
Report title:	Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA)		
This report does not contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the press or members of the public			
Purpose:	To provide an update of progress and next steps in developing the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA)		
Recommendations:	<p>Cabinet are asked to note and comment on the progress of the Bolton Safeguarding Partnership development.</p> <p>Cabinet are asked to note that the Chief Executive retains ultimate accountability for the Multiagency safeguarding arrangements in Bolton.</p> <p>Cabinet are asked to approve the approach and delegate any further decisions relating to implementation to the Director of People, subject to the necessary agreements within the Clinical Commissioning Group and Greater Manchester police executive bodies.</p>		
Decision:			
Background documents:			
Signed: (Executive Cabinet Member reports only)	Leader/Executive Cabinet Member	Monitoring Officer	
Date:			

Bolton Council

Consultation with other officers

Finance	Yes	Lisa Butcher	
Legal	No		
HR	No		
Equality Impact Assessment required?	No		
Pre-consultation reports Is there a need to consult on the proposals? Post consultation reports Please confirm that the consultation response has been taken into consideration in making the recommendations.		No formal consultation report required	
Please identify the appropriate Vision outcome(s) that this report relates or contributes to by ticking the relevant box.	1. Start Well	✓	
	2. Live Well	✓	
	3. Age Well	✓	
	4. Prosperous		
	5. Clean and Green		
	6. Strong and Distinctive		

1 Background

- 1.1 Local safeguarding arrangements for children are essential to deliver outcomes and adhere to the principles of the Bolton 2030 Vision;
 - Protecting the most vulnerable
 - Ensuring our children have the best possible start in life
 - Improving the health and wellbeing of residents
- 1.2 The Children and Social Work Act 2017 sets out new requirements for multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for children and young people. Statutory guidance is set out in Working Together to Safeguarding Children July 2018.
- 1.3 The statutory guidance names 3 local safeguarding partners – the Local Authority, the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the Police. These partners have a “shared and equal duty” for local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for children and young people. The lead representatives of the safeguarding partners are named as “the Local Authority Chief Executive, the Accountable Officer of a Clinical Commissioning Group, and a Chief Officer of Police”. There is a recognition that lead representatives may delegate their functions but “they remain accountable for any actions or decisions taken on behalf of their agency.”
- 1.4 Section 11 duties set out in the Children Act 2004 remain. These duties require local organisations and agencies to safeguarding and promote the welfare of children.
- 1.5 In summary the responsibility of the three safeguarding partners is to “agree on ways to co-ordinate their safeguarding services; act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others; and implement local and national learning including from serious child safeguarding incidents.” There is no longer a requirement to have a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and there are changes to serious case review and child death processes.
- 1.6 Safeguarding partners must publish and notify the Secretary of State for Education of their arrangements. They should also notify the chair of the LSCB. Working Together sets out requirements on what to publish including:
 - How the safeguarding partners will work together to identify and respond to the needs of children in the area.
 - Arrangements for commissioning, publishing and learning from local child safeguarding practice reviews.
 - Independent scrutiny arrangements.
 - The 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. This needs to include early years settings and schools.
 - 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
 - Plan for commissioning, delivering and monitoring the impact of inter-agency training
 - How the arrangements will be funded
 - How the arrangements will include the voice of children and families
- 1.7 The new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements must be published by 20th June 2019 and transition to the new arrangements must be completed by 29th September 2019.

2 Proposals to meet the statutory requirements

Requirements	Proposal
<p>2.1 The multi-agency arrangements</p> <p><i>“The safeguarding partners must set out which organisations and agencies they will be working with to safeguard and promote the welfare of children..... A list of relevant agencies is set out in regulations.”</i></p> <p><i>“Safeguarding partners should communicate regularly with their relevant agencies and others they expect to work with them. It is for the safeguarding partners to determine how regularly their list of relevant agencies will be reviewed. The local arrangements should be shared with all partners and relevant agencies, and information should be given about how to escalate concerns and how any disputes will be resolved. This should give details of the independent scrutiny and whistleblowing procedures.”</i></p> <p><i>“To be effective these arrangements should link to other strategic partnership work happening locally to support children and families. This will include other public boards including Health and wellbeing boards, Adult Safeguarding Boards, Channel Panels, Improvement Boards, Community Safety Partnerships, the Local Family Justice Board and MAPPAs.”</i></p>	<p>It is proposed to form the Bolton Safeguarding Partnership. This will include the 3 named agencies – the Council, the Police and the CCG. It will also include the Chief Executive of Bolton CVS and a representative from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). Local voluntary organisations have a crucial role to play in developing community capacity and in providing local services. There is significant evidence that poverty impacts on stress levels and affects parenting ability. DWP responsibilities include supporting and encouraging employment which lifts many families out of poverty levels. The Safeguarding Partnership will have responsibility for developing processes for involving other agencies in the local safeguarding arrangements.</p> <p>Membership of the Bolton Safeguarding Partnership will be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of People (statutory DCS) Bolton Council • Superintendent GMP • Associated Director - Governance and Quality CCG • Director of Transformation CCG • CEX Bolton CVS • Deputy Director People (statutory DASS) Bolton Council • Partnership Manager DWP • Director of Public Health <p>The group will have strong links to the Health and Wellbeing Board and Bolton Vision 2030 governance. The Safeguarding Partnership Group has been operating in shadow form pending formal approval.</p> <p>An Operational Partnership Group will have responsibility for progressing work plans and priorities and responding to any urgent and emerging issues. This group may establish other task or working groups.</p>

Requirements	Response
<p>2.2 Child safeguarding practice reviews</p> <p>A national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel has been established. From 29 June 2018, safeguarding partners have been required to undertake a rapid review of any case “where they know or suspect that a child has been abused or neglected and the child has died or been seriously harmed.” Local Authorities are then required to notify the national panel of the findings from the rapid review. If the national panel decide the issues raised are complex or of national importance, they will oversee the review. Partners will also need to establish systems for deciding whether local safeguarding practice reviews should take place.</p> <p>“Some cases may not meet the definition of a ‘serious child safeguarding case’, but nevertheless raise issues of importance to the local area. That might, for example, include where there has been good practice, poor practice or where there have been ‘near miss’ events. Safeguarding partners may choose to undertake a local child safeguarding practice review in these or other circumstances.”</p>	<p>The Bolton Safeguarding Partnership will have responsibility for overseeing child safeguarding practice reviews. This will include commissioning and signing off Rapid Reviews.</p> <p>The Operational Partnership Group will have responsibility for managing the process for local safeguarding practice reviews and for learning and sharing examples of good practice.</p>
<p>2.3 Independent Scrutiny</p> <p>“The role of independent scrutiny is to provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases.”</p> <p>“The independent scrutineer should consider how effectively the arrangements are working for children and families as well as for practitioners, and how well the safeguarding partners are providing strong leadership and agree with the safeguarding partners how this will be reported.”</p>	<p>Independent scrutiny will take place through the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twice yearly appointing independent sector “experts” to assess whether the arrangements are effective and are improving outcomes for children and young people. • Quarterly reviews from an elected team of young people and users recruited by the CVS to ensure the voice of the child and family is heard and listened to. • Further independent scrutiny will be provided through the development of the Greater Manchester Standards Board. This will be independently chaired and have a children’s advocate as well as representatives from all 10 Local Authorities. Quarterly data will be scrutinised along with annual reports on safeguarding arrangements.

Requirements	Response
<p>2.4 Child death reviews</p> <p>The child death review partners (Local Authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups) must set up child death review arrangements. <i>“From 29 June 2018, child death review partners have up to 12 months to agree arrangements for the review of each death of a child normally resident in their area, including arrangements for the analysis of information about deaths reviewed.....Child death review partners should publish their arrangements, and should notify NHS England when they have done so. At the end of the 12-month period, or at any time before, child death review partners have up to three months to implement the arrangements.”</i></p> <p>Working Together notes that child death review partners <i>“for two or more local authority areas may combine and agree that their areas be treated as a single area for the purpose of undertaking child death reviews.”</i></p>	<p>The Greater Manchester Directors of Children’s Services are discussing future arrangements for child death reviews.</p>

3 Next Steps and timescales

- 3.1 The proposals have been developed in partnership with key partners. They require formal approval by the appropriate mechanisms in the CCG, GMP and the Council. The proposed timescales for this and the transition to the new arrangements is as follows:

Item	Deadline
Information on the new arrangements to be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board and other key strategic boards to establish close links as noted in Working Together. To include plans for child death process	By end April 2019
Formal agreement and approval to the new arrangements through the CCG Executive, Council Cabinet and GMP governance arrangements.	By early June 2019
Publication of the new arrangements including sending these to the Secretary of State for Education.	By 20 th June 2019
Shadow arrangements continue, and a transition plan is developed. This will include financial and support arrangements.	From 1 st July 2019
LSCB ceases to exist with formal handover and transfer to new arrangements	By 10 September 2019

4 Impacts and implications

Financial

- 4.1 The guidance states “The safeguarding partners should agree the level of funding secured from each partner, which should be equitable and proportionate, and any contributions from each relevant agency, to support the local arrangements.” Funding for the current LSCB arrangements in 2018/19 is detailed in the table below.

Agency	2018/19 Contribution (£)
Children's Services Dept.	232,079
Greater Manchester Police	17,995
Bolton CCG	87,456
National Probation Service	3,468
GM and Cheshire CRC	
Community Housing	5,000
CAFCASS	550
Supervision, Support and Cover for CDOP	3,000
Total Contributions & Income	-349,548

- 4.2 Funding arrangements between the 3 key partners will be reviewed as part of the formal approval process.

Legal

- 4.3 The proposals ensure that the Council will comply with statutory guidance.

HR

- 4.4 The current support arrangements for the LSCB reside with several teams across the People Services Directorate. There are also separate officers/teams within the People Directorate who are responsible for supporting the Adults Safeguarding Board's and for Safeguarding in Education. These arrangements will be reviewed as part of the implementation.

Equality Impact Assessment

- 4.5 Under the Equality Act 2010, the council must have due regard to:
- Eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act;
 - Advancing equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it; and
 - Fostering good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
- 4.6 It is therefore important to consider how the proposals contained within this report may positively or negatively affect this work.
- 4.7 An initial screening for equality implications has been undertaken, based on this the report does not require an Equality Impact Assessment to be completed as it is not requesting a policy change on the part of the Council.

Consultation

- 4.8 Partner organisations will be involved in the further development of proposals. Informal consultation will take place with strategic leaders before proposals are brought for formal approval.

Vision 2030

- 4.9 The proposals align to the Vision principles;
- Protecting the most vulnerable
 - Reforming our services in partnership
- 4.10 They will contribute to the following Vision priorities;
- Ensuring our children have the best possible start in life
 - Improving the health and wellbeing of residents
 - Stronger, cohesive., more confident communities in which people feel safe, welcome and connected

- 4.11 Development of the new arrangements will use the following drivers of change which underpin the 2030 Vision;
- Behaviour change
 - Delivering efficiently
 - Rebalancing our finances
 - Maximising our assets

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 Cabinet are asked to note and comment on the progress of the Bolton Safeguarding Partnership development
- 5.2 Cabinet are asked to note that the Chief Executive retains ultimate accountability for the Multiagency safeguarding arrangements in Bolton.
- 5.3 Cabinet are asked to approve the approach and delegate any further decisions relating to implementation to the Director of People, subject to the necessary agreements within the Clinical Commissioning Group and Greater Manchester police executive bodies.