

**PROTOCOL ON THE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE
KENT HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
KENT CHILDREN'S AND WELLBEING BOARD
AND
KENT SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD**

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This document sets out the working arrangements between the Kent Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB), Kent Children's Health and Wellbeing Board (CHWB) and Kent Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB).
- 1.2 The aim of this protocol is to support all three partnerships to operate effectively, being clear about their respective functions; inter-relationships; and the roles and responsibilities of all those involved in promoting and maintaining the health and wellbeing of children and in keeping children safe. This is essential in order to maximise the safeguarding of children and young people, to avoid the duplication of work and to ensure there are no preventable strategic or operational gaps in safeguarding policies, services or practice.

2. Principles and Functions

- 2.1 The HWB, CHWB and KSCB have distinctive and complementary roles in maintaining the health and wellbeing of children and keeping children safe. All three bodies exist as a result clear legal requirements: the HWB was established by virtue of section 194 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012; the CHWB was created under the provision of section 10 of the Children Act 2004 and the KSCB is a statutory partnership body created under the provision of section 11 of the Children Act 2004.
- 2.2 The Kent HWB provides leadership, ownership and directs on work to improve the health and wellbeing of all the people of Kent through joined up commissioning across the NHS, social care, public health and other services (that the HWB agrees are directly related to health and wellbeing) in order to secure better health and wellbeing outcomes across the county; to reduce health inequalities; and to ensure better quality of care for all patients and care users be they adults or children.
- 2.3 The CHWB works to promote cooperation between the local authority, relevant partners and other bodies working with children in order to improve the health and wellbeing of all children and young people in the local authority area. The Board advises and advocates on key policy and commissioning issues and makes recommendations for service integration and joint commissioning arrangements that address the needs of the most disadvantaged children. The Board reports into the Kent Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 2.4 The KSCB is responsible for ensuring that partner agencies with statutory responsibilities are appropriately safeguarding the children and young people of Kent and are actively promoting their welfare. The Board verifies that all responsible agencies are working together collectively in order to protect vulnerable

children/children at risk of abuse and neglect, and to make certain that the right resources are in place in order to meet their needs. The KSCB sets the performance, policy and strategic priorities for partnership working, and its membership comprises of senior representatives from all agencies responsible for child protection arrangements in the county.

3. Working Relationships

3.1 The HWB, CHWB and KSCB have a shared commitment to ensuring that safeguarding and the promotion of the welfare of children is a priority in Kent, being mindful of the importance of the child's voice in this process.

3.2 The Boards will have an ongoing and direct relationship, communicating regularly through identified channels/lead individuals, and will be open to constructive challenge in order to promote continuous improvement in safeguarding practice and outcomes.

3.3 The Boards commit to work together to ensure effective local partnership arrangements with the appropriate governance which are focused on contributing to protecting children from harm and on promoting their health and wellbeing.

3.4 In relation to respective roles and responsibilities:

The HWB will:

- Consider the totality of the resources in Kent for health and wellbeing and consider how and where investment in health improvement and prevention services could improve the health of children and young people, alongside the overall health and wellbeing of Kent's residents.
- Ensure that the CHWB and KSCB are formally consulted in relation to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and formulation of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS), specifically on issues which affect the welfare of vulnerable children/children at risk of abuse or neglect.
- Ensure that the advice and information provided by the CHWB and the KSCB is appropriately disseminated within the HWB member organisations and considered as part of the development of the JHWS.

3.5 The CHWB will:

- Provide a strong influence on children's health and wellbeing issues, advising and advocating on key policy and commissioning issues across the county in consultation with the KSCB.
- Deliver an informed and balanced report to the HWB annually (and at other reporting cycles agreed between them) on progress in relation to the health and wellbeing of children and young people in Kent. Make recommendations

for service integration and for joint commissioning arrangements that address the needs of the most disadvantaged children and young people, if required in collaboration with the KSCB.

- Offer expert advice to the HWB on the development of the JSNA (particularly relevant needs assessment), JHWS and appropriate commissioning plans with a focus on the health needs of children and young people.
- Take note of the recommendations and identified areas for improvement made by the KSCB in their annual report, and report back to the KSCB on subsequent progress.
- The Chair of the KSCB will be a member of the CHWB.

3.6 The KSCB will:

- Provide an annual report to the CHWB and HWB on local safeguarding arrangements and its findings relating to the monitoring/scrutiny of those arrangements.
- Contribute to the development and review of the children and young people's strategic plan, with a focus on safeguarding issues.
- Provide overarching safeguarding guidance and, if necessary, challenge in relation to the implementation of actions and outcomes for children.
- Influence and promote safeguarding within new service developments via agreed members with designated safeguarding responsibilities.
- Annually scrutinise plans and documents to ensure the safeguarding of children is appropriately addressed.
- Undertake specific work in relation to child protection priorities as agreed between Boards.
- Contribute to the development of local performance indicators in relation to child protection outcomes.

4. Evaluation and Review

4.1 If there are any areas of significant concern that cannot be resolved in accordance with this Protocol then a strategy meeting will be held between the Independent Chair of the KSCB, Chair of the CHWB, Chair of the HWB, the Director of Children's Services and any other senior person that is regarded as being required.

4.2 The HWB, CHWB and KSCB should review the implementation of this Protocol annually (in April), with variations discussed and agreed as appropriate by all three Boards.

Signatories

Approved on behalf of the Kent Health and Wellbeing Board

By: Roger Gough, Chairperson

Date: tbc

Approved on behalf of the Children's Health and Wellbeing Board

By: Andrew Ireland, Chairperson

Date: 03.02.15

Approved on behalf of the Kent Safeguarding Children Board

By: Gill Rigg, Chairperson

Date: 19.02.15