

**From:** Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education  
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**To:** Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee – 1 October 2019

**Subject:** Update on the Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-agency Arrangements

**Classification:** Unrestricted

**Past Pathway of Paper:** Safeguarding Partnership (Shadow Executive Board)  
11 September 2019

**Electoral Divisions:** All

**Summary:** This report updates the Cabinet Committee on the recently established Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-agency Partnership (KSCMP). This is the new statutory body which has replaced the previous local safeguarding children board.

**Recommendation:**

The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to **NOTE** the contents of this report.

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee considered the "Proposed New Multi-agency Local Safeguarding Arrangements" report on the then planned new local safeguarding multi-agency arrangements at its meeting on 7 May 2019.
- 1.2 The minutes of the meeting held on 7 May 2019, records that the Cabinet Committee "*RESOLVED that the proposed decision to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education to agree the proposed new multi-agency local safeguarding arrangements, be endorsed*".
- 1.3 The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education took the Key Decision (19/00035) on 15 May 2019. This paved the way for the establishment of the Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership (KSCMP). In line with the statutory requirements, the Chief Officers of the 'safeguarding partners', namely, the Head of Paid Service (KCC), the Accountable Officer (CCGs) and the Chief Officer (Kent Police) published information about the new

arrangements on 17 June 2019. The document can be found via this link: [www.kscmp.org.uk](http://www.kscmp.org.uk). As a result, the Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-agency Partnership was established on 17 September 2019. This new multi-agency partnership has replaced the previous local children safeguarding board, which was known as Kent Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB).

- 1.4 The purpose of this report is to update the Children’s, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee on the establishment of the Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-agency Partnership. Also, for the Cabinet Committee to be informed about the approach and the measures that the partnership board will use to help it to reach an understanding of the effectiveness of the new safeguarding arrangements. Details of the assessment plan are set out in the Scrutiny and Assurance Framework document which can be found via this link: [www.kscmp.org.uk](http://www.kscmp.org.uk)

## 2. Policy context

- 2.1 The Children Act 2004, as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017, has placed a new duty on ‘Safeguarding Partners’ (local authority, CCGs and police) to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The new arrangements place a ‘shared and equal duty’ on all three statutory organisations.
- 2.2 Working Together 2018 requires that these new arrangements must be in place by the 29<sup>th</sup> September 2019, and, as indicated in 1.3 above, the new arrangement became operational on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

## 3. Requirements related to setting up the Multi-agency Partnership Arrangements

- 3.1 Working Together 2018 also sets out the key requirements which safeguarding partners must fulfil. The assessment as to the extent to the requirements have been met are set out in the table below and this confirms that our new arrangements fully comply with the requirements placed on the safeguarding partners.

Table 1

Requirement	Status	Requirement	Status	Requirement	Status
Response to safeguarding concerns	✓	Relevant agencies	✓	Funding	✓
Commissioning and publishing child local safeguarding reviews	✓	Involvement of education	✓	Process for undertaking local safeguarding practice reviews	✓
Arrangements for independent scrutiny	✓	Involvement of residential homes for	✓	Voice of children and families	✓

		children			
Safeguarding partners	✓	Use of date and intelligence	✓	Threshold document	✓
Geographical boundaries	✓	Multi-agency training	✓	Publish information on the local arrangements	✓

- 3.2 The inaugural meeting of the Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-agency Executive Board is scheduled to take place on the 9th October 2019. The Partnership Executive Board will set out its key priorities following the meeting. The Corporate Director Children, Young People and Education represents KCC on the Partnership Executive Board. The KSCMP will publish its annual report which will be presented to the County Council, CCGs Board and the Police and Crime Commissioner in line with the statutory requirement.
- 3.3 The Lead Member for Children’s Services will play a key role in the KSCMP Scrutiny and Challenge Group. The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education which will act alongside the Independent Scrutineer and the Partnership Executive Board to lead on the system of challenge and holding partners to account in order to demonstrate evidence of system performance. As a result, the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education will play an important role in driving the multi-agency partnership to improve the overall system performance and effectiveness.
- 3.4 Work is at an advance stage for completing the review of the business support requirements necessary to assist the Partnership Executive Board and the operation of the multi-agency arrangements.
- 3.5 As part of the transition from the KSCB to the new multi-agency partnership arrangements, the funding contribution agreed by the existing KSCB members will continue to fund necessary partnership activities until the end of the 2019/20 financial year.
- 3.6 The Partnership Executive Board is carrying out a review of the funding arrangements to inform the required budget for 2020/21 and to determine the respective contribution of the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies.

#### 4. Conclusion

- 4.1 Amendments to the Children Act 2004 have led to the establishment of KSCMP as the new multi-agency safeguarding partnership that has replaced the previous local safeguarding children board (KSCB). The statutory safeguarding partners are the local authority, CCGs and police. These three agencies have a ‘shared and equal’ responsibility for the local safeguarding multi-agency arrangements. KSCMP became operational on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2019.
- 4.2 This report is intended to update the Cabinet Committee on the establishment of the new safeguarding children partnership multi-agency arrangements. The report confirms that KCC, CCGs and police have taken the necessary steps to ensure that they comply with the statutory duty placed on them as ‘safeguarding

partners', regarding the creation and the operation of a new local safeguarding multi-agency partnership. KSCMP will report its activities via an annual report to the respective governing bodies of the three agencies. In the case of KCC, the annual report will be presented to the County Council.

## 5. Recommendation

### 5.1 Recommendation:

The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to **NOTE** the contents of this report.

## 6. Background Documents

Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-agency Partnership Arrangements / Scrutiny and Assurance Framework.

<https://www.kscmp.org.uk/about-kscb/newarrangements>

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

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