

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,
Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and
Education

DECISION NO:

19/00035

For publication

Key decision: **YES**

Subject: Proposed Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-agency Partnership Arrangements

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education I propose to:

a) Agree the new Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-agency Partnership Arrangements.

Reason(s) for decision:

In December 2015 the Government asked Sir Alan Wood to undertake a review into effectiveness of local safeguarding children's boards (LSCBs). His review, published in May 2016, concluded that LSCBs did not work effectively and should be abolished. The Wood review proposed a new model of collective working that would ensure better multi-agency collaboration, placing responsibilities on three key agencies to take a strategic lead on safeguarding and the promotion of child welfare in each local authority area. The Wood Review recommendations formed a core part of the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

The Children Act 2004, as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017, causes the Local Safeguarding Children Board, which is set up by Kent County Council to be replaced. The revised law places new duties on the three Safeguarding Partners (KCC, Kent Police, and Kent Clinical Commissioning Groups). The Safeguarding Partners must agree their arrangements for working together with Relevant Agencies (as they consider appropriate), to safeguard and protect the welfare of children in the area.

The Working Together 2018 statutory guidance, sets out further details about the new responsibilities regarding safeguarding children placed on the three Safeguarding Partners. The responsibility for the joined-up local arrangements is based on a "shared and equal duty" between the Safeguarding Partners, unlike the current arrangement which is the sole responsibility of KCC.

The proposed new multi-agency local safeguarding Partnership has been developed to deliver the statutory requirements and associated revised mandatory guidance. This partnership will be led by the delegated leaders from each of the safeguarding partners and seeks to safeguard children and promote their welfare, working with selected Relevant Agencies. The new partnership will further develop processes about enhancing the voice of children and their families in what they have to say about the services they receive. The Safeguarding Partners will continue to engage Relevant Agencies across the safeguarding system with a review to improve local practice and better understand local conditions.

The proposed decision supports the Strategic Outcome 1 - Children and young people in Kent get the best start in life and the proposed decision meets the objectives of 'Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement (2015-2020)'.

Financial Implications:

As part of the transition from the KSCB to the proposed new Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-agency Partnership arrangements, existing KSCB members have agreed their respective funding contribution for the 2019/20 financial year. It is proposed that the agreed funding should contribute to the costs associated with the implementation of the proposed new multi-agency local safeguarding arrangements, including the Business Support Team and the proposed independent scrutiny and any associated developments work in 2019/20. The funding arrangements for 2020/21 and beyond, will be subject to further review and discussions by the Safeguarding Partners and Relevant Agencies, following implementation of the proposed new Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-agency Partnership arrangements. The ongoing and future funding will be subject to an annual review by the Safeguarding Partners.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:
To be added after Committee meeting

Any alternatives considered: The proposed arrangements are as the result of the new duties in the Children Act 2004, as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017. Safeguarding Partners are under a legal obligation to comply with the requirements.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

Signed :

Dated :