

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	Cabinet
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Multi-agency Safeguarding Arrangements review
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> September 2024
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>Councillor Finn</b> <b>Cabinet Member for Adults and Health</b>

<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
<b>Executive Director</b>	<b>Title</b>	Executive Directors – Children and Learning Community Wellbeing	
	<b>Name:</b>	Robert Henderson and Claire Edgar	<b>Tel:</b> 07468758995 023 80 833045
<b>Author:</b>	<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:rebecca.holdsworth@southampton.gov.uk">rebecca.holdsworth@southampton.gov.uk</a> / 023 8091 7671	
	<b>Title</b>	Partnerships Team Manager	
	<b>Name:</b>	<a href="mailto:stuart.webb@southampton.gov.uk">stuart.webb@southampton.gov.uk</a> / 02380 834102	
	<b>E-mail:</b>	Head of Quality Assurance/ Principal Social Worker – Children and Learning	

<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>
Not applicable
<b>BRIEF SUMMARY</b>
<p>Proposal for amalgamation of Southampton Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) and Southampton Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) to be incorporated under the Southampton Children and Adults Safeguarding Partnership (SCASP), with greater alignment with the Safe City Partnership.</p> <p>The purpose of the partnership is to support the statutory safeguarding partners and relevant agencies to fulfil their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults at risk and/or have needs for care and support.</p> <p>SCASP will provide effective and informed leadership to the local safeguarding system and deliver a shared responsibility for the safeguarding of children, young people and adults at risk in Southampton. The partnership also seeks to engage with children, young people, adults and their families to inform its work and provide added value.</p> <p>The proposal aims to secure the ethos of working as a whole system for all residents of Southampton, recognising that each are members of the community and working together will promote the safeguarding of all by the multi-agency partnership employing a whole life pathway approach.</p>

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>		
	(i)	To support the establishment of the Southampton Children and Adults Safeguarding Partnership (SCASP) as an outside body supported by the Council. It is proposed that the SCASP will meet bi-monthly to oversee the executive decision making. This will be chaired by the Chief Executive of the Council, with attendance by the statutory decision makers (the Lead and/or Designated Safeguarding Partners) from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary, NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight and the Directors of Adult and Children Social Care.
	(ii)	It is recommended that the Independent Scrutineer of the SSCP becomes the overall Independent Scrutineer of the SCASP.
	(iii)	The Adult and Children Systems Board will meet on a quarterly basis to address the work of the subgroup activity and to gain assurance or provide challenge on the effectiveness of the safeguarding functions across the partnership. This will be chaired by one of the Delegated Safeguarding Partners with membership from each of the statutory partners, including education, the Safe City Partnership and relevant agencies, as well as the Independent Scrutineer. Lead members will be in attendance to provide a two-way line of communication to Cabinet or Committee.
	(iv)	The subgroup activity of the SCASP will be streamlined to promote shared learning, timely decision making around reviews and a shared quality assurance system across the partnership. This will serve to promote the integration of learning for all agencies in the system who work with children, families and adults, recognising that partners will work with and come into contact with everyone in the Southampton community for the purpose of prevention and safeguarding.
<b>REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS</b>		
1.	The current structure is not aligned with a high number of subgroups and meetings, where similar agenda items are discussed and duplicated. The proposal will result in a clearer structure, with scrutiny and governance in line with statutory requirements.	
2.	The proposal will support the safeguarding of all residents, promoting community and in keeping with the Family Safeguarding Model and the Whole Life Pathway approach.	
<b>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED</b>		
3.	<p>Maintain the current structures for the SSCP and SSAB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is duplication in meeting agendas which result in inefficiencies in the system, with the same Board members attending numerous meetings where the same information is shared.</li> <li>• There is a lack of co-ordination and consistency in shared learning and challenge across the partnership with areas working in silo, with potential gaps and duplication of assurance activity.</li> <li>• The potential to promote sustainable change across wider family networks and communities is lost when the partnership is focusing on different groups of the community.</li> </ul>	

<b>DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)</b>	
4.	<p>The statutory roles, responsibilities of the Safeguarding Children’s Partnership are (Working Together to safeguard Children 2023 chapter 2);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every local authority, ICB and constabulary in England must be covered by a multi-agency safeguarding arrangement. The purpose of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements is to ensure that, at a local level, organisations and agencies are clear about how they will work together to safeguard children and promote their welfare.</li> <li>• Once agreed, local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements must be published and safeguarding partners must jointly report on the activity they have undertaken in a 12 month period.</li> <li>• Where a local authority in England knows or suspects that a child has been abused or neglected, the local authority must notify the Child safeguarding Practice review Panel if: The child dies or is seriously harmed in the local authority’s area and oversee a review if improvements are needed to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, if there are concerns regarding two or more organisations.</li> </ul> <p>The statutory roles, responsibilities and functions of the Safeguarding Adults Board are (The Care Act 2014, section 42);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each local authority must establish a Safeguarding Adults Board. The objective of a SAB is to help and protect adults in its areas by co-ordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of what each of its members does.</li> <li>• The strategic plan and annual report must be published to report on the activity undertaken in a 12 month period and the agreed strategic priorities shared.</li> <li>• The SAB must arrange for there to be a review of a case involving an adult in its area with care and support needs if the adult has died or has experienced serious abuse or neglect and there is reasonable cause for concern about how members of the SAB have worked together to safeguard the adult.</li> </ul> <p>It is essential that learning across safeguarding practice is identified across all organisations. The proposals will ensure that there is a greater clarity and oversight of the scrutiny across the city to ultimately improve and monitor safeguarding practice and arrangements for all residents in the city.</p>
5.	<p>Consultation has been undertaken with Wiltshire and Northumberland Safeguarding Partnerships. Both have implemented an amalgamated partnership over the last two years and Northumberland have recently been commended for the strength of the partnership during their Ofsted inspection where they were upgraded from Good to Outstanding.</p>
6.	<p>Consultation has also been undertaken with the statutory partners at an executive level across all partnerships. They agree with the proposals and excited to be part of the proposed changes. There are further meetings planned with partners to co-produce the details of the meeting structures and activity and to forward plan the review and scrutiny of the proposed multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.</p>

7.	The overall decision making around high-level scrutiny of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements will be with the Executive Group, chaired by the Chief Executive of the council and attended by the Lead officers in the key statutory partner agencies; NHS Hampshire and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary), referred to as the Lead Safeguarding Partners. This is specified in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023. An independent scrutineer will provide detailed scrutiny and advice to the Board and the Executive which is specified in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 and The Care Act 2014. The structure of the subgroups, Board and Executive is appended, with the proposed terms of reference. There has been collaboration across the partner agencies and the current scrutineer, along with research with Northumberland Safeguarding Partnership where similar arrangements are successfully in place.
8.	The subgroups will undertake the work of the Safeguarding partnership to ensure that lessons from reviews are identified and actions progressed from the Practice Review Group with the Learning and Development subgroup. Assurance will be gained through the activity in the Practice and Performance subgroup. The delegated decision making in the groups will be shared with the Children and Adult Systems Board to ensure that there is oversight and scrutiny of the commissioning of reviews and the progressions of practice improvement and dissemination of learning. The Board will be chaired by the Delegated Safeguarding Partners, as per the requirement in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023.

**RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

**Capital/Revenue**

9.	<p>The current arrangements are funded across NHS Hampshire, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary and Southampton City Council, with a small contribution to the Children’s Safeguarding Partnership from Probation. The staffing costs, training and workshop activity and review costs for the Southampton Safeguarding Children’s Partnership amount to £249,760. The breakdown of the contributions are as follows;</p> <p>SCC - £141,062  HIOW constabulary - £25,098  NHS Hampshire - £79,801  Probation - £3,799</p> <p>The total running costs for the Safeguarding Adults Board are £203,131. The breakdown of the contributions are;</p> <p>SCC - £113,903  HOIW Constabulary - £25,494  NHS Hampshire - £63,734</p>
10.	The contributions are negotiated on an annual basis, as per Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 and The Care Act 2014. The majority of savings for the new arrangements will be in the reduction in the number of meetings for senior level leaders to attend, which is 18 meetings per annum. With the greater collaboration across Children and Adults safeguarding arrangements, it is expected that there will be streamlining of learning and

	<p>assurance across the city which should result in a reduction in the number of Safeguarding Reviews with similar themes arising. There will be a financial saving of £22,921 per annum with the appointment of one Scrutineer 2 days per month across the proposed Partnership Arrangements.</p> <p>The streamlining of subgroups, the Systems Board and the Executive will result in a reduction in the frequency of attendance by senior leaders across the partnership from 68 to 34 per year.</p>
<b><u>Property/Other</u></b>	
11.	The subgroups, Board and Executive will hold hybrid arrangements for the meetings, both virtually and in person at Southampton Civic Centre.
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u></b>	
12.	The proposals set out in this report meet the requirements for safeguarding partnership arrangements set out in the Care Act 2014 and the associated statutory guidance “Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023”.
<b><u>Other Legal Implications:</u></b>	
13.	In establishing the Partnership and Board regard has been had to the Council’s Equality duties (particularly those that relate to protected characteristics engaged by the work of the Partnership) and s.17 Crime & Disorder Act 1998.
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS</b>	
14.	<p>Proposals are compliant with Working Together 2023 and Care Act 2014, tested through engagement with two existing integrated partnerships. Scrutiny is robust through the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel and the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel.</p> <p>Factors impacting upon partnership effectiveness are considered in the council’s strategic risk register and reviewed quarterly.</p>
<b>POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS</b>	
15.	The proposals contribute to the ‘Healthier and Safer Communities’ priority in Southampton’s <a href="#">City Strategy</a> and the strategic objectives of the <a href="#">corporate plan</a> .

<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	<b>All</b>
<b><u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u></b>	
<b>Appendices</b>	
1.	Proposed Terms of Reference for the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements

2.	Proposed Structure of the Southampton Children and Adults Safeguarding Partnership	
3.	Equality Impact Assessment	
<b>Documents In Members' Rooms</b>		
1.	None.	
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>		
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.		<b>Yes</b>
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>		
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out.		<b>No</b>
<b>Other Background Documents</b>		
<b>Other Background documents available for inspection at:</b>		
<b>Title of Background Paper(s)</b>		<b>Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)</b>
1.	Full briefing paper – Safeguarding Partnership Arrangements	
2.	The Care Act 2014	
3.	Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023	