

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 20 May 2019

Report Title

Rotherham Multi-Agency Arrangements for Safeguarding Children

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

Yes

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Jon Stonehouse, Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services

Report Author(s)

Phil Morris, Business Manager, Rotherham LSCB
phil.morris@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report presents the Rotherham Multi-Agency Arrangements for Safeguarding Children. They have been developed, in accordance with statutory guidance, by the three safeguarding partners in consultation with the wider partnership. These arrangements will become effective from September 2019.

Recommendations

1. That the Rotherham Multi-Agency Arrangements for Safeguarding Children be endorsed.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Rotherham Multi-Agency Arrangements for Safeguarding Children.
Appendix 2 Initial Equality Screening Assessment

Background Papers

HM Government (2018) Working Together to Safeguard Children – a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Improving Lives Select Commission

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Rotherham Multi-Agency Arrangements for Safeguarding Children

1. Background

- 1.1 The Children Act 2004, as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017, requires that the three safeguarding partners (Local Authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups and Chief Officers of Police), make arrangements to work in partnership together along with relevant agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the area. This replaces the requirement to establish Local Safeguarding Children Boards under the Children Act 2004 and the Local Safeguarding Children Board Regulations 2006.
- 1.2 Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018), is the statutory guidance which outlines what the responsibilities of safeguarding partners are, delivered through the new safeguarding arrangements. This includes a shared accountability between the three key partners, the requirement to have independent scrutiny and the transition from Serious Case Reviews to Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.
- 1.3 The three key partners must publish their arrangements by June 2019 and implementation of those arrangements must be effected by September 2019. Transitional guidance has also been published to set out the change from Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) to the new multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding children, which includes new accountability arrangements for Child Death Reviews and the move away from Serious Case Reviews.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The statutory guidance requires that the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements are implemented through a shared accountability with the three safeguarding partners. This is a shift away from current Local Safeguarding Children Board accountability which currently lies with the Chief Executive of the Council. This shared accountability between the three key partners is both welcomed and is strongly reflected in the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.
- 2.2 The new safeguarding arrangements build on the strengths of the current partnership working in relation to safeguarding children under the auspices of the Local Safeguarding Children Board; and this serves to provide a firm foundation for continuing with the good progress which has been made in relation to safeguarding children and for planning new strategic priorities and objectives. See Appendix 1.
- 2.3 There is also a requirement for independent scrutiny to provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Rotherham. It has been agreed by the safeguarding partners that this will be provided through an Independent chairperson.

2.4 In order to bring transparency for children, families and all practitioners about the safeguarding activity undertaken, the safeguarding partners will publish a report, at least annually, in relation to the effectiveness of the safeguarding arrangements in practice.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 The proposed safeguarding arrangements have recognised the positive partnership working in Rotherham in relation to safeguarding children. The final proposal for the arrangements, which has had a number of iterations following consultation, has been developed by the three safeguarding partners to build on the strengths of the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 The proposal has extensive consultation across the partnership via the Local Safeguarding Children Board. The Health and Wellbeing Board, Safeguarding Adults Board and Safer Rotherham Partnership have also received briefings on the changes to statutory guidance and have been given opportunities to contribute to the development of the new arrangements.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 The new safeguarding arrangements will be published by 29th June 2019 and implemented by 29th September 2019.

5.2 The safeguarding partners Chief Officer Group has the responsibility to ensure that the new arrangements are implemented and that the above timetable is adhered to.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 The LSCB in Rotherham operates within a £329k budget and is funded from partner contributions as outlined in the table below:

RMBC	185,431
Rotherham CCG	75,315
Rotherham CCG (training)	22,000
SY Police	44,475
SY Probation	1,077
CAFCASS	550
Total	328,848

6.2 The £329k budget does not have a built in contingency for Serious Case Reviews – this is addressed as and when one arises and the key partners are asked to contribute to the costs.

6.3 Discussions are on-going with regards to each agencies contribution under the new Multi-Agency Arrangements for Safeguarding Children.

6.4 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 The new safeguarding partnership arrangements comply with Working Together 2018. The arrangements must be published before the end of June 2019 and implemented before the end of September 2019.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 It has been agreed that for 2019/20 the same level of resource will be provided to that for 2018/19 resulting in no changes to the establishment/staffing arrangements of the business unit for this period, therefore there are no HR implications.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The remit of the new safeguarding arrangements are to ensure that children are protected from harm and their welfare promoted. Opportunities are developing in collaboration with the Safeguarding Adults Board to ensure that a continuum of safeguarding support is provided to young people transitioning into adulthood; and that organisations individually need to evidence their safeguarding responsibilities from both and children's and adult perspective.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 Inherent within safeguarding children partnership responsibilities are the duties to promote equalities and human rights for both children and their families.

11. Implications for Partners

11.1 The new safeguarding arrangements have been developed by the three key safeguarding partners in consultation with the wider partnership.

12. Risks and Mitigation

12.1 Intrinsic to the safeguarding children arrangements are a partnership Executive Group to oversee the arrangements, reporting to a partnership Chief Officer Group twice annually.

13. Accountable Officer(s)

Jon Stonehouse, Strategic Director Children and Young People's Services

Approvals obtained on behalf of:-

	Named Officer	Date
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	26/04/19
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Bal Nahal	23/04/19

Assistant Director of Human Resources (if appropriate)	N/A	N/A
Head of Human Procurement (if appropriate)	N/A	N/A

Report Author: *Phil Morris, Business Manager, Rotherham LSCB*
phil.morris@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's [website](#).