

### **A Protocol between Southwark Health and Wellbeing Board, Southwark Safeguarding Children Board and Southwark Safeguarding Adults Board**

#### Introduction

This document sets out the expectations of the relationship and working arrangements between Southwark's Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB), Southwark Safeguarding Children Board (SCB) and the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB). It covers their respective roles and functions, membership of the three boards, arrangements for challenge, oversight and scrutiny and performance management.

The chair of the HWB and the independent chairs of the SCB and SAB have formally agreed to the arrangements set out in this document, which will be subject to review annually.

#### The Health & Wellbeing Board (HWB)

The HWB has strategic influence over commissioning decisions across health, public health and social care through the development of a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

The HWB is intended to strengthen democratic legitimacy by involving democratically elected representatives and patient (Healthwatch) representatives in commissioning decisions alongside commissioners across health and social care. The board also provides a forum for challenge and discussion.

The HWB brings together the clinical commissioning group (CCG) and council to develop a shared understanding of the health and wellbeing needs of communities. It undertakes a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and develops a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for how these needs can best be addressed in a coordinated, planned and measurable way.

Through undertaking the JSNA, the board will drive local commissioning of health care, social care and public health and create a more effective and responsive local health and care system. Other services that impact on health and wellbeing, such as housing and employment can also be addressed.

The HWB's key priorities for 2014/15 are:

- Wider determinants of health
- Early years
- Prevention including screening
- Long term conditions
- Integration for better health and wellbeing outcomes
- Tackling neglect and vulnerabilities for children and adults

#### Southwark Safeguarding Children Board (SCB)

The SCB is a statutory partnership with responsibility for agreeing how relevant local organisations will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The SCB's role is to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of local arrangements to safeguard all children.

The SCB's key responsibilities are to:

- Develop policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting welfare of children in the area of the authority, including policies and procedures in relation to the action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare, including thresholds for intervention, ensuring safe recruitment and working practice, investigating allegations and concerns and training provision.
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by the local authority and board partners, individually and collectively, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advise them on ways to improve.
- Communicate and raise awareness of the need to safeguard children and promote the welfare of children to those who work with children including volunteers and members of the public.
- Collect and analyse information about child deaths with a view to learning from experience and safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
- Participate in the local planning and commissioning of children's services to ensure that they take safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children into account.
- Undertake reviews of cases where abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected, a child has died or a child has been seriously harmed, and there is cause for concern about the way in which the authority, their board partners or other relevant persons have worked together to safeguard the child.
- Lead on or contribute to specific safeguarding initiatives e.g. sexual exploitation, e-safety, substance misuse, licensing.

#### Southwark Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)

The Safeguarding Adults Board will become statutory on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 , following implementation of the Care Act. Currently the board operates within the framework promoted by 'No Secrets' which was published by the Department for Health and the Home Office in March 2000 and by 'Safeguarding Adults' which was published by the then Association of Directors of Social Services in October 2005.

The focus of the work of the SAB is adults at risk of abuse or neglect who are unable to protect themselves. The forms of abuse which the board aims to prevent and address are: physical abuse, sexual abuse, psychological abuse, financial or material abuse, neglect or acts of omission, discriminatory abuse.

The role of the SAB is to ensure effective safeguarding arrangements are in place in both the commissioning and provision of services to adults at risk of abuse or neglect by individual agencies and to ensure effective inter-agency working in this respect.

The SAB has identified agreed objectives and priorities for its work which include clear policy, procedural and practice arrangements, mechanisms to secure coordination of activities between agencies, the provision of training and workforce development in support of safeguarding and quality assurance and performance management arrangements to test the effectiveness of safeguarding and the impact of the Board.

#### The relationships between the SCB, the SAB and the HWB

The roles and responsibilities of the respective bodies are different and complementary. They have a common purpose to promote joint working and co-operation between partners to improve the wellbeing of children and adults at risk of

abuse or neglect in Southwark, support and develop areas of mutual interest through integrated multi-agency practice in prevention and early intervention.

Whilst the SCB contributes to that wider goal of improving the wellbeing of all children, of necessity, it has a narrower focus on safeguarding and promoting welfare. The SCB is a statutory body in its own right. In order to ensure that its separate identity and independent voice is not compromised, the SCB must not be subordinated to or subsumed within other board structures. Through its case review, evaluation and audit programmes of work, the SCB must be able to form a view of the quality of local activity, to challenge organisations as necessary, and to speak with an independent voice. For that reason, the SCB and HWB must be chaired by different people. Similar considerations apply to the SAB, as it moves on to a statutory footing.

In Southwark, the SCB and SAB are chaired by independent persons, while the HWB is chaired by the Leader of the Council.

The independent chairs of the SCB and SAB will be invited to attend HWB meetings, as and when necessary, in order to present reports and assist or advise on the development of effective plans and service delivery arrangements for safeguarding Southwark children and adults at risk of abuse or neglect. Similarly, representatives of the HWB will be invited to attend SCB or SAB when there are issues of common interest and purpose.

The SCB and SAB will work with the HWB, informing and drawing on the JSNA. Within the wider Health and Social Care environment, the HWB will seek to advise, inform and consider issues referred to it by, and in conjunction with, the SCB and SAB. The HWB may request the SCB or SAB to consider issues for development, action or scrutiny.

Given the SCB's remit (as set out above), its role in relation to HWB is:

- to focus on ensuring that key people and organisations that have a duty under s11 of the Children Act 2004 are fulfilling their statutory obligations to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and that the arrangements made by the HWB are effective in supporting this;
- to offer support, guidance, advice, challenge and scrutiny to HWB to enable the partner organisations to discharge their safeguarding responsibilities effectively;
- to produce and publish an annual report which comments on the effectiveness of safeguarding in Southwark and provides information and challenge to the work of the HWB in order to drive improvements.

The SAB's role in relation to the HWB is:

- to oversee how organisations across Southwark work together to prevent harm and reduce the risk of abuse or neglect to adults with care and support needs and to ensure that the arrangements made by the HWB are effective in supporting this;
- to offer support, guidance, advice, challenge and scrutiny to HWB to enable the partner organisations to discharge their safeguarding adults' responsibilities effectively;
- to produce and publish an annual report which comments on the effectiveness of safeguarding adults in Southwark and provides information and challenge to the work of the HWB in order to drive improvements.

The annual reports of the SCB and SAB will be submitted to the chair of the HWB (as well as the chief executive of the council).

The HWB will work with the SCB and SAB:

- to develop and interpret the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment with respect to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of Southwark's children and adults at risk of abuse or neglect;
- to develop a clear understanding of the effectiveness of current services, including where services might need to be improved, reshaped or developed;
- to ensure priorities for change are delivered.

The HWB will consider within its remit any Community, Health and Social Care services the provision of which is the responsibility of its members; this will include (among other things) safeguarding children services and safeguarding adults services.

In general, the SCB and SAB are not operational bodies or ones which directly commission or deliver services. The HWB provides expert advice around all issues of health to the HWB. It supports the shaping of the health strategy and priorities for the borough to reduce health inequalities and improve outcomes service users. Commissioning decisions remain the remit of the commissioning groups.

#### Relationships with other strategic bodies

Other strategic bodies within Southwark include:

- The Children's Trust
- The Safer Southwark Partnership
- Southwark Clinical Commissioning Group

The purposes of these bodies are consistent with and complementary to those of the HWB, SCB and SAB. The principles which underlie this protocol, in relation to consultation, joint and inter-agency working, apply equally to these bodies. There are members within each of these bodies who are also members of the HWB, SCB and SAB.

#### Arrangements to secure co-ordination between the Boards

In order to secure the opportunities identified above, it is proposed that the following arrangements are put in place to ensure effective co-ordination and coherence in the work of the three Boards.

1) Between September and November each year the chairs of the two safeguarding boards will present to the HWB their Annual Reports outlining performance against Business Plan objectives in the previous financial year. This would be supplemented by a position statement on the boards' performance in the current financial year. This would provide the opportunity for the HWB to draw across data to be included in the JSNA and to reflect on key issues that may need to be incorporated in the refresh of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

2) Between October and February the HWB to present to the safeguarding boards the review of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the refreshed JSNA and the

proposed priorities and objectives for the refreshed Health and Wellbeing Strategy to enable the safeguarding boards to ensure that their refreshed business plans appropriately reflect relevant priorities set in the refreshed HWB work programme.

3) In May the boards will share their refreshed plans for the coming financial year to ensure co-ordination and coherence.

..... Date \_\_ / \_\_ / 2014.

Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board

..... Date \_\_ / \_\_ / 2014.

Chair of the Southwark Safeguarding Children Board

..... Date \_\_ / \_\_ / 2014.

Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board