

Date of the report: October 2015. Updated January 2016
Name of agency: KSCB/KSAB
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<p>Purpose of the report:</p> <p>Protocol to agree joint practices and agreements between Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board and Knowsley Safeguarding Adults Board.</p>
<p>Which strategic priority does this report support (delete as appropriate):</p> <p><i>1. KSAB is effective in its work with partners to ensure that they deliver better outcomes for adults who need care and support, through monitoring single and multi-agency arrangements to safeguard adults</i></p>
<p>Issues for Board Consideration:</p> <p>Although the Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board KSCB and Knowsley Safeguarding Adults Board KSAB are discharging their functions for very different groups of people, there are many overlaps between the processes they use and the organisations that support the Boards to deliver their objectives.</p> <p>This Protocol briefly describes the roles and responsibilities of both Boards, the expectations on members of the Boards, and the areas of overlap and potential joint working between the two Boards. It aims to provide clarity about accountabilities and to promote effective, healthy challenge between the Boards.</p> <p>This protocol acknowledges that there are areas of common work including transition, domestic violence, complex families which include adults with care and support needs, sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, human trafficking, developing an understanding of the local community and cultural issues.</p>
<p>Recommendations:</p> <p>There are a number of areas which are common to the work of both Boards. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness of the potential for harm and abuse to children, young people and adults, using a variety of media • Developing appropriate training and staff development which promotes awareness of safeguarding and dignity • Ensuring that procedures are in place for the safer recruitment of staff who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults • Holding all agencies to account for their performance in delivering safe outcomes for children, young people and adults

- Ensuring that lessons from public enquiries and serious incidents are learned across all agencies and that actions are put in place as a result to improve local services

Given this, it is proposed that both Boards agree through this protocol that:

1. Both Boards will formally report to other on a quarterly basis to ensure robust and effective challenge between the two systems
2. Relevant learning from public enquiries and serious incident reviews will be shared across both Boards
3. The chairs of both Boards, plus relevant support officers from the Boards, will meet twice a year to review current joint working practices and opportunities for future joint working and efficiencies
4. Policies and procedures will be reviewed to ensure closer alignment
5. Performance reporting processes will be reviewed to establish simpler and more consistent reporting for partner agencies
6. Training opportunities will be developed jointly across both Boards
7. The Boards will seek to more closely align their media and communication processes within the wider community.

RESOLUTION PROCESS

Both Boards will request evidence from the other if any issues arise from any aspects of its work. The KSCB will monitor the KSAB as to its rigour in ensuring that the KSAB's work to safeguard adults also ensures that the safety and welfare of children and young people is being met. The resolution would require a formal response/action from the KSAB.

Similarly, the KSAB will hold the KSCB to account to ensure that child safeguarding and welfare processes always consider the impact of its work on the safety and dignity of vulnerable adults. This again would require a formal response from the KSCB in order to ensure a resolution.

Term of this Protocol:

This protocol will be reviewed three years after the date of signature by the Chairs of both Boards.

This protocol be agreed by and signed on behalf of the Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board and Knowsley Safeguarding Adults Board:

Background Information Appendix:

Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board

The KSCB is a statutory body with the overarching responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people in Knowsley. It is a multi-agency body with membership from all services working with children and families. The Board

has an independent Chair with no connections to any of the partner agencies.

The functions of the KSCB include:

- Providing robust challenge to all partners on their performance in ensuring that children and young people are kept safer in the Borough
- Ensuring that all agencies work collaboratively and efficiently to promote the safety and welfare of children and young people
- Monitoring the collaborative work of relevant agencies

Knowsley Safeguarding Adults Board

The KSAB is a strategic body which oversees safeguarding adults arrangements locally. The KSAB brings together key agencies in Knowsley who by working closely in partnership ensure that safeguarding adults is prioritised and coordinated effectively. Whilst working to the overarching remit the KSAB is able to challenge local organisations working with adults in need of care and support to ensure their safety and welfare are protected. The KSAB has an independent chair.

The functions of the KSAB are identified in its priorities, which are in summary:

1. KSAB is effective in its work with partners to ensure that they deliver better outcomes for adults who need help and support, through monitoring single and multi-agency arrangements to safeguard adults
2. Safeguarding practice across all partners can evidence that the adult is in control of the process and their wishes are respected
3. Adults in Knowsley are safeguarded against abuse and neglect

When abuse or neglect is confirmed, our local safeguarding procedures are there to ensure that we:

- Work with people to secure their safety
- Offer appropriate support such as advocacy and counselling
- Help people to obtain justice
- Joint Working

Responsibilities of Board members:

Although Board members are there to provide advice, support and challenge to the Boards, they are also there as representatives of their organisations. As such it is their duty to make sure that their whole organisation is aware, as needed, of the actions, issues and requirements of the Boards, even though they may be employed only within a section of that organisation.

There are a number of Board members who sit on both Boards. As a part of this protocol,

it has been agreed that two of these people will not only represent their organisations on the Boards, but will also be a direct formal link between the two Boards. These people are:

From the KSAB: Sean Cook

From the KSCB : Colette Dutton

These people have the additional responsibility of acting as the line of communication between the two Boards. They will attend all Board meetings – or ensure that fully-briefed representatives attend if they cannot – and will take actions and challenges across the Boards as required. As necessary, they will also sit on Subgroups of both Boards