

PROPOSED FUTURE SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (OVERVIEW):

Under the new legislation, the three Safeguarding Partners, namely Nottinghamshire Local Authority, Nottinghamshire Police and Nottinghamshire NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups must make arrangements to work together with relevant agencies to safeguard and protect the welfare of children in the area.

The legislative requirements are placed on individual organisations and should be complied with unless exceptional circumstances arise.

The three Safeguarding Partners should:

- agree on ways to co-ordinate their safeguarding services;
- act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others and;
- implement local and national learning including from serious child safeguarding incidents

To fulfil this role, the CCG along with the Local Authority and the Police must set out how they will work together and with which relevant agencies. Relevant agencies are those organisations whose involvement the Safeguarding Partners consider may be required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children locally.

All areas must publish their arrangements and notify the Secretary of State for Education by 29 June 2019

Strong leadership is critical for the new Working Together (WT 2018) arrangements to be effective, including bringing together various organisations and agencies to protect and promote child welfare. It is important therefore that the CCGs support and prioritise this important area of work.

REPORT:

The key changes in the new Working Together (2018) are as follows:

- ▶ Three Safeguarding Partners with equal responsibility for safeguarding children, Local Authority, Police and CCG.
- ▶ Local Safeguarding Children Boards will be abolished
- ▶ Responsibility for child death reviews passed to 'child death review partners' i.e. Local Authority & CCGs
- ▶ At government level the Department of Health take over responsibility from Department of Education for child death reviews
- ▶ Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel will be established requiring notifications within 5 days
- ▶ Addition of 'contextual safeguarding'. Defined as threats to the welfare of children from outside of their families including abuse or exploitation.

Under the new legislation, the three Safeguarding Partners must make arrangements to work together with relevant agencies to safeguard and protect the welfare of children in the area.

The three Safeguarding Partners are required to:

- agree on ways to co-ordinate their safeguarding services;
- act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others and;
- implement local and national learning including from serious child safeguarding incidents

To fulfil this role, the three Safeguarding Partners must set out how they will work together and with which relevant agencies they will work with. Relevant agencies are those organisations whose involvement the Safeguarding Partners consider may be required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children locally (GPs, Trusts, Schools etc.) The three partners will agree who they consider to be relevant.

Strong leadership is critical for the new Working Together (WT 2018) arrangements to be effective including bringing together various organisations and agencies to protect and promote child welfare. The lead representatives for Safeguarding Partners are defined as:

- the local authority chief executive;
- the accountable officer of the clinical commissioning group, and
- the chief officer of police.

For Nottinghamshire the CCG lead role will be delegated to the Chief Nurse, this is consistent with delegation level expected from other partners and other CCGs.

All three Safeguarding Partners (the local authority, CCGs and the police) have equal and joint responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements. In situations that require a clear, single point of leadership, all three Safeguarding Partners should decide who would take the lead on the issue that has arisen.

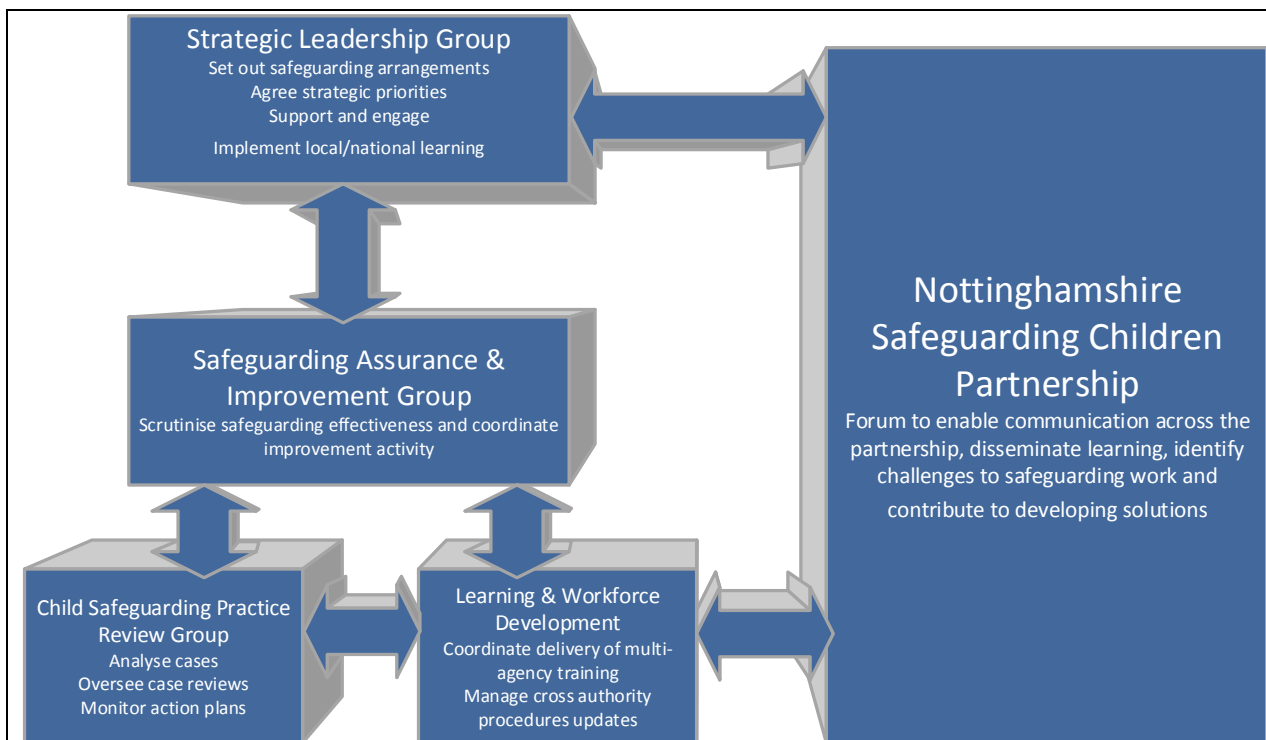
The Safeguarding Partners must publish their arrangements by June 2019 covering: -

- Which organisations and agencies they will be working with to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- Securing the clinical expertise of designated health professionals for safeguarding children within their arrangements by employing, or having in place, a contractual agreement to secure the expertise of: -
 - A designated doctor and nurse for safeguarding children
 - A dedicated designated doctor and nurse for looked-after children
 - A designated doctor or paediatrician for unexpected deaths in childhood

The Safeguarding Partners must publish a report at least once in every 12-month period, a copy of which should be sent to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care within seven days of being published.

Nottinghamshire are planning to implement the new arrangements as of 1 April 2019 and work is underway to plan for the transition. The current proposed structure is:

Similar work is underway in Nottingham City and agreement in principle has been reached to undertake as much sub-board level safeguarding work on a cross authority basis as possible. The City arrangements are therefore being developed to align with those being proposed in Nottinghamshire.



Changes to the Child Death Review process

Child death review partners should ensure seamless transition of arrangements to ensure any incomplete child death reviews passed to them by former CDOPs are followed up and progressed as per statutory guidance. The Child Death Overview Panels (CDOPs) in the County and City have commenced working together and are working in shadow form from 1st September 2018; with the joint CDOP being fully implemented by 1st April 2019.

Changes to Serious Case Review Process

Our Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) will continue to make decisions on initiating and publishing **Serious Case Reviews (SCRs)** until the point at which Safeguarding Partner arrangements have been published and are in place. At the point of the new Safeguarding arrangements are in place the LSCB will continue to exist until all reviews are completed, they cannot hand over ongoing cases.