

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

13 DECEMBER 2018

**REPORT OF SENIOR
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

Cabinet member for Children and Young People – Cllr Mrs McCoy

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

1. Summary

This report seeks approval for the establishment of a Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership (see Business Case Appendix 1) and that Hartlepool Borough Council will be the host of the new partnership.

2. Recommendations

Cabinet is asked to

1. agree the business case
2. to receive a further report following the publication of the arrangements.

3. Reasons for the Recommendation(s)/Decision(s)

To ensure that we are adhering to statutory requirements within the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members) should consider whether they have a personal interest in any item, as defined in **paragraphs 9 and 11** of the Council's code of conduct and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with and/or taking account of **paragraphs 12 - 17** of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 16** of the code, in any business of the Council he/she must then, **in accordance with paragraph 18** of the code, consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest and the business:-

- affects the members financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code, or
- relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to the member or any person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code.

A Member with a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, may attend the meeting but must not take part in the consideration and voting upon the relevant item of business. However, a member with such an interest may make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to that business before the business is considered or voted on, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under a statutory right or otherwise (**paragraph 19** of the code)

Members may participate in any discussion and vote on a matter in which they have an interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, where that interest relates to functions of the Council detailed in **paragraph 20** of the code.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

It is a criminal offence for a member to participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest (and where an appropriate dispensation has not been granted) **paragraph 21** of the code.

Members are required to comply with any procedural rule adopted by the Council which requires a member to leave the meeting room whilst the meeting is discussing a matter in which that member has a disclosable pecuniary interest (**paragraph 22** of the code)

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CABINET DECISION

SUMMARY

This report seeks approval for the establishment of a Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership (see Business Case Appendix A) and that Hartlepool Borough Council will be the host of the new partnership.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is asked to

1. Agree the business case
2. To receive a further report following the publication of the arrangements.

DETAIL

1. The Children Act 2004 required areas to establish local Safeguarding Children's Boards with all partners. Hartlepool Safeguarding Children's Board was established and has been in existence since this date.
2. A national review of Local Safeguarding Boards was published in March 2016 (Wood Review). This set out recommendations for a different approach to partnership safeguarding arrangements. The Government in the Children and Social Work Act 2017 abolished Local Safeguarding Boards as was set out in Children Act 2004. In their place it puts duties on three 'safeguarding partners' - the local authority, any Clinical Commissioning Groups operating in the area and the Chief Officer of Police - to make safeguarding arrangements that respond to the needs of children in their area.
3. The Act allows two or more areas to combine their safeguarding arrangements if they wish. The main responsibilities of the new safeguarding arrangements are:
 - To involve 'relevant agencies' in their area
 - To identify and supervise the review of serious safeguarding cases in their area
 - To publish their local safeguarding arrangements
 - To arrange for independent scrutiny of their local safeguarding arrangements
 - To publish a report every 12 months on what they and the relevant agencies have done as a result of the local safeguarding arrangements and how effective the arrangements have been in practice

PROPOSALS

4. Stockton Borough Council and Hartlepool Borough Council already have effective partnership working through:
 - The Children's Hub, hosted by Hartlepool Borough Council
 - Tees Valley Adoption Agency, hosted by Stockton
 - Emergency Duty Team , hosted by Stockton
5. Due to this established working, and in particular the performance and quality of the multi-agency arrangements in the Children's Hub it was agreed to explore a new safeguarding arrangement across North Tees.
6. A project group and partnership group were established at the beginning of 2018 with Hartlepool Borough Council, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, Hartlepool and Stockton-On-Tees Clinical Commissioning Group and Cleveland Police. Work has been undertaken through these groups to develop a new model which is set out in the attached Business Case (Appendix 1)

NEW MODEL

7. The new model is based on an active learning approach with the focus being on front line practitioners being involved in shared learning.
8. The new model will consist of an executive partnership with membership from statutory partners. There will also be an engine room group that will identify key lines of enquiry for possible learning activity.
9. Themes will be identified through qualitative and quantitative data, local reviews, national reviews and audit practice across the system (single agency and multi agency). Action learning will be commissioned to look at the themes identified which will involve front line practitioners. This model allows practitioners to learn as they take part in the activity. This learning will also be shared with the executive group to ensure that the learning is disseminated across the system.
10. The business case sets out the model however there is further work needed to develop some detail in the model. This work will take place within the groups already identified in para 6.
11. It is proposed that the new model will be tested in January 2019 alongside the current arrangements. An ongoing review will take place to ensure that any learning is captured in the new arrangements. It is intended for the new model to go live formally in April 2019 with the new partnership arrangements being published in April 2019 (as required within the Children and Social Work Act 2017).

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

12. The proposals are in effect an extension of existing arrangements with a renewed focus. The new partnership will develop a business plan for its activities which will be reviewed annually and may require additional work on community implications.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

13. The proposed budget for 2019/2020 under the new arrangements will be the same as the current budget for 2018/2019.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

14. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 sets out clearly the responsibilities of the statutory partners and the requirements within these statutory duties.

RISK ASSESSMENT

15. The new partnership, as an extension of exiting partnership activity is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES

16. The proposed arrangements strengthen the approach to protecting the vulnerable through targeted intervention, based on the methodology of active learning and review across partners.

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

17. The new arrangements will place a particular focus on the safeguarding of children in our care.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

18. The Stockton Local Safeguarding Children Board have been consulted.

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Education related? No

Background Papers

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Property

No implications