

Cabinet



Date of meeting:	15 September 2020
Title of Report:	New Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements Working Together to Safeguard Children: Plymouth Strategic Safeguarding Children's Partnership
Lead Member:	Councillor Jemima Laing (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People)
Lead Strategic Director:	Alison Botham (Director for Children's Services)
Author:	Tracey Watkinson, Safeguarding Business Manager
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Your Reference:	WTG18
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 is the statutory guidance that transferred strategic local safeguarding arrangements from Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) to three new statutory safeguarding partners, namely the Local Authority, Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and chief officer of police to a local area.

In June 2019 Cabinet approved and adopted a proposal for new strategic multi-agency safeguarding arrangements across Plymouth and Torbay. These proposals came into effect on 29 September 2019. Since that date Torbay Local Authority has evaluated the sustainability of the arrangement and concluded that in order to achieve the required improvements in safeguarding arrangements for children and young people in Torbay they need to establish single Torbay strategic safeguarding arrangements.

This report proposes a revised approach to comply with the Working Together guidance with new multi-agency strategic safeguarding arrangements for Plymouth delivered via the statutory safeguarding partners, Plymouth City Council, NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning Group and Devon & Cornwall Police.

Recommendations and Reasons

Cabinet to approve and adopt the revised proposal for the new multi-agency strategic safeguarding arrangements set out at section 3 of this report.

Reason

Children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted;

- Legal compliance with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (WTG), published in July 2018.
- As a result of the above strategic decision of Torbay Local Authority to deliver effective multi-agency strategic safeguarding arrangements within Plymouth

Alternative options considered and rejected

The previously agreed multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for both Plymouth and Torbay are to cease. New arrangements are proposed for Plymouth which accord with the statutory requirements of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2019

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

The proposal for the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements supports the following:

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- Keep children, young people and adults protected;
- Focus on prevention and early intervention;
- People feel safe in Plymouth.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

The three safeguarding partners and relevant agencies for the Plymouth local authority area shall make payments towards expenditure incurred in conjunction with local multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding and promoting welfare of children. Funding arrangements for the 2020/2021 financial year have been agreed in principle.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

It is the opinion of the report author that there are limited implications, which shall be capable of mitigation by use of IT resources and planned work structures.

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

** When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*

Child Poverty

National research reveals that there is a strong association between family poverty and a child's chance of suffering child abuse or neglect. Adverse events in childhood, including abuse and neglect, are associated with a negative effect on adult economic circumstances. The legislative purpose of the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements focus upon abuse and neglect, reducing adverse childhood trauma, and improving outcomes for children and young people.

Risk Management

Successful transition into, and the subsequent delivery of the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements will be dependent upon recognising and mitigating risk. Mitigation of such identified risks is identified within the detailed Report and risk analysis.

Equality & Diversity

Where potential equality and diversity implications are identified as part of the transition of the new arrangements, assessments will be undertaken in line with the Council's, Police's and CCG's policies

Appendices

*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Working Together Briefing report							
B	Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements							
C	Future of Child Safeguarding Presentation							

Background papers:

*Add rows as required to box below

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (Statutory Guidance)							

Sign off:

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Tracey Watkinson (Safeguarding Business Manager)											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 03/09/2020											
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Jemima Laing (Verbally)											
Date approved: 03/09/2020											

I. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (WTG), published in July 2018ⁱ is the statutory guidance on inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. WTG transferred local safeguarding arrangements from Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) to three new statutory safeguarding partners, namely the Local Authority, Clinical Commissioning Group and Police Force. These new statutory safeguarding partners have a legal duty 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 these statutory safeguarding partners are required to set out how they will work together with any relevant agencies to provide a system in whichⁱⁱ:

- Children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted;
- Partner organisation and agencies share and co-own the vision of how to achieve improvement outcomes for vulnerable children;
- Organisations and agencies challenge appropriately and hold one another to account effectively;
- There is early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues and emerging threats;
- Learning is promoted and embedded in a way that local services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice;
- Information is shared effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and families.

1.2 In June 2019 the Cabinet agreed that the two existing Plymouth and Torbay LSCBs would be replaced with one Plymouth and Torbay Joint Strategic Safeguarding Partnership (PTJSSP), such partnership to be underpinned by proportionate strategic and operational structures that directed and promoted safeguarding services, practice and responses across Plymouth and Torbay. These new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements were published, in accordance with the requirement of the Department for Education, on 29 September 2019.

1.3 The PTJSSP was established when there was joint arrangement for the delivery of Children's Services in Torbay and a joint Director of Children's Services. The joint arrangement was dissolved in January 2020 and Torbay have since undertaken a review of their safeguarding children arrangements, and this has recommended that in order to maintain the rate of improvements in safeguarding arrangements for Torbay's children a single Torbay arrangement is required.

1.4 Accordingly this Cabinet Report sets out the proposed multi-agency safeguarding arrangements to be implemented within the city of Plymouth.

2. DRIVERS and CORE PRINCIPLES

2.1 The intent of the proposed multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for Plymouth remain as presented to Cabinet in June 2019:

- Focus on outcomes for children and young people;

- Enhance all aspects of children and young people participation;
- Aspiration for cost efficiency without compromising effectiveness of arrangements;
- Not to absorb respective Children & Young People Partnerships into the new arrangements;
- Align with and be subject to Corporate Safeguarding Improvement Plans and respective Council/Police/CCG scrutiny and quality assurance processes;
- Strengthen strategic quality assurance and learning frameworks;
- Create a wider culture of learning and development;
- Innovative participation of community and voluntary sector;
- Support flexible, dynamic and timely strategic safeguarding arrangements

and shall also:

- Ensure that trauma informed practice is everybody's business and apply the Plymouth Trauma Informed Network principles within the multi-safeguarding arrangements;
- Promote and support effective cross-strategic partnership work happening locally to support children and families and avoid duplication.

3. THE MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR PLYMOUTH

3.1 Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 names three safeguarding partners with equal and shared duties to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area. In Plymouth these safeguarding partner organisations and lead representatives are:-

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| • Plymouth City Council | Chief Executive |
| • NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning Group | Accountable Officer |
| • Devon & Cornwall Police | Chief Constable. |

3.2 The lead representatives have delegated their functions to the following safeguarding partners:

- Director of Children's Services Plymouth City Council
- Chief Nursing Officer, NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning Group
- BCU Commander, Devon & Cornwall Police.

These safeguarding partners sit as the Plymouth Strategic Safeguarding Children Partnership (PSSCP) to provide transparent governance and accountability.

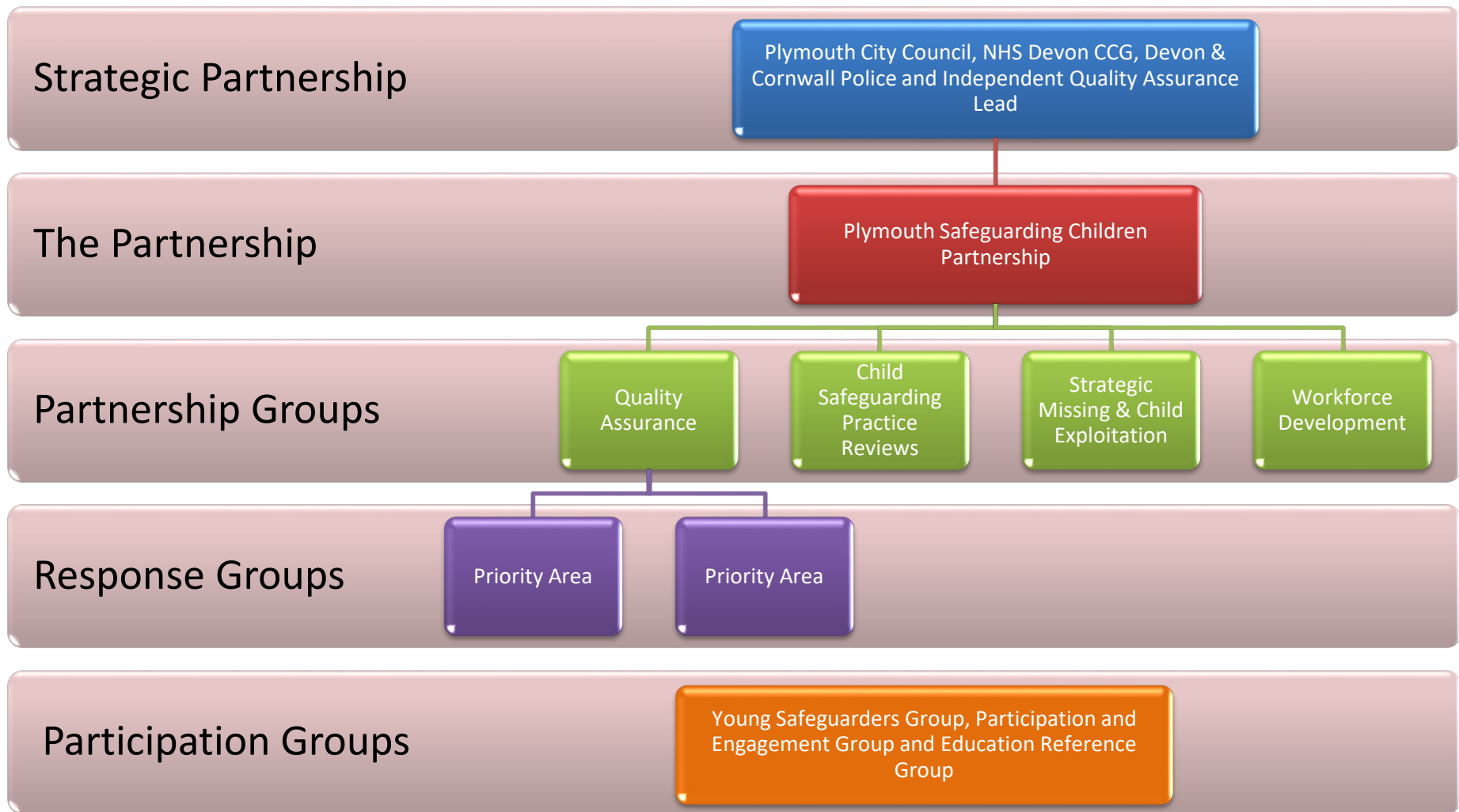
3.3 The PSSCP shall commission the Plymouth Safeguarding Children Partnership (PSCP) as the platform to bring together the three safeguarding partner organisations to work effectively together and with nominated relevant agencies¹ across Plymouth to:

- co-ordinate 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.

3.4 Essentially the functions and responsibilities for the PSSCP has been tested during the COVID response period when temporary arrangements were set in place to oversee the partnership safeguarding responses. The PSCP was established a year ago and therefore these proposals build on the work of the established partnership.

3.5 The PSCP shall provide strong clear leadership and shall communicate regularly with their nominated relevant agencies on how they expect to work with them.

- 3.6 The PSCP will put in place group working across Plymouth for the delivery of quality assurance, performance management, multi-agency workforce development, strategic response to missing children and exploitation, local child safeguarding practice reviews and monitoring and review of the South West Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP). This approach will better support the early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues and provide a consistent, competent and confident multi-agency workforce able to implement and embed learning within safeguarding services for children, young people and families across Plymouth.
- 3.7 The PSCP, in having oversight of local safeguarding arrangements, shall determine and action appropriate timely and dynamic responses which reach the need of the child, at the right place and the right time. To ensure flexibility and innovation there shall be less fixed Group structures with a move towards thematic time focused local response groups.
- 3.8 To support, a participation and engagement forum and an educational reference group, shall be established to enable better reach and inclusion within the wider community and education safeguarding agenda. These forums will improve communication, engagement and activity with the voluntary and community sector and bring the educational landscape closer to PSCP business, decision making and planning.
- 3.9 Engaging the voice, activity and co-design of children, young people and families is integral to these proposed arrangements. The Young Safeguarder Forum shall be retained and built upon by using various systems, forums and existing networks and groups to gather views, voices and experience.
- 3.10 The PSCP shall benefit from an Independent Quality Assurance Lead who shall provide oversight for reviewing and improving safeguarding practice, and facilitating a line of sight for the PSCP into the lived experience of children and young people. This role shall ensure the partnership enhances the identification of learning and its embedding and outcomes in practice across Plymouth. The value of this role will ensure that quality assurance and learning into practice does not occur in silos, and that the learning loop is closed, and transferred into effective practice. For clarity, the role shall be held by a part time office holder, subject to a contract for service with all of the three statutory safeguarding partners. The Independent Quality Assurance Lead shall provide reports to the three statutory safeguarding partners, but shall act as the “critical friend” bringing challenge and support to the PSCP. The Independent Quality Assurance role attends, but is not a decision making member of the PSCP.
- 3.11 The Lead Member for Children’s Services shall be a participating observer of the local safeguarding arrangements. In practice this means routinely attending meetings as an observer and receiving all its written reports. For clarity, the Lead Member shall be non-voting. Details of participation and attendance of the Lead Member remain subject to on-going discussions, with the aim of securing proportionate and added-value engagement within the multi-agency arrangements.
- 3.12 Set out below is a visual representation of the proposed multi-agency safeguarding arrangements



4. BENEFITS

4.1 The proposal has been designed with the aim of achieving the following benefits:

- Legal compliance;
- Extend and co-own safeguarding governance, knowledge and experience;
- Improve challenge, assurance and accountability to improve outcomes for children;
- Improve cost effectiveness, equity and proportionality of funding arrangements for local safeguarding arrangements;
- Mitigate escalation of safeguarding concerns to statutory intervention; thus assist in reducing economic cost of child abuse and neglect both direct (e.g. child protection, LAC, placements and accommodation) and indirect (in terms of prevention and in long term costs of supporting victims/survivor of child abuse);
- Remain subject to current systems of local, regional and national scrutiny (inc. Plymouth Corporate Safeguarding Improvement Plan);
- Secure co-operation and integration between safeguarding partners and relevant agencies;
- Remains responsive to local circumstances and strategic aims;
- Increases local and regional intelligence of safeguarding risks and themes;
- Aids transparency and enable continuous improvement of safeguarding policy and practice;
- Secure early identification of new thematic safeguarding issues and concerns;
- Improved efficiency and effectiveness of embedding and evaluating learning;
- Complimentary development of multi-agency arrangements where excellent practice becomes norm;
- Promote public confidence and corporate reputation;
- Improved co-ordination of contextual multi-agency training.

5. RISK ANALYSIS

5.1 Successful transition into, and the subsequent delivery of the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements will be dependent upon recognising and mitigating risk. A risk is defined as a threat to the success of the transition and the subsequent operation of the arrangements. Key risks and mitigation have been identified as:-

Risk	Mitigation
Unclear role/purpose lead to inadequate strategic leadership poor safeguarding outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic governance, constitution and terms of reference • Business Plan and Objectives • Independent Quality Assurer with oversight and monitoring of quality assurance framework • Independent Scrutiny • Improved engagement and collaboration with wider reach
Best outcomes for children not achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common purpose led by strong leadership • Collaborative planning and monitoring • Quality assurance framework and activities supported by Independent Scrutiny • Children, young people and families become active partner
Reduction in stakeholder engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation • Communication Strategy • Agency Events • Named relevant agencies

Risk	Mitigation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wider forums and cross-system partnership working
Inadequate funding arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Options Appraisal • Learning from early adopters • Relevant agency contributions (direct and/or in kind)
Lack of cost and qualitative effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission costs analysis • Seek in-year reductions • Operate and measure from base line • S11 Audit /S175 Education Audit • Measure success

Appendix I

Proposed Relevant Agencies

The three safeguarding partner must set out how they will work together with any Relevant Agencies. Relevant Agencies are those organisations and agencies whose involvement the safeguarding partners consider may be required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children with regard to local need.

The list of relevant agencies is set out in the Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Relevant Agency (England) Regulations 2018. Many agencies and organisations play a crucial role in safeguarding children. Safeguarding partners may include any local or national organisation or agency in their arrangements, regardless of whether they are named in relevant agency regulations.

The following remains subject to ongoing discussion and consultation. The below is an indication only at present.

Educational and Childcare

All early year settings
All children centres
All primary education settings
All secondary education settings
All special education settings
Pupil referral unit
All independent education settings
Universities
Further Education colleges
Private training providers
Careers South West
Language schools.

Health and Social Care

NHS England
NHS Hospital Trusts
Public Health
Livewell South West
South West Ambulance NHS Foundation Trust
Regional Adoption Agency
Registered providers of fostering agencies
Providers of private children's homes
Providers of residential holiday schemes for disabled children.

Criminal Justice

CAFCASS
HM Prison and Probation Service
Community Rehabilitation Company²
Youth Offending Teams
Office of Police & Crime Commissioner

Police and Immigration

British Transport Police
Port Police Force
Local Border Force/Customs & Excise

Miscellaneous

Action 4 Children
NSPCC
Barnardo's
Children's Society
British Red Cross
Lay member
Children & Young People member
Drug and alcohol support services
Domestic abuse services
Community and Social Housing providers
Sexual Assault Referral Centres
Local Authority Commissioning
Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service

Sports & Leisure

To be determined – subject to further guidance and advice sought from DfE.

Community and Voluntary

Plymouth Octopus Plus (POP+)
Community Development Trust
Asylum Seeker/Refugee support services
Religious and faith groups