

	<p align="center"><b>Cabinet</b> 17 June 2019</p>
	<p align="center"><b>Report from the Strategic Director, Children and Young People</b></p>
<p><b>Multi-agency safeguarding children arrangements in Brent – 2019 onwards</b></p>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Non-key
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	One: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft Multi-Agency Safeguarding Children Arrangements In Brent</li> </ul>
<b>Background Papers:</b>	N/A
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Meenara Islam Strategic Partnerships Manager <a href="mailto:Meenara.islam@brent.gov.uk">Meenara.islam@brent.gov.uk</a>

## 1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 This report presents the proposed partnership safeguarding oversight arrangements for Brent's children and young people. The paper summarises the national context and the proposed model to be implemented by 29 September 2019.

## 2.0 Recommendation

2.1 Cabinet is asked to consider and agree the proposed partnership safeguarding oversight arrangements.

## 3.0 Detail

### Context

3.1 The Children and Social Work Act 2017 made provision for the replacement of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) with new locally determined arrangements agreed and delivered by three statutory safeguarding partners – local authorities, CCGs and police.

- 3.2 Subsequently, statutory guidance in the form of Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) was published setting out the framework for local safeguarding oversight arrangements.
- 3.3 Safeguarding partners have a shared and equal duty to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. In doing so they can involve other relevant local agencies. The guidance states that the new safeguarding partners must:
- co-ordinate their safeguarding services
  - act as a strategic leadership group and
  - implement local and national learning including from serious safeguarding incidents.
- 3.4 Safeguarding partners are required to:
- agree and submit local safeguarding oversight arrangements to the Secretary of State for the Department of Education for approval
  - publish the approved arrangements by 28 June
  - wind down Local Safeguarding Children Boards and implement the new arrangements by 29 September 2019.

#### Developing Brent's arrangements

- 3.5 The leadership of Brent Council, Brent CCG and the North West Basic Command Unit formed the Brent Statutory Safeguarding Partners Executive Group (the Executive Group) in February 2018. The designated members of the Executive Group are:
- Cllr Butt, Leader, Brent Council
  - Cllr Patel, Lead Member, Children's Safeguarding, Early Help and Social Care, Brent Council
  - Carolyn Downs, Chief Executive, Brent Council
  - Gail Tolley, Strategic Director, Children and Young People and Statutory Director of Children's Services, Brent Council
  - Diane Jones, Director of Quality, representing Brent CCG (in place of Mark Easton, Accountable Officer, North West London Collaboration of CCGs)
  - Barry Loader, Detective Superintendent, Head of Safeguarding, North West Basic Command Unit (in place of Sarah Leach, Superintendent).

Also in attendance is Mike Howard, Independent Chair, Brent Safeguarding Children Board.

- 3.6 The Executive Group agreed it would:
- develop the new oversight arrangements in line with the requirements of Working Together 2018, local needs and the learning from Brent Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB)
  - examine and discuss emerging or current safeguarding issues in the borough and
  - oversee the transition between the BSCB and the new arrangements.

- 3.7 In October 2018 the Executive Group confirmed the future safeguarding oversight arrangements for children and young people in Brent in the form of a two tier structure. This consists of the Brent Statutory Safeguarding Partners Executive Group providing a high level strategic direction with a delivery focused Brent Safeguarding Children's Forum reporting to the Executive Group. The support of the Executive Group would be equally shared between the three safeguarding partner organisations and the Forum would be convened by an Independent Convenor. Statutory responsibilities and mandate will remain with the Executive Group. However, they may wish at points to delegate actions to the forum as appropriate.
- 3.8 Brent's multi-agency safeguarding oversight arrangements document, agreed by the Executive Group in April 2019, sets out the detailed arrangements which capitalise on the strengths and local progress made by the Brent Safeguarding Children Board. In addition to the terms of reference of both the Executive Group and Safeguarding Forum the document includes:
- list of the relevant agencies in the borough who will sit on the Safeguarding Forum to work together with the statutory safeguarding partners
  - a description of the links with other strategic partnerships such as the Brent Children's Trust and the Brent Safeguarding Adults Board
  - a description of the function and role of the Independent Convenor of the Safeguarding Forum
  - the expectation that Brent will be following the London Child Protection Procedures
  - arrangements for quality assuring activities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
  - the multi-agency learning and development offer to ensure learning from local learning reviews and quality assurance audit findings are embedded across the multi-agency partnership.
- 3.5 The Executive Group will be seeking to submit Brent's safeguarding oversight arrangements document to the Department for Education for approval in June ahead of publication by 29 June 2019.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 Brent Council has been contributing to the resourcing of the Brent Safeguarding Children Board since its inception. It is expected that the Council will continue to make a similar contribution to the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements as one of the three safeguarding partners. The funding for the new arrangements are due to be discussed and agreed at the next Executive Group meeting on 10 June 2019.

#### **5.0 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 The Council is exercising its functions within the legislative framework of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 sections (16) -(23), that repeals the statutory requirement contained in the Children Act 2004 for the establishment of an LSCB in each local authority area. The Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Relevant Agency (England) Regulations 2018 sets out the criteria the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel must take into account when determining

whether serious child safeguarding cases raise issues that are complex or of national importance, along with arrangements for national reviewers and reports. Section 16 sets out the duties on local authorities to notify the Panel of events that meet the reporting threshold and the legislative requirements of the safeguarding partners in meeting their obligations.

- 5.2 Consideration for the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 are taken into account within the statutory guidance for Information Sharing (July 2018). The legislative frameworks have been reflected within the draft Multi-agency safeguarding children arrangements in Brent document agreed by Brent Safeguarding partners.

## **6.0 Equality Implications**

- 6.1 The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it, s149 Equality Act 2010.
- 6.2 The s149, Public Sector Equality Duty (outlined above) cover the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, marriage and civil partnership, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 6.3 The multi-agency safeguarding children arrangements in Brent have been jointly developed by Brent Council, Brent NHS CCG and the North West Basic Command Unit. The three safeguarding partners have a shared and equal duty to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Brent. In discharging their duty safeguarding partners must be assured by partner agencies in the borough that multi-agency services are accessible, inclusive and responsive to the diverse needs of Brent's children and young people, including those with additional needs and/or vulnerabilities. The safeguarding partners will also ensure that services are culturally aware and skilled in identifying, assessing and meeting the individual needs of Brent children and their families.

**Report sign off:**

**GAIL TOLLEY**

Strategic Director of Children and  
Young People