

	<p align="center"><b>Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee</b> 26 November 2019</p>
	<p align="center"><b>Report from the Strategic Director, Children and Young People</b></p>
<p align="center"><b>Multi-Agency Arrangements for Safeguarding Children in Brent</b></p>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	
<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>	1
<b>Background Papers:</b>	0
<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 current partnership oversight arrangements for safeguarding Brent’s children and young people. The paper summarises the national context and the Brent model, which was implemented from 21 September 2019. These arrangements replace the former Brent Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB).

## 2.0 Recommendation

2.1 The committee is asked to review the new 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 were required to wind down LSCBs and implement new arrangements, which was done in Brent on 21 September 2019.

#### Governance of 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, Chief Nurse and 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 (Deputy for Chief Superintendent Sara Leach – BCU Commander).

Also in attendance is Mike Howard, Independent Convenor, Brent Safeguarding Children Forum (further detail in paragraph 3.6).

- 3.6 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 to the Executive Group is shared between the three

safeguarding partner organisations and the Forum is led by an Independent Convenor. Currently, this role is filled by Mike Howard, former chair of the BSCB. Statutory responsibilities and mandate remains with the Safeguarding Partners in the Executive Group. However, they may wish at points to delegate actions to the Forum as appropriate.

3.7 Brent's multi-agency safeguarding oversight arrangements document (appendix 1), published on 21 September 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:

- a list of the relevant agencies in the borough which 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
- confirmation that Brent continues to follow the London Child Protection Procedures
- arrangements for quality assuring activities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people
- the multi-agency learning and development offer to support the embedding of learning from local learning reviews and quality assurance audit findings are embedded across the partnership.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

4.1 Brent Council has been contributing to the resourcing of the Brent Safeguarding Children Board since its inception in 2006. The three safeguarding partners continue to make the same annual contributions to the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements:

- Brent Council – staffing equivalent to the value of £110k approximately
- North West London Collaboration of CCGs - £45,900
- North West Basic Command Unit - £5,000

4.2 Other partner organisations who sit on the Safeguarding Children Forum also continue their contributions to the new arrangements.

#### **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 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