

REPORT TO CABINET

17 April 2019

Subject:	Sandwell Safeguarding Children Board Transition to Sandwell Children's Safeguarding Partnership – Presentation of the Multiagency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA)
Presenting Cabinet Member:	Councillor Simon Hackett - Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Director:	Executive Director of Children's Services – Lesley Hagger
Contribution towards Vision 2030: 	  
Key Decision:	Yes
Forward Plan (28 day notice) Reference:	SMBC06/04/2019
Cabinet Member Approval and Date:	Councillor Simon Hackett - Cabinet Member for Children's Services: 20.3.19
Director Approval:	Executive Director of Children's Services – Lesley Hagger: 20.3.19
Reason for Urgency:	Urgency provisions do not apply
Exempt Information Ref:	Exemption provisions do not apply
Ward Councillor (s) Consulted (if applicable):	Ward councillors have not been consulted
Scrutiny Consultation Considered?	Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board on 18 March 2019
Contact Officer(s):	Contact Officer: Janet Russell, Independent Consultant MASA and Interim SSC Business Manager

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

1. Note the contents of the report and Multiagency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) document.
2. Considers the implication for the Council of the transition from Sandwell Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) to Sandwell Children's Safeguarding Partnership (SCSP)
3. Endorse the SCSP Multiagency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA)

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet of Sandwell's new multiagency safeguarding arrangements in response to legislative changes affecting Local Safeguarding Children Boards.
- 1.2 To present to Cabinet the Sandwell Children's Safeguarding Partnership Multiagency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA).

2 IMPLICATION FOR THE COUNCIL'S AMBITION

- 2.1 The work of SSCB and new multiagency safeguarding partnership are a statutory requirement of which SMBC is a statutory safeguarding partner. The work of the new partnership will help to deliver a number of the Vision 2030 ambitions namely:
- 2.2 **Ambition 4:** Our children benefit from the best start in life and a high-quality education throughout their school careers with outstanding support from their teachers and families.

Ambition 5: Our communities are built on mutual respect and taking care of each other, supported by all the agencies that ensure we feel safe and protected in our homes and local neighbourhoods.

Ambition 10: Sandwell has a national reputation for getting things done, where all local partners are focused on what really matters in people's live and communities.

3 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 Wood Review

The Wood Review of local safeguarding children boards raised concerns about the role LSCBs played in protecting and safeguarding children. The review highlighted a number of concerns about the safeguarding system, in particular relating to the leadership role from some DCS', there was a variance in systems and structures which became complicated and unwieldy (ie the serious case review and child death functions) with a significant lack of evidence of learning and improved outcomes for children and young people. LSCBs were deemed not sufficiently effective. Alan Wood recommended the abolition of LSCBs and their replacement by a stronger statutory partnership of the key statutory agencies - police, CCGs and local authorities – which would in turn determine local safeguarding arrangements.

3.2 Children and Social Work Act 2017

The Government accepted the recommendations from the Wood review and in response made key legislative change to Children Act 2004 through and as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 received Royal Assent in April 2017. Section 30 of the Act removes the requirement for local areas to have LSCBs. Sections 16 – 23 introduce a duty on 3 key partners (local authorities, police and CCGs) to decide with other partners as locally determined to work together in a local area to protect and safeguard children. These arrangements must identify and respond to the needs of children in the area and identify and review serious child safeguarding cases which raise issues of importance in relation to the area.

Thereafter the Department for Education published Working Together to Safeguarding Children in July 2018. This is statutory guidance which sets out the requirements for the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. Included in statutory guidance is the provision of independent scrutiny.

3.3 Transition timeline

The DfE's timeline for agreeing, publishing and implementing the new safeguarding partnership arrangements is set out in the additional guidance on the transition arrangements, Working Together transitional arrangements 2018.

3.4 Key points to note are:

- Within 12 months from the commencement of the provisions of the Act the 3 Safeguarding Partners should agree arrangements, in Sandwell this must be done by 29 June 2019

- The arrangements must be published and notification sent to the Secretary of State
- Within 3 months of publishing arrangements, the 3 safeguarding partners must implement the arrangements
- There will be a 12-month period for LSCBs after new arrangements are in place to complete and publish any outstanding Serious Case Reviews
- There will be a 4-month grace period for Child Death Overview Panels (CDOP) (under the LSCB) to complete child death reviews
- The child death review partners (the local authority and the CCG) will have 12 months to agree the arrangements for child death reviews and 3 months to implement them (by the end of September 2019)
- Once the arrangements have been published and implemented, the LSCB will no longer exist.

The statutory Safeguarding Partners have agreed that the multiagency safeguarding arrangements will be published in March 2019 and intend to implement the MASA from 1 April 2019.

3.5 The transition guidance details the arrangements which should be followed during the transition from LSCBs to safeguarding partners and child death review partners (including timelines for managing existing child death reviews) and during the transition from the current system of Serious Case Reviews to new national and local review arrangements.

3.6 **Key Changes**

Responsibility for the new MASA rests with the 3 Statutory Safeguarding Partners

- ✓ Local Authority
- ✓ Police and Crime Commissioner's Office
- ✓ Clinical Commissioning Group
- ✓ Sandwell Children's Trust as a 4th Safeguarding Partner

3.7 The Sandwell Children's Trust has been identified as the fourth Safeguarding Partner due to its relationship with the Local Authority. The Children's Trust is an independent organisation set up to run children's services. In Sandwell, the organisation has taken the form of a company owned by the Council.

3.8 The 4 safeguarding partners are responsible for:

- The coordination of safeguarding services including how to work together and with other relevant agencies
- To act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others
- Implementing local and national learning including from serious child safeguarding incidents

3.9 The Statutory Safeguarding Partners are equally and jointly responsible and must make arrangements to work together with relevant agencies (as they consider appropriate) to safeguard and protect the welfare of children in the area.

3.10 **Everyone** who come into contact with children and families has a role to play.

3.11 **Relevant agencies** - are those organisations and agencies whose involvement the safeguarding partners consider is required to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children. For local arrangements to be effective, they should engage organisations and agencies that can work in a collaborative way to provide targeted support to children and families as appropriate. The safeguarding partners must set out in their published arrangements which organisations and agencies they will be working with to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

3.12 **Schools, colleges and other educational providers**

All schools, colleges and other educational providers have duties in relation to safeguarding children and promoting their welfare.

It has been agreed by the MASA Executive that the education sector and the voluntary sector will be formally represented on the Partnership Board.

A Multiagency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) Executives Group comprising of Sandwell's Statutory Safeguarding Partners was formed to oversee the implementation of the LSCB to MASA transition project plan.

3.13 The document presented sets out:

- the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for the Sandwell Children's Safeguarding Partnership.

- promotes the interdependence of organisations and agencies including the VCS in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and their families.
- how the Sandwell Children’s Safeguarding Partnership will operate.
- what powers and functions it holds, its sub-structure, how decisions are made and,
- the procedures that are followed to ensure that it operates efficiently, effectively and is both transparent and accountable.

3.14 ***Key change for Sandwell***

1. The last meeting of the SSCB was on 26 February 2019.
2. The Sandwell Safeguarding Children Board has been replaced by the Sandwell Children’s Safeguarding Partnership (SCSP)
3. The MASA needs to publish on each partner agency website and sent to the Secretary of State for compliance check. Thereafter the MASA needs to be implemented within 3 months of publication.
4. The aim is to hold inaugural meeting of the SCSP on 29 April 2019
5. The SCSP will be responsible for the discharge of the new MASA
6. The SCSP is a much smaller executive group comprising of the
 - Statutory Safeguarding Partners
 - Relevant Agencies
7. Recruitment process is underway for a new independent Chair and Scrutineer
8. The Safeguarding Partners are equally and jointly responsible for the implementation and demonstrable success of the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

4 **THE CURRENT POSITION**

- 4.1 The partner agencies involved in the Sandwell Safeguarding Children Board have fully reviewed the current and future arrangements for working together to safeguard children and have all endorsed the proposals contained in this report.

4.2 Partner agencies are now taking reports through their various governance boards for information. The MASA was submitted to the Department of Education on 18 March 2019 to inform them of the new arrangements and for their compliance check. The document is now live on the SSCB website and will be transferred to the SCSP website on the 1 April 2019.

5 CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)

5.1 The SSCB members have been widely consulted on the new multiagency safeguarding arrangements and the workings of the SCSP.

5.2 The final draft of SCSP was presented and ratified by the SSCB meeting on 26 February 2019.

5.3 The report was presented to SMBC Scrutiny Board on 18 March 2019. The Scrutiny Board sought clarity on its role for the forthcoming SCSP and the MASA. It was clarified that the expectations for the Scrutiny Board are not too dissimilar to previous arrangements for the former SSCB. The SCSP will provide reports to the Scrutiny Board on its core business functions and other activities as set out in the SCSP Business Plan, as it is required to do so. The Scrutiny Board is yet to decide on what areas of the SCSP activity it would like to scrutinise and how often this will take place.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

6.1 There are no alternative options it is statutory requirement for LSCBs to be replaced by the new local Safeguarding Partnership and to publish their MASA.

7 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are specific financial implications arising from this report relating to ongoing arrangements for the review of child death as SMBC are a statutory Child Death Review Partner.

7.2 Discussions have commenced with regard to the SCSP budget and resources and a detailed finance report has been prepared in relation to funding and partner agency contributions for a two-year period 2019/2021. The Sandwell Children's Trust will need to hold further discussions with the key statutory safeguarding partners (West Midlands Police and CCG) to ensure that there is a full review and decisions made about the budget for the new partnership and funding formulae to determine the Partner contributions going forward.

8 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 In accordance with Working Together 2018, the MASA will need to be approved by all of the Statutory Safeguarding Partners. The document is being presented to each organisation.

9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 The SCSP governance relating to the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements is the responsibility of the SCSP and will be maintained implemented and reviewed in line with the partnerships requirements. This report is for ratification and any actions arising from the Partnership's core business and priorities contained within the Board plan's will have their own Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) as required.

10 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 10.1 There are no data protection issues arising from this report.

11 CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT

- 11.1 There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.
- 11.2 The Corporate Risk Management Strategy (CRMS) has been complied with – to identify and assess the significant risks associated with this decision/project. This includes (but is not limited to) political, legislation, financial, environmental and reputation risks.

12 SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS

- 12.1 The SSCB transition to the new arrangements will take place on 1 April 2019 with the inaugural meeting of the Sandwell Children's Safeguarding Partnership taking place on the 29 April 2019.

13 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)

- 13.1 The MASA report has been presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

14 IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND

- 14.1 There are no implications on any Council managed property or land.

15 **CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 15.1 The Statutory Safeguarding Partners have collaborated to develop the new multiagency safeguarding arrangements, which are compliant with the key legislative changes relating to the safety and welfare of children.
- 15.2 Sandwell is one of the first areas in the West Midlands to complete this activity and publish its MASA.
- 15.3 The MASA is now published. Sandwell partners have shown a real appetite for this change and commitment to drive the improvement needed to successfully implement the MASA. Implementation has to commence within three months of publication, however it is the intention of the SCSP to implement MASA from 1 April 2019.

16 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 16.1 None

17 **APPENDICES:**

Sandwell Children's Safeguarding Partnership Multiagency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA).



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