Wandsworth’s Joint Safeguarding Partnership Arrangements Protocol

Joint protocol between the Local Safeguarding Children Board, Safeguarding Adults Board, Health, and Wellbeing Board and Community Safety Partnership

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1. Purpose
This protocol and proposed framework outlines the relationship between the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB known as Wandsworth’s SCB (WSCB)) the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB), the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) and the Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

This document aims to confirm:
- Roles and responsibility of all partners
- Accountability and governance arrangements
- Conflict resolution & challenge

Key principles
- Committed to working together
- Respect each partnerships roles and responsibilities and work within the agreed protocol
- Adopt a culture of mutual challenge and professional accountability
- Maintain an effective interface and regular communication

Responsibility of the WSCB in relation to other strategic groups/boards:
The WSCB is not a delivery or commissioning body, it has a scrutiny and challenge role. However it would expect to initiate activities which investigate and improve practice in safeguarding. It has the authority to call any agency represented on the HWBB, SAB or CSP to account for its safeguarding activity. The work of the WSCB contributes to the wider goals of improving the well-being of all children. Within the wider governance arrangements its role is to ensure the effectiveness of the arrangements made by individual agencies and the wider partnership to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The WSCB will work with partnerships to ensure procedures and processes are in place to minimise risk and maximise the safety of children and young people in Wandsworth.

The WSCB will:
- Take responsibility for monitoring action to improve safeguarding including action plans arising from Serious Case Reviews
- Hold the other boards to account on matters of safeguarding in all its activities, providing appropriate challenge on performance and results of performance indicators
- Undertake audits and feedback results to the other boards, advising on ways to improve and highlight areas of underperformance
- Feedback learning from Serious Case Reviews and ensure that the lessons are learnt
- Highlight gaps in service for the other boards to consider as part of its commissioning process
2. Partnership Boards

2.1 Wandsworth Local Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB)

i. The key objectives of the WSCB are compliant with those set out in ‘Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015’:
   • To co-ordinate local work to safeguard and promote the well-being of children;
   • To ensure the effectiveness of that work.
   • Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined by protecting children from maltreatment and preventing impairment of children’s health or development
   • Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
   • Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes in life.

ii. A key objective in undertaking these roles is to enable children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully.

iii. The role of the WSCB is to scrutinise and challenge the work of agencies both individually and collectively. The WSCB is not operationally responsible for managers and staff in constituent agencies.

2.2 Wandsworth Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)

i. Safeguarding Adults Boards are statutory bodies since the implementation of the Care Act 2014 in April 2015. The main objective of the SAB is to assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements and partners act to safeguard adults at risk, with a strategic oversight of adult safeguarding across the locality.

ii. The focus of the work of Safeguarding Adults Board in Wandsworth is adults at risk. The forms of abuse which the Board aims to prevent and address are: physical abuse, sexual abuse, psychological abuse, financial or material abuse, neglect or acts of omission, discriminatory abuse, organisational abuse, domestic violence, modern slavery and self-neglect.

iii. The role of the SAB is to ensure effective safeguarding arrangements are in place in both the commissioning and provision of services to adults at risk by individual agencies and to ensure effective interagency working in this respect. In this regard, the local authority has a responsibility to carry out or cause others to carry out an enquiry if an adult has needs for care and support; is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect; and as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from the experience or risk of abuse.

iv. The SAB has identified agreed objectives and priorities for its work which include a clear vision, policy, procedural and practice arrangements, mechanisms to secure coordination of activities between agencies, the provision of training and workforce
development in support of safeguarding, quality assurance and performance management arrangements to test the effectiveness of safeguarding adults and the impact of the Board.

2.3 Health and Wellbeing Board

i. Health and Wellbeing Boards were established by the Health and Social Care Act 2012. They are a forum where key leaders from the health and care system work together to improve the health and wellbeing of their local population and reduce health inequalities.

ii. Board members are expected to collaborate to understand their local community's needs, agree priorities and encourage commissioners to work in a more joined up way. As a result, patients and the public should experience more joined-up services from the NHS and local councils in the future.

iii. Health and Wellbeing Boards have strategic influence over commissioning decisions across health, public health and social care through the development of a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Boards are intended to strengthen democratic legitimacy by involving democratically elected representatives and patient representatives in commissioning decisions alongside commissioners across health and social care. The boards also provide a forum for challenge and discussion. Boards bring together clinical commissioning groups and councils to develop a shared understanding of the health and wellbeing needs of the community. They undertake a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and develop a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for how these needs can best be addressed in a co-ordinated, planned and measurable way. Through undertaking the JSNA, the board will drive local commissioning of health care, social care and public health and create a more effective and responsive local health and care system. Other services that impact on health and wellbeing such as housing and education provision can also be addressed.

2.4 Community Safety Partnership

i. The Community Safety Partnership is the key Strategic Partnership for the delivery of community safety and crime and disorder reduction. Its aim is to work together with the statutory partners of the CSP and the wider community safety family on a range of key inter-related issues to keep Wandsworth as one of the safest places to live, work and visit in London. The CSP will achieve this aim by working in partnership across the Statutory Partners of the CSP, external stakeholders including the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime (MOPC) and the voluntary sector, to deliver priority areas identified.
2.5 Former Children and Young People’s Partnership (CYPP)

i. There is no longer a statutory requirement to have a Children and Young People’s Partnership Board (CYPPB) and therefore in Wandsworth the delivery of the key priorities falls to three Overview Groups who drive the delivery against the identified areas.

ii. The three Overview Groups report to the Annual Review and Partnership Forum (ARPF).

3. The need for effective communication and engagement between the Boards.

i. Safeguarding is everyone’s business. For services to be effective, each professional and organisation should play their full part. The service user should be central to service delivery. For services to be effective they should be based on the needs and views of children and young people, their families and vulnerable adults. As such, all key strategic plans whether they be formulated by individual agencies or by partnership forums should include safeguarding as a cross-cutting theme to ensure that existing strategies and service delivery as well as emerging plans for change and improvement include effective safeguarding arrangements that ensure that all people of Wandsworth are safe and their well-being is protected. The two safeguarding boards have a responsibility to scrutinise and challenge these arrangements.

ii. The Health and Wellbeing Strategy will drive the commissioning strategy for the delivery of health services to children and adults in Wandsworth and so it is critical that in drawing up, delivering and evaluating the strategy there is effective interchange between the Health and Wellbeing Board, the two safeguarding boards and other partnership boards.

iii. Specifically there need to be formal interfaces between the Health and Wellbeing Board, Community Safety Partnership and the Safeguarding Boards at key points including:

- The needs analyses that drive the formulation of the annual Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Safeguarding Boards’ Business Plans. This needs to be reciprocal in nature ensuring both that safeguarding boards’ needs analyses are fed into the JSNA and that the outcomes of the JSNA are fed back into safeguarding boards’ planning;
- Ensuring each Board is regularly updated on progress made in the implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the individual Board Business Plans in a context of mutual scrutiny and challenge;
- Annually reporting evaluations of performance on Plans again to provide the opportunity for reciprocal scrutiny and challenge and to enable Boards to feed any
improvement and development needs into the planning process for future years’ strategies and plans.

iv. ‘Working Together 2015’ states that the Local Safeguarding Children Board should work with the Health and Well-being Board, informing and drawing on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. The opportunities presented by a formal working relationship between the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Wandsworth LSCB and SAB can, therefore be summarised as follows:

- Securing an integrated approach to the JSNA, ensuring comprehensive safeguarding data analysis in the JSNA, in line with Working Together guidance, including evidence of prevalence of child sexual exploitation.
- Aligning the work of the LSCB Business Plan and SAB Strategic Plan with the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and related priority setting
- Ensuring safeguarding is “everyone’s business”, reflected in the public health agenda and related determinant of health and community safety policies and strategies.
- Evaluating the impact of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy on safeguarding and community safety outcomes, and of safeguarding on wider determinants of health outcomes
- Identifying coordinated approach to performance management, transformational change and commissioning
- Cross Board scrutiny and challenge and “holding to account”: the Wellbeing Board and Community Safety Partnership for embedding safeguarding, and the Safeguarding Boards for overall performance and contribution to the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

4. Arrangements to secure co-ordination between the Boards.

i. In order to secure the opportunities identified above it is proposed that the following arrangements would be put in place to ensure effective co-ordination and coherence in the work of the four Boards.

ii. Each of the Chairs of the 3 APRF Overview Groups (set up by the former Children and Young People’s Partnership) will make an annual report between March and May to the WSCB Executive on the safeguarding aspects of their work during the previous year. Any issues from the subsequent debate will inform the WSCB Annual report.

iii. The more detailed reporting associated with the Areas of Focus which relate to safeguarding will be reported by the named responsible officer to the WSCB Monitoring Sub Committee, and again such reports will be phased across the year and the outcome reflected in the WSCB Annual Report.

iv. Between September and November each year the Independent Chair of the two Safeguarding Boards would present to the Health and Wellbeing Board their Annual Reports outlining performance against Business Plan objectives in the previous
financial year. This would be supplemented by a position statement on the Boards’ performance in the current financial year. This would provide the opportunity for the Health and Wellbeing Board to scrutinise and challenge the performance of the Boards, to draw across data to be included in the JSNA and to reflect on key issues that may need to be incorporated in the refresh of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The Independent chair would also present their Annual report of both boards to the CSP.

v. Between October and February the Health and Wellbeing Board to present to the safeguarding boards the review of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the refreshed JSNA and the proposed priorities and objectives for the refreshed Health and Wellbeing Strategy to enable the safeguarding boards to scrutinise and challenge performance of the Health and Wellbeing Board and to ensure that their refreshed Business Plans appropriately reflect relevant priorities set in the refreshed Health and Wellbeing Commissioning Strategy. The CSP report to the two Safeguarding Boards during October and February on its priorities and objectives for the following year.

vi. In May-July the Boards will share their refreshed Plans for the coming financial year to ensure co-ordination and coherence.

vii. Regular meetings will be held between respective Council Committee Services and Business manager for the respective Boards, to ensure on-going communication between, and connectivity of, relevant areas of business progressing through Boards. This will also help to avoid duplication of work and gaps in policies and services and ensure an aligned agenda-setting process between Boards.

viii. Minutes of Board meetings will be shared to assist this process.

ix. An annual meeting of the chairs of all the boards to enable challenge, priority setting and aid communication.

x. This protocol will be reviewed on an annual basis or when national guidance affecting any of the boards is revised or introduced.

5. Governance

i. The Chief Executive of the council co-chairs the CSP with the Borough Commander, alternating each year. The Chief Executive also attends the H&WBB and attends the two Safeguarding boards to ensure communication and feedback between the Boards.

ii. The Borough Commander attends both the SAB and the WSCB.

iii. The Leader of the Council and Chief Executive have a responsibility to ensure that both Safeguarding Boards are well led, managed and effective. As part of this role, the Leader and Chief Executive will consider the WSCB and SAB Annual report regarding the effectiveness of arrangements for safeguarding children and adults in
Wandsworth, including the effectiveness of governance and partnership arrangements in this regard.

iv. The independent Chair of the WSCB reports annually to the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council, and thereafter to the Education & Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee. In addition the independent Chair presents the Annual Report of both Boards to the Health & Wellbeing Board and Community Safety Partnership. It is also submitted to the Local Police and Crime Commissioner.

v. The independent chair for WSCB & SAB meets quarterly with the Chief Executive of the Council and formally report progress and identifies any areas for improvement.
6. Governance Diagram

Golden thread of safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults

WSCB

Monitoring Sub-Committee

Child Death Overview Panel

Policy & Procedures Sub-Group

SAB

Publicity Sub-Group

Training Sub-Group

Joint Commissioning Executive

Health & Wellbeing Partnership

Public Health Board

HWBB

Serious Cases Improvement and Learning SC

Health & Wellbeing Partnership

Public Health Board

Prevention & Early Intervention OG

Vulnerable Children and Young People’s OG

Children Health Overview and Clinical Reference Group

APRF

CSP
Annual Cycle of reporting and governance arrangements

- **May-July:**
  - All Boards to share refreshed plans -

- **March-May:**
  - Report by ARPF Overview Group
  - Chairs to WSCB Executive

- **Annual Meetings:**
  - * Leader of Council & CEO
  - * Overview & Scrutiny Committee
  - * Chairs of various Partnership Boards

- **September-November:**
  - SAB & WSCB Chair’s Annual reports to HWBB & CSP

- **October-February:**
  - HWBB & CSP report priorities and objectives to SAB & WSCB