

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, ADULT AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

TO:	HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD		
DATE:	18 JULY 2014	AGENDA ITEM:	10
TITLE:	PROTOCOL AGREEMENT BETWEEN READING LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S BOARD, HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD AND CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	COUNCILLOR GAVIN	PORTFOLIO:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The attached protocol sets out the expectation of the relationship and working arrangements between Reading Local Safeguarding Board (LSCB) Reading Health and Wellbeing Board and Reading Children's Trust.
- 1.2 It is a statutory requirement that agencies working with children and young people work closely in partnership to ensure the best outcomes are achieved effectively. All statutory agencies with responsibility for providing services for children and young people, plus the voluntary sector and young people themselves, are represented on one or more of these three partnership boards. It is therefore vital that these three boards communicate effectively to ensure a joined up approach and avoid duplication.
- 1.3 The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to endorse the protocol, which has already been agreed by both the LSCB and the Children's Trust.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Health and Wellbeing Board endorse the attached protocol agreement.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 There has been a protocol agreement in place between Reading LSCB and Reading Children's Trust for 5 years. This has ensured that reports or concerns have been disseminated or discussed at the most appropriate board. It has also ensured that priorities have been discussed and consulted with each partnership group, plus the annual reports for each board have been presented to the other for discussion and challenge where necessary.
- 3.2 With the introduction of the Health and Wellbeing Board, the protocol needed to be reviewed and rewritten to ensure the inclusion of all three boards.

4. THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 The Reading LSCB and Children's Trust Boards have already endorsed this protocol, acknowledging that it represents best practice. It is recommended that the Reading Health and Wellbeing Board also endorse the protocol.
- 4.2 The shared principles for this working protocol are:
 - The boards will work together to minimise the duplication of reports and actions, and that there are no unhelpful strategic or operational gaps in policies, protocols, services or practice.
 - The boards share a commitment to a strategic approach to understanding needs, in a way that includes analysis of data and effective engagement with frontline practitioners, with children and young people, with families.
 - The Partnerships are committed to developing a joined up approach to understanding the effectiveness of current services (what difference does it make) and identifying priorities for change - including where services need to be improved, reshaped or developed.
 - All three Boards will work together to provide constructive challenge to one another and partners.
- 4.3 The protocol lists the key responsibilities of each board, and how each one should interact with the other. This includes ensuring that each board is consulted when one of the related strategic plans is re-written, such as the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Children and Young People's Plan, plus any annual reports from one board are presented to the others, such as the LSCB Annual Report.
- 4.4 The protocol details the key lines of communication between the boards and describes the interconnectedness of senior management representation on each board which ensures key topics for discussion/concern are made aware across the partnerships.
- 4.5 It also describes the route by which concerns highlighted by one board can be raised with one of the other boards.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

5.1 This protocol contributes to the following Council strategic aims:

- To establish Reading as a learning City and a stimulating and rewarding place to live and visit.
- To promote equality, social inclusion and a safe and healthy environment for all.

5.2 It also contributes to the Local Strategic Partnership delivery themes of Community Safety and Health.

5.3 The protocol itself does not refer specifically to these strategic aims and delivery themes, but the strategic plans produced by each board (the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the LSCB Business Plan and the Children and Young People's Plan) do detail the aims and priorities of the work undertaken by board partners. These strategic aims and delivery themes are clearly embedded within each document.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

6.1 Consultation on this protocol has been carried out within the membership of the boards concerned.

6.2 The strategic plans of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Children's Trust are consulted on within the community, including children and young people. A current aim of the LSCB is to ensure we listen and respond to our children and young people in relation to their safeguarding needs, and be able to evidence this.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is not relevant to the recommendation of this protocol. The protocol itself will not have a differential impact on: racial groups; gender; people with disabilities; people of a particular sexual orientation; people due to their age; people due to their religious belief. However, equality and diversity are key themes for the all three boards, ensuring that any changes to practice or service recommended by the boards will not disadvantage any particular group.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There is no legal requirement to have a protocol in place, but the statutory framework listed below requires that partners work effectively together to safeguard and provide appropriate services for children and young people.

8.2 The statutory framework for the protocol is:

- Section 10, 11, 13 and 14 of the Children Act 2004

- Local Safeguarding Children Board Regulations 2006/2010
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013
- Health and Social Care Act 2012
- Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Reading Health and Wellbeing Board Terms of Reference
- Reading LSCB Business Plan
- Reading LSCB and Children's Trust Protocol Agreement
- Reading Children and Young People's Plan

Protocol agreement between Reading Local Safeguarding Children Board, Health and Wellbeing Board and Children’s Trust Board



Introduction

This document sets out the expectations of the relationship and working arrangements between Reading Local Safeguarding Children Board (RSCB), Reading Health and Wellbeing Board (H&WB) and Reading Children’s Trust (RCT).

Statutory Framework for this Protocol

- Section 10, 11, 13 and 14 of the Children Act 2004
- Local Safeguarding Children Board Regulations 2006/2010
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013
- Health and Social Care Act 2012
- Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning (ASCL) Act 2009

Local Safeguarding Children Board	Health and Wellbeing Board	Children’s Trust
<p>Statutory Framework RSCB is a statutory partnership under the Children Act 2004 with statutory guidance on making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It has responsibility for agreeing how relevant local organisations will co-operate to achieve this.</p>	<p>Statutory Framework The Health and Social Care Act 2012 includes the establishment of a Health & Wellbeing Board to undertake joint strategic needs assessments. The Board must adopt and operate under a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy which identifies the top priorities where working together can make a real difference in promoting the health and wellbeing of the people of Reading.</p>	<p>Statutory Framework Although statutory guidelines have been removed, the Children’s Trust in Reading continues to work together as an effective strategic partnership, ensuring that the lives of children and young people are improved by the delivery of better services, including for their health and wellbeing.</p>
<p>Role RSCBs role is to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of local arrangements for safeguarding children and young people and promoting their welfare.</p>	<p>Role The H&WB acts as the high level strategic planning partnership to develop the provision of integrated health and social care services in Reading Borough. The H&WB for Reading is established to oversee the health improvement and well-being of those who live and work in the Borough.</p>	<p>Role The RCT vision is to create a positive and ambitious environment for Reading children and young people so that they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are happy, healthy, safe and coping with change and challenge • are enthusiastic and skilled learners • value themselves and others.

Shared Principles for this working protocol

- The boards will work together to minimise the duplication of reports and actions, and that there are no unhelpful strategic or operational gaps in policies, protocols, services or practice.
- The boards share a commitment to a strategic approach to understanding needs, in a way that includes analysis of data and effective engagement with frontline practitioners, with children and young people, with families.
- The Partnerships are committed to developing a joined up approach to understanding the effectiveness of current services (what difference does it make) and identifying priorities for change - including where services need to be improved, reshaped or developed.
- All three boards will work together to provide constructive challenge to one another and partners.

Reading Safeguarding Children Board Responsibilities

1. The core objectives of the Safeguarding Children Board which are prescribed in Working Together are to:
 - Co-ordinate what is done by each agency to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in Reading.
 - Ensure the effectiveness of that work.
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2. The RSCB is the decision making body for multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding of children within Reading. It is a statutory partnership and its work is directed by statutory guidance. This guidance dictates the functions to be undertaken by Safeguarding Children Boards and the criteria/functions against which they will be measured during Ofsted Safeguarding Inspections.
3. The Chief Executive of the Council has the statutory responsibility for ensuring that an effective Safeguarding Children Board is in place for the Local Authority area.
4. Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006 sets out that the functions of the LSCB, in relation to the above objectives under Section 14 of the Children Act 2004, are as follows:

1(a) developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority, including policies and procedures in relation to:

- (i) the action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety or Welfare, including thresholds for intervention;
- (ii) training of persons who work with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children;
- (iii) recruitment and supervision of persons who work with children;
- (iv) investigation of allegations concerning persons who work with children;
- (v) safety and welfare of children who are privately fostered;
- (vi) cooperation with neighbouring Children's Services authorities and their board partners;

(b) communicating to persons and bodies in the area of the authority the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising their awareness of how this can best be done and encouraging them to do so;

(c) monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advising them on ways to improve;

- (d) participating in the planning of services for children in the area of the authority;
- (e) undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and their board partners on lessons to be learned.

Regulation 5 (3) provides that an LSCB may also engage in any other activity that facilitates, or is conducive to, the achievement of its objectives.

- 5. The RSCB is responsible for challenging each relevant partner, as defined by the Children Act (2006) on their effectiveness in safeguarding children and ensuring their welfare.
- 6. The RSCB may request the Health and Wellbeing Board to consider issues for development, action or scrutiny.

Reading Health & Wellbeing Board Arrangements and Responsibilities

- 7. The H&WB aims to improve health and well-being for people in Reading. It is a partnership board that brings together the Council, NHS and the local health watch organisation. By working together on the delivery of national and local priorities, the Board aims to make existing services more effective through integrating provision and influencing future joint commissioning and provision of services.
- 8. The H&WB will be responsible for developing a Health and Well-being Strategy and Action Plan as the basis for achieving these aims. The focus will be on reducing health inequalities, early intervention and prevention of poor health and promotion of health and well-being.
- 9. The H&WB will be expected to improve outcomes for residents, carers and the population through closer integration between Health and the Council. Stronger joint commissioning offers scope for more flexible, preventative and integrated services for children and adults with long-term conditions and those living in vulnerable circumstances.
- 10. Underpinning the work of the H&WB is the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) which provides the framework for considering the wider determinants of health, including employment, education, housing and environmental factors that impact on the health and well-being of people in Reading. The JSNA will inform the development of the Health and Well-Being Strategy and Action Plan and alongside other intelligence, especially the views of local people, help define priorities for the strategy that in turn will influence commissioning priorities.
- 11. The H&WB will ensure that RSCB and RCT are formally consulted during the development of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- 12. The H&WB may request RSCB or RCT to consider issues for development, action or scrutiny.

Reading Children's Trust Responsibilities:

- 13. The purpose of the CT is to consult with and bring all partners with a role in improving outcomes for children together to agree a common strategy on how they will co-operate to improve children's wellbeing and to help embed partnership working in the partners' routine delivery of their own functions. Delivering the strategy, the Reading Children & Young People's Plan, is the responsibility of the partners, both individually and together. This means each partner's existing lines of accountability are unchanged, i.e. each partner of the CT retains its existing formal lines of accountability for delivering its own functions. This avoids any confusion or blurring of lines of accountability.

14. The CT will contribute to the priorities for children and young people within the Health and Wellbeing Strategy (priorities agreed following the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment). The H&WB will provide constructive challenge and support to the CT.
15. The H&WB and RSCB will be formally consulted by RCT when the Children & Young People's Plan is being drafted, allowing sufficient time for both Boards to provide support and challenge.
16. RCT will maintain responsibility for the overall performance monitoring of the indicators, data and targets and outcomes identified within the Children and Young People's Plan but also provide challenge to RSCB and the H&WB as necessary when scrutinising its performance information.
17. RCT will ensure that any advice and information provided by the H&WB is appropriately disseminated within the CT member organisations.

Lines of Communication

18. The Independent Chair of RSCB is an invited attendee at RCT Board meetings. The Chair of RCT (the Lead Member for Children's Services) is a member of both the RSCB and H&WB. The Director of Children's Services is a member of all three Boards. The interconnectedness of senior level membership ensures key issues are discussed in the appropriate meeting.
19. The RSCB Annual Report is presented to both the RCT and H&WB.
20. The Children and Young People's Plan Annual Report is presented to both the RSCB and H&WB.
21. Any particular issues or concerns raised by one Board for consideration by either or both of the other boards will be scheduled onto the next appropriate agenda via the LSCB & RCT Business Manager or Principal Committee Administrator. A written report will be presented to the Board which details the issue/concern with and expectation of the outcome. Please note that H&WB meetings are public and due consideration must be made regarding report content.

Formal agreement of this protocol

22. This protocol will be agreed at full Board meetings of:

	Meeting Date
Reading Safeguarding Children Board	18 June 2014
Reading Health and Wellbeing Board	18 July 2014
Reading Children's Trust	8 April 2014

23. A review of this protocol will be undertaken annually.