

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

**Agenda
Item No.**

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive
(People)

to

Cabinet

on

25th June 2019

Report prepared by: Paul Hill, SAB Board Manager

Southend Safeguarding Partnership

People Scrutiny Committee

Executive Councillors: Cllr Trevor Harp and Cllr Anne Jones

Part 1 (Public Agenda Item)

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To provide Councillors with an overview of Southend Safeguarding Partners response to the changes in governance required by the *“Working Together to Safeguard Children - A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children – July 2018”* (WT2018).
- 1.2. To seek Members’ agreement of the proposed arrangements prior to submission to the Secretary of State for Education by the deadline of 29 June 2019.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the report is noted and approved.

3. Background

- 3.1. The WT2018 was driven by the Children and Social Work Act 2017 (the Act) and associated statutory guidance. The Act introduced a new duty to be placed on the Local Authority, the Chief Officer of Police and Clinical Commissioning Group (referred to as Safeguarding Partners), to make arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area.
- 3.2. WT2018 sets out the following:
 - 3.2.1 The three safeguarding partners should agree on ways to co-ordinate their safeguarding services; act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others; and implement local and national learning including from serious child safeguarding incidents.
 - 3.2.2 To fulfil this role, the three safeguarding partners must set out how they will work together and with any relevant agencies.
 - 3.2.3 All three safeguarding partners have equal and joint responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements.

- 3.3. The three safeguarding partners have until 29 June 2019 to publish their arrangements, and have to notify the Secretary of State for Education when they have done so. They then have until 29 September 2019 to implement the new arrangements.
- 3.4. The arrangements will replace the current Southend Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and Southend Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB).
- 3.5. As part of the new arrangements, the three safeguarding partners must set out how they will work with the relevant agencies and schools, colleges and other educational providers.
- 3.6. The three safeguarding partners must also set out how they will work together and with any relevant agencies whose involvement they consider may be required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in particular agencies. They must also set out how their arrangements will receive independent scrutiny.

4. Corporate Implications

4.1. Contribution to the Southend 2050 Road Map

- 4.1.1. These arrangements have been constructed to support the drivers and detail of the Southend 2050 Road Map.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. There are no significant financial implications as a result of these proposed changes.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1. Strategic Partners are required to make new arrangements and the proposed changes satisfy all requirements of the WT 2018.

7. Consultation

- 7.1. Partners have been consulted prior to the construction of these arrangements, during their perpetration and at drafting stages of the final solution.
- 7.2. The three partners have agreed the attached document fully meets the requirements of the safeguarding partnerships whilst being modelled to ensure the meet the needs of Southend's children and families.

8. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 8.1. These arrangements are designed specifically to offer assurance and oversight of services that protect vulnerable members of our community who have experienced or are at risk of abuse or exploitation.
- 8.2. The arrangements cover only the governance of these services and do not include any delivery functions.
- 8.3. An equality impact assessment has not been completed.

9. Background papers

9.1.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779401/Working_Together_to_Safeguard-Children.pdf

10. Appendices

10.1. Appendix 1 - Working Together 2018 – Safeguarding Southend Partnership Arrangements