

Meeting:	Health and wellbeing board
Meeting date:	26 November 2015
Title of report:	Herefordshire chairperson's protocol
Report by:	Chair of health and wellbeing board

Classification

Open

Key Decision

This is not an executive decision.

Wards Affected

Countywide

Purpose

To comment on the principal of the protocol (Appendix 1) between the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB), Community Safety Partnership (CSP), Children and Young People's Partnership (CYPP), Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) and Herefordshire Safeguarding Adults Board (HSAB)

Recommendation(s)

That the Board provides comments on the principal of the protocol to enable the protocol to be developed and signed off by the Chairs of the respective Boards.

Alternative options

- 1 To operate without a protocol. This would lead to enhanced risks of failures to work collaboratively with respect to safeguarding our most vulnerable children and adults, with the ultimate risk of loss of life. The potential would also increase for duplication of activities and confusion as to governance and accountability with respect to key safeguarding matters.

Reasons for recommendations

- 2 The Council and its partners are required to have several different partnership boards to oversee specific system wide issues. The Chairs of five of these Boards wish to

ensure there is clarity about how the Boards will coordinate their work and cooperate in order to ensure there is effective use of resources, clarity of governance and that partnership work makes an enhanced impact on the effectiveness of practice and impact on outcomes of people in Herefordshire. The attached protocol defines how the CYPP, HWBB, CSP, HSCB and HSAB will work together in the pursuit of safeguarding and promoting the health and wellbeing of children, young people and adults at risk.

3 Having an effective formal working relationship between the five boards/partnerships, the benefits should be:

- An integrated approach to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and CSP strategic analysis, ensuring comprehensive and relevant data, including safeguarding data is included in both;
- Aligning the work of the HSCB and HSAB business plans with the HWB Strategy, Children and Young People's Plan and CSP Plan and related priority setting to achieve improved progress with transformation, improvement activity and service change;
- Ensuring safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, reflected in the public health agenda and related determinants of health strategies; together with community safety priorities and the short, medium and long term objectives of the CSP;
- An ability to evaluate the impact of the HWB Strategy, Children and Young People's Plan and CSP Plan on safeguarding outcomes, and of safeguarding on wider determinants of health and community safety outcomes;
- A coordinated approach to communication, learning and improvement, performance management, change and commissioning;
- Cross board scrutiny and challenge and "holding to account": the HWBB, CYPP and CSP for embedding safeguarding, and the safeguarding boards for overall performance and contribution to the improved outcomes set out in the HWB Strategy, Children and Young People's Plan and CSP Plan.

Key considerations

4 At the first quarterly meeting of the chairs of the CYPP, HWBB, CSP, HSCB and HSAB on 7 September 2015, a draft protocol was discussed to enable the five partnerships/boards to work effectively. It was agreed that the chairs of the respective boards/partnerships would take the protocol to the next available meeting for discussion to enable approval.

5 The protocol seeks to clarify the discrete responsibilities of each board. The role of the HWBB in relation to the CYPP, CSP, HSCB and HSAB is as an equal partner and the protocol underpins this principle.

6 The five underpinning principles for all the boards/partnerships are:

- Safeguarding is the business of all boards;
 - The boards should know each other's business;
 - A culture of scrutiny and challenge should exist across all the boards;
 - The boards should work together to avoid duplication, and ensure consistency, clarity and best use of resources;
 - Each board should focus on improving outcomes for children, young people and adults, contributing from its own specific perspective.
- 7 There are three strategic plans which inform and influence local commissioning and service delivery, these are:
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy
 - Children's and Young People's Plan
 - Community Safety Plan
- 8 The HSCB and HSAB also produce strategic plans and annual business plans which are informed by local needs analysis as well as the boards' own scrutiny and assurance work. The focus of these plans is on improving and assuring the quality and effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding work.

Community impact

- 9 With more effective partnership working between the boards, this will assist in achieving the council's priority of keeping children and young people safe and giving them a great start in life and enabling residents to live safe, healthy and independent lives; improving access to learning opportunities at all levels and improved outcomes for children and young people.

Equality duty

1. Equality impact assessments will be carried out where relevant to ensure that due regard is paid to the public sector equality duty as set out below:
- "A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -
 - eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct ... prohibited by or under this act;
 - advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it"

Financial implications

- 10 There are no financial implications as this is a protocol for the boards/partnerships to work effectively together. Better coordination of the work of the Boards should lead to a more efficient use of resources.

Legal implications

11 There are no direct legal implications in this report.

Risk management

11 There are no risks associated with the implementation of the protocol, as its development is itself in mitigation to existing risks of either duplicative and contradictory activity with respect to safeguarding matters, or the potential for strategic safeguarding issues to be missed with the respective boards effectively deferring responsibilities to each other.

Consultees

12 Chairs of the HSCB, HSAB, CSP, HWBB, CYPP.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Herefordshire protocol between HWBB, CSP, CYPP, HSCB and HSAB

Background papers

- None identified.