

<b>Report title:</b>	<b>Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership</b>
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>30 October 2019</b>
<b>Sponsor (H&amp;WB member):</b>	<b>Sara Tough, Executive Director Children’s Services</b>
<p><b>Reason for the Report</b>                  The Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) needs to understand changes to local safeguarding arrangements for children and recognise its contribution to sustaining these effective safeguarding arrangements.</p> <p><b>Report summary</b>                  This report summarises recent changes to legislation and the implications and responsibilities for local partners to ensure the safety and protection of children.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b>                  The HWB is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Endorse the governance arrangements and support the Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership to deliver best safeguarding outcomes for Norfolk children.</li> <li>b) Agree to receive an annual presentation to ensure that Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership communicates clearly and regularly on developments in child safeguarding.</li> </ul>	

**1. Background**

1.1 In July 2018, the government published its revised Working Together guidance, outlining statutory changes to local safeguarding arrangements. This includes the way we manage and report on child deaths, review safeguarding practice cases and establish oversight, scrutiny and governance arrangements, which are now the explicit and shared responsibility of three statutory partners: the Local Authority (Norfolk County Council), Health (through the CCG) and the Police (the Chief Constable). Named officers carry these statutory responsibilities. This marks a move away from Local Safeguarding Children Boards which have been established for over 10 years as the forum for local safeguarding. The plan for [Norfolk’s Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements](#) (MASA) was published in June 2019 and is now being implemented under its new identity as the Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP). This report should be read alongside the content of the MASA Plan as well as the recently published [NSCB Annual Report](#), which summarised the activities and outcomes of the Board’s work in 2018 – 19 and the legacy it leaves. The NSCP will continue to build on the partnership’s strengths, including the reach back into local areas through our Local Safeguarding Children’s Groups and our commitment to hearing the voice of children, families and their communities.

**2. Norfolk’s Plan for Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements**

2.1 The changes to the local child safeguarding arrangements allow for more local flexibility which in turn has strategic implications. The key changes can be summarised as follows:

- Streamlined governance: quarterly board meetings will be replaced by smaller meetings led by Executive Partners with support from leaders from specified partner agencies to ensure continuous oversight and challenge to the arrangements;

- Leadership Exchange and Learning Events will be scheduled bi-annually at a minimum to ensure wider engagement and continuity of relationships;
- Shared functions for data analysis with the Children & Young People Strategic Partnership to enable priority setting;
- Enhanced use of performance intelligence through data, audit and observation of practice;
- Retention of an Independent Chair of the Partnership who will play a facilitating and co-ordinating role to ensure that the statutory partners work effectively together and with others;
- Enhanced independent scrutiny with development of supporting roles for independent chairs of subgroups: three independent roles to provide challenge and hold partners to account including through the direct observation of practice.

2.2 The previous NSCB had links with other partnership boards, primarily through the Public Protection Forum, which includes the chairs of the Adult Safeguarding Board and Community Safety Partnership. This will continue under the new arrangements, with a strengthening of these links and regular communications to the HWB to ensure that we raise awareness and enable engagement. One option for moving forward would be to forward plan annual presentations to HWB to ensure that NSCP communicates clearly and regularly on developments in child safeguarding, including learning from Serious Case Reviews, future Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and child death. This will support the HWB to achieve its strategic priorities and would replace the previous requirement for the LSCB Annual Report to be presented to the HWB.

2.3 The NSCP has been established to provide a **single sustainable system** to safeguard children in a complex partnership network. Under the leadership of the three statutory partners and with the support of the independent chairs they will ensure that safeguarding arrangements will enable all partners to work together, lead improvement and use resources in the most effective way.

2.4 The MASA plan clearly states the NSCP's commitment to **prioritise prevention** through early help, which will in turn support Norfolk's children and young people to be healthy, independent and resilient throughout life. For example, the NSCB implemented a strategy to identify and tackle Child Sexual Abuse, which is referenced in the Joint Strategic Needs Analysis as an action for the HWB. The impact and outcomes of this work has been reported at Board.

2.5 The new arrangements build on the NSCB's strengths, for example, learning from Serious Case Reviews and child death, a strong emphasis on locality working and clear thresholds for intervention. This supports us to **understand and tackle inequalities in communities**, providing support for those who are most in need and address wider factors that impact on wellbeing, such as housing and crime. For example, we include children and families in Serious Case Review processes and use their words to disseminate learning.

2.6 The success of the NSCP is predicated on **joined up working** and collaborating in the delivery of people-centred services. Good relationships and clear communication between providers and services as well as between partners underpins effective safeguarding. This includes strategic leaders and links with other partnership boards with shared priorities and cross cutting strategies. The six Local Safeguarding Children Groups established across the county further support joined up working through middle managers and frontline staff.

- 2.7 The NSCP retains formal duties to ensure that all partner agencies fulfil their obligations under the Children Act (Section 11) to have robust and effective safeguarding arrangements in place, and will continue to test these processes and performance on a regular basis.
- 2.8 The approach adopted in Norfolk has built on the existing strengths of local working together, with an inclusive engagement of all relevant partners including voluntary organisations and a track record of innovation, challenge and effective delivery. The MASA Plan sets out these principles in detail.
- 2.9 The NSCP requests confirmation that the HWB endorses the new arrangements and discussion on how the HWB and NSCP can work more closely in the future to support and safeguard children.
- 2.10 Supporting documents

[MASA Plan](#)

[NSCB Annual Report 2018-19](#)

### Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper please get in touch with:

Name	Tel	Email
Abigail McGarry	01603 223335	<a href="mailto:abigail.mcgarry@norfolk.gov.uk">abigail.mcgarry@norfolk.gov.uk</a>



If you need this Report in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact 0344 800 8020 or 0344 800 8011 (textphone) and we will do our best to help.

