



PROTOCOL ON THE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN WEST BERKSHIRE LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD, THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD AND THE MUNRO IMPLEMENTATION BOARD

Summary:

This document sets out the working arrangements between West Berkshire Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), the Health and Wellbeing Board (H&WB) and the Munro Implementation Board.

The three Boards have distinctive and complementary roles in keeping our children safe.

The aim of this working protocol is to support the Boards to operate effectively, being clear about their respective functions, inter-relationships and roles and responsibilities of all those involved in this important work.

The Children Act 1989 provides the statutory framework for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in need. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as including:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- 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, and
- Undertaking that role so as to enable those children to have optimum life chances and to enter adulthood successfully.

1. West Berkshire Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)

The LSCB is a statutory partnership created under the Children Act 2004 with statutory guidance on making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and has responsibility for agreeing how relevant local organisations will co-operate to achieve this. Its role is to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of local arrangements



made by individual agencies and the wider partnership. Its activities are part of the wider context of West Berkshire Health and Wellbeing Board's arrangements and its work contributes to the wider goals of improving the wellbeing of all children and young people.

The LSCB will:

- Produce and publish an Annual Report on the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements within West Berkshire, which is reported to the Children's Partnership Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- The LSCB will present the Annual Report to the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- Take responsibility for monitoring action taken by agencies to improve safeguarding and highlight areas of underperformance and advise on ways to improve.
- Provide formal consultation on the preparation of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) as they relate to children and young people.
- Give an honest challenge to the activities of the Children's Partnership Board and its implementation of the JHWS through the annual report process.
- Develop and promote policy and procedures for safeguarding children and young people, make them widely available and publish them on the West Berkshire LSCB website.
- Safeguard children and young people in relation to providing information on:
 - The action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare including thresholds for intervention.
 - Requirements for recruitment and supervision of people who work with children.
 - Investigation of allegations concerning people who work with children.
 - Safety and welfare of children who are privately fostered.
 - Co-operation with neighbouring Children's Services Authorities and their board partners.
- Communicate and raise awareness within local communities of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children to those who work with children, including volunteers, and members of the public.

- Undertake Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) where abuse or neglect is known or suspected to be a factor in a child's death or serious injury – especially where there is cause for concern about the way professionals or agencies have worked together.
- Undertake Partnership Reviews where a case does not satisfy the criteria for SCR but it is felt that there is learning to be identified across the agencies managing the case.
- Monitor the implementation of action plans from Serious Case Reviews and Partnership Reviews, disseminate to relevant organisations and bodies any lessons learnt about the prevention of future child deaths, serious injury or neglect which have been identified.
- Act on any recommendations from the Child Death Overview Panel to improve policy, professional practice and inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- Identify and provide effective multi-disciplinary training for people who work with children or in services effecting the safety and welfare of children.
- Lead on or contribute to specific safeguarding initiatives, e.g. e-safety, missing children, safer workforce, and sexual exploitation.

In relation to Munro, the LSCB will:

- Scrutinise, consider and comment any proposed significant changes to the local approach to delivering Munro changes
- Hold the West Berkshire Munro Implementation Board to account on matters of safeguarding in all its activities, providing appropriate challenge on performance and results of performance indicators.
- Support the work of the West Berkshire Munro Implementation Board through quality assurance and auditing work to assess the impact of any changes made.
- Highlight gaps in service for the West Berkshire Munro Implementation Board to consider.
- Produce an annual report as required by recommendation five made by Munro.
(Recommendation 5: Each LSCB to produce and publish an annual report for the Children's Trust Board should be amended, to require its submission instead to the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council, and, subject to the passage of legislation,



to the local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the health and wellbeing board).

- Include the requirements of recommendation six made by Munro when producing the LSCB Annual Report. (**Recommendation 6:** *The statutory guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children, should be amended to state that when monitoring and evaluating local arrangements, LSCBs should, taking account of local need, include an assessment of the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families (including the effectiveness and value for money of early help services, including early years provision), and the effectiveness of multi-agency training to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people).*

2. West Berkshire Health and Wellbeing Board (H&WB)

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 imposed a statutory obligation on West Berkshire Council to take lead responsibility for the establishment of a Health & Wellbeing Board and to work in partnership with others 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 West Berkshire.

The H&WB has responsibility for developing, publishing and monitoring the Joint Strategies. It will agree the overarching vision, policies and strategies contained in these Strategies but is not directly responsible for implementing them. The responsibility for implementation and for commissioning services continues to remain with individual partners.

The purpose of the H&WB is to 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 well-being and to help embed partnership working in the partner's routine delivery of their own functions. It provides the strategic framework within which the partners may commission services in a co-ordinated way either by joint or aligned budgets.

- Lead work to improve the health and well-being of the population of West Berkshire improved and integrated health and social care services
- Identify needs and priorities (JSNA)
- Formulate Joint Health and Well-Being Strategy to reflect JSNA outcomes
- Communicate and engage with local people
- Have oversight of use of relevant public sector resources

3. West Berkshire Munro Implementation Board

Eileen Munro was commissioned to review the provision of Child Protection Services following the death of Peter Connelly (Baby P) in Haringey. She has produced three separate reports, with the final report published in June 2011. The Government accepted the vast majority of her 15 recommendations which include proposals for less regulation, bureaucracy and prescription, and instead greater professionalism, self confidence and move to a learning (evidence informed) culture in Children's Services.

The purpose of the West Berkshire Munro Implementation Board is to drive the implementation of the recommendations of the Munro Review in the local context. The Board will work to ensure Children's Services start working in ways which are congruent with the eight key principles set out in the final Munro Report:

- The system should be Child Centred
- The family is usually the best place for bringing up children and young people
- Helping children and families involves working with them
- Early help is better for children
- Children's needs and circumstances are varied so the system needs to offer equal variety in its response
- Good professional practice is informed by knowledge of the latest theory and research
- Uncertainty and risk are features of child protection work
- The measure of the success of child protection systems, both local and national, is whether children are receiving effective help



The LSCB is responsible for monitoring and evaluating local safeguarding arrangements, whereas West Berkshire Munro Implementation Board represents the governance and oversight body for the transformation of local services.

The LSCB is a statutory partnership. It is not a delivery body; it is a scrutiny body. However, it would expect to initiate activities which investigate and improve practice in Safeguarding. It has the authority to scrutinise the work of the West Berkshire Munro Implementation Board to ensure it's work supports better safeguarding practice.

The work of the LSCB contributes to the wider goals of improving the wellbeing of all children. Within the wider governance arrangements its role is to ensure the effectiveness of the arrangements made by individual agencies and the other partnerships act to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Operational Arrangements

In order to deliver local services effectively the LSCB, H&WB and West Berkshire Munro Implementation Board will:

- Have an ongoing and direct relationship, communicating regularly through identified lead individuals
- Work together to ensure action taken by one body does not duplicate that taken by another
- Ensure they are committed to working together to ensure there are no unhelpful strategic or operational gaps in policies, protocols, services or practice.
- Develop a strategic approach to understanding needs, including analysis of data and effective engagement with children, young people and families.
- Develop a clear approach to understanding the effectiveness of current services and identifying priorities for change – including where services need to be improved, reshaped or developed.
- Develop integrated and effective arrangements for ensuring that priorities for change are delivered in practice through the Joint Strategy.



- Ensure effective approaches are made to understand the impact of specialist services on outcomes for children, young people and families and using this understanding constructively to challenge lack of progress and drive further improvement.
- Coordinate the delivery of training and development to ensure it is congruent and joined up.

This protocol has been agreed by all parties and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Health & Wellbeing board – approved December 2012

Munro Implementation Board approved October 2012

West Berks LSCB approved April 2013