



<u>Committee and Date</u>
Cabinet
29 April 2020

<u>Item</u>
<u>Public</u>

Shropshire Safeguarding Partnership

Responsible Officers

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1. Summary

- 1.1 Since the Safeguarding Boards review in 2017, it has been an aspiration of senior leaders to build closer links between the Adult and Children's Safeguarding Boards.
- 1.2 In terms of the Community Safety Partnership, administration and officer support has historically been provided by Public Health until recent budget pressures in this area. This presents Shropshire Council with an opportunity to review all of these statutory functions with a view to aligning our arrangements. The benefits of doing this would be:
 - To improve the well-being of children and adults with care and support needs and the safety of the population of Shropshire
 - Reducing silo working between key safeguarding partnerships
 - Ensure Business Unit support
 - Introduce a consistent approach to the wider safeguarding agenda with an Independent Chair
 - Work proactively as a joint Partnership on key issues such as:
 - Domestic Abuse
 - Exploitation
- 1.3 In September 2019, Shropshire Safeguarding Children's Board became Shropshire Safeguarding Partnership in response to Working Together 2018 and the Wood Review 2016.
- 1.4 We are now seeking Cabinet approval to extend these arrangements to include the Adult Safeguarding Board and the Community Safety Partnership.

2. Recommendations

That Cabinet:

- 2.1 Amalgamate our partnership arrangements and the respective Boards for Community Safety, Children and Adult Safeguarding
- 2.2 That Cabinet grants approval for Shropshire Council to become the accountable body on behalf of the newly formed Partnership.

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

(NB This will include the following: Impact on Children and Vulnerable Adults, Risk Management, Human Rights, Equalities, Community and other Consultation)

- 3.1 Working in a joined-up way between our key Safeguarding Partnerships offers opportunities to:
 - Understand risk for individuals, families and communities from an all age, family and community perspective
 - Embed the concept that keeping our communities, adults with care and support needs and children, is everyone's responsibility.
 - Plan our response to risk more efficiently and reduce duplication
 - Share risk across the system
- 3.2 It is possible that in bringing these areas together some focus may be lost, however, the opportunities this presents outweighs this risk. Whilst it is recognised that the legislative framework for Adults and Children and Community Safety are different, there is a need to strengthen joint working particularly when the following factors are apparent:
 - Adult's and Children's services work with the same families or a person is moving from Children's to Adult Services
 - The presence of Mental Health issues
 - Alcohol and/or drug use
- 3.3 If we do not provide business support for Community Safety work, there is a risk we will not fulfil our statutory duties (see section 6 below) in this area. This presents a risk not only to the individuals and communities of Shropshire but it could be a reputational risk for the council.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 Where the Council is involved in delivering services jointly with other groups or partnerships, either the Council or one of the partner members (if it is a legal

entity) can act on behalf of the partnership as the accountable body. The Council is currently the accountable body for a number of partnerships, including Shropshire Safeguarding Partnership. Shropshire Council both receives and distributes money on behalf of its partners. Proper systems of financial administration and control are in place for administering and accounting for any funds received and distributed as part of this work.

The current budget available for the safeguarding board for 20/21 is as follows:

	<i>Adults Safeguarding Board</i>	<i>Childrens Safeguarding Board</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Gross Expenditure Budget</i>	£228,720	£240,140	£468,860
<i>Partners Contributions</i>	(£55,000)	(£123,860)	(£178,860)
<i>Net Expenditure Budget</i>	£173,720	£116,280	£290,000

5. Climate Change Appraisal

5.1 The amalgamation of the three partnerships offers an opportunity to reduce the number of meetings held in relation to these areas of work. Meetings will also be set up with the ability to attend by Skype and/or conference call. This approach will reduce travel and will benefit partners further away, thus contributing positively on our commitment to Climate Change.

6. Background

6.1 Our Community Safety statutory duties are to:

- To formulate and implement:
 - a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment)
 - a strategy for combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area
 - a strategy for the reduction of re-offending in the area
- To have regard to the police and crime objectives set out in the Police and Crime Plan
- To undertake Domestic Homicide Reviews

6.2 The statutory duties of the Children's Partnership are to:

- Publish arrangements for agencies to work together to explain how they are safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
- Set out arrangements for scrutiny by an independent person
- Publish an annual report
- Conduct Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

6.3 Our Safeguarding Adult Board statutory duties are to:

- Publish a strategic plan each financial year

- Publish an annual report
 - Conduct Safeguarding Adult Reviews
- 6.4 The local authority has two further related statutory duties which are to:
- To agree risk and co-ordinate Prevent activity
 - Establish a Safeguarding Adults Board
- 6.5 In 2017 following the “Review of the role and functions of Local Safeguarding Children Boards”, the Government Response and in anticipation of the changes to legislation (Children and Social Work Act 2017), Shropshire Council and its partners commissioned a review of the Local Safeguarding Children Board and its relationship with other partnership boards.
- 6.6 The review considered:
- The function and effectiveness of the Shropshire Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB).
 - The function of all the partnership boards within Shropshire. This took into account cross cutting issues, shared understanding, and the opportunities for improved efficiency through joined up and complimentary working and business and administrative support.
- 6.7 The review led to the proposal of the establishment of the Shropshire Safeguarding Partnership (SSP) which would have strategic oversight of the safeguarding arrangements for adults and children. This has been considered and approved by both the Children’s and Adults Boards. Since that time, the proposal has been considered and approved by the Community Safety Partnership.
- 6.8 The ‘Safeguarding Partners’ are defined by the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017) as the Local Authority, the CCG and a Chief Officer of Police, each having ‘joint and equal responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements’.
- 6.9 The Care Act (2014) requires each local authority to set up a Safeguarding Adults Board, the main objective being to assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements and partners act to help and protect adults with care and support needs experiencing or at risk of abuse.
- 6.10 The Care Act Statutory includes the following paragraph
- “Guidance Strategies for the prevention of abuse and neglect is a core responsibility of a Safeguarding Adults Board and it should have an overview of how this is taking place in the area and how this work ties in with the Health and Wellbeing Boards, Quality Surveillance Groups, Community Safety Partnerships and CQC’s stated approach and practice.”*
- 6.11 The statutory safeguarding partners for both Adults and Children are:
1. Shropshire Council
 2. Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group

3. West Mercia Police

6.12 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires each Local Authority in England and Wales to formulate and implement a strategy to reduce crime and disorder in their area. The Act also requires the local authority to work with every police authority, probation authority, Strategic health authority (now Clinical Commissioning Group), social landlords, the voluntary sector, and local residents and businesses.

6.13 To amalgamate these arrangements and ensure all statutory partners were represented, the following organisations would also be required to attend partnership meetings:

4. Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service
5. West Mercia Probation Service

6.14 What is currently called the Shropshire Safeguarding Partnership would act as and carry out the functions of the:

- Children's Partnership
- Community Safety Partnership
- Safeguarding Adults Board

7. Additional Information

7.1 This proposal includes the use of an independent chair for the three areas of work; Adult and Children's safeguarding and Community Safety. Not only does this provide a consistent approach across this agenda, the role also:

- Helps to develop an environment of robust scrutiny and effective challenge.
- Represents the partnership at other meetings and events locally, regionally and nationally.
- Speaks with authority on safeguarding including representing the partnership with the media.
- Act as the decision maker in relation to whether statutory reviews are carried out.
- Ensures appropriate working relationships with key partnerships.
- Engages with the Local Authority Scrutiny Committees and Health and Well-Being Board
- Works with the Statutory Safeguarding Business Partner to ensure the Shropshire Safeguarding Partnership fulfils its statutory duties.

7.2 A successful strategy and priority setting day was held with partners on 13th February 2020 and the following priorities were identified for the next three years:

- Joint priorities are Domestic Abuse, Exploitation and Transitional Safeguarding.
- Adult priorities are Self-Neglect and Personal Resilience.
- The Children's priority is Neglect.

7.3 The governance of the partnership will consist of a number of groups with clearly identified functions including:

- Networks that are made up of a wide range of partners.
- Groups that will develop business plans to deliver the strategic (as agreed above) and “business as usual” priorities of the partnership.
- Executive group that will keep a track of actions from statutory case reviews and approve guidance, training strategies and monitor the implementation of the business plans.
- Shropshire Safeguarding Partnership who is responsible to for assurance and challenge between all partners.

8. Conclusions

8.1 Progressing with the amalgamation described above will further strengthen the ability of Shropshire Council to fulfil its strategic, statutory responsibilities in relation to the safety of those living in Shropshire.

<p>List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)</p>
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<p>The Wood Report – Review of the Role and Functions of Local Safeguarding Children Boards April 2016:</p>

<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wood-review-of-local-safeguarding-children-boards</p>
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<p>HM Government Report: Working Together to Safeguard Children July 2018</p>

<p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779401/Working_Together_to_Safeguard-Children.pdf</p>
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<p>Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)</p>

<p>Dean Carroll (Adults, Social Services and Climate Change)</p>
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<p>Edward Potter (Children’s Services)</p>
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<p>Local Member</p>

<p>All Members</p>

<p>Appendices</p>
