

<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p><b>Health and Wellbeing Board</b></p> <p>28 January 2020</p>	
<p><b>Report of:</b> Keith Makin, Independent Scrutineer, Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Partnership</p>	<p><b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted</p>
<p><b>TOWER HAMLETS SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP (THSCP) ARRANGEMENTS</b></p>	

<p><b>Originating Officer(s)</b></p>	<p>Victoria Hiney - Safeguarding Children Partnership Coordinator</p>
<p><b>Wards affected</b></p>	<p>All</p>

### Executive Summary

All children and young people have the right to be safe from harm.

The Government passed the Children and Social Work Act in April 2017. This changed the way children's safeguarding is managed in England and created new partnerships to do this work.

Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Partnership (THSCP) published its arrangements on 28 June 2019 and became operational from 29 September 2019. Work that commenced under the previous Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) framework, and which remains outstanding, will be completed during the transition period, ending on 31 March 2020.

The THSCP comprises three statutory partners including the Local Authority, Tower Hamlets Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and local Tower Hamlets Police. The partnership also consists of the wider partners from other local health providers, education settings and voluntary organisations. Keith Makin has been appointed in the new role of Independent Scrutineer, it is his role to challenge partnership activities and seek feedback from children and young people, parents/carers, the local community and the wider partnership agencies.

### Recommendations:

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

1. Take note of the published Safeguarding Arrangements for your information
2. To note the Equalities Impact Assessment / specific equalities considerations as set out in Paragraph 5.2

## **1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

1.1 N/A – the Arrangements are being presented for information

## **2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

2.1 N/A – the Arrangements are being presented for information

## **3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT**

### **About the THSCP**

#### **What is the THSCP?**

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 legislated the change in the way safeguarding children is managed at local levels. The THSCP is the body that will manage safeguarding for children and young people in Tower Hamlets, taking over from the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).

#### **Where will it work?**

The THSCP will operate in the borough boundaries for Tower Hamlets. It will collaborate with other areas as and when it needs to.

#### **What are the Priorities for the THSCP?**

Based on the three core principles - Child Protection, Assurance and Learning. The partnership has a number of priorities including the following:

- Excellent practice in multi-agency safeguarding is the norm
- All Partners effectively hold each other to account and proactively identify and respond to new safeguarding issues
- Learning is shared and drives real improvements in services
- Information to assist safeguarding is shared effectively
- Tower Hamlets' children, families and communities are safe, supported and successful
- Explicit links on areas of shared concern and interest with the local Safeguarding Adults Board, the local Child Death Review system and other relevant bodies/forums.

Overarching objective is that the THSCP will work to ensure that local services operate effectively together to safeguard children and young people and to support their parents, carers and the communities they live in.

## **What will it do and how will it make this happen?**

The THSCP vision is that the partnership will work together to ensure that everyone does everything they can so that all Tower Hamlets children and young people are safe, supported and successful. The overall aim of the new safeguarding Partnership is that children and their families get the right help at the right time and from the right person. Early Help can stop small problems from escalating and delivery of the right Early Help Services can prevent problems getting worse.

## **Who will lead the THSCP?**

As required by the Children and Social Work Act 2017 the partnership is run by three local leaders representing the Local Authority, local NHS and Local Police.

These are:

- The Director of Children's Services (DCS) representing the Council
- The Accountable Officer for the **East London Integrated Health and Care system** discharged through the Managing Director of the Tower Hamlets Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- The Commander of the Borough Command Unit (BCU) of the Metropolitan Police

The three statutory partners have equal and joint responsibility for local safeguarding.

## **Who else is involved in the THSCP?**

They are supported by a wider group of local organisations – called the 'Relevant Agencies' in the Act - who include organisations delivering services in Education, Health and Childrens Social Care along with the local voluntary and community sector.

The partnership has an Executive Group and a Wider System Partnership group and three core working groups that support it. These groups are supported by an Independent Scrutineer and a small team of specialists who handle the day to day business of safeguarding in the borough.

## **4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 N/A – the Arrangements are being presented for information

## **5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:

- Best Value Implications,
- Consultations,
- Environmental (including air quality),
- Risk Management,

- Crime Reduction,
- Safeguarding.

5.2 N/A – the Arrangements are being presented for information

## 6. **\*COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

6.1 Tower Hamlets Council (LBTH) is currently engaging with the other two statutory partners (THCCG and Police) to scope the cost of running the Safeguarding Children Partnership (SCP) and the match funding required by all three statutory partners.

6.2 Under the existing arrangement, LBTH is the major financial contributor to the running cost of the LSCB. In 2017-18, the LSCB budget was circa. £186K of which LBTH contributed circa. £145K.

6.3 Although the cost of running the SCP is still being scoped, it is clear that the cost is likely to be higher than the cost of the current LSCB considering the increased responsibility of the SCP. The indicative cost of the secretariat function is circa. £217K and this does not include the cost of the Local Reviews.

6.4 The discussion around the cost of the SCP presents an opportunity for the match funding by statutory partners to be examined.

6.5 It is expected that an update paper will be presented to Cabinet once the cost of running the SCP has been determined and match funding agreed by the three statutory partners.

## 7 **\*COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES**

7.1 The changes to the Children Act 2004 ('the Act') introduced by the Children and Social Work Act 2017 are outlined in the body of the report. The revised Act shares responsibility for safeguarding equally between the three statutory safeguarding partners, and requires that local arrangements must be designed and kept under review to meet changing local need. The proposals for the THSCP comply with the legal framework of the Act, supporting regulations and Chapter 3 of the statutory guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018).

7.2 The 2018 Guidance sets out that the council's chief executive will be the lead representative for the council. This can be delegated to a senior officer who has the authority to speak for the council, take decisions on behalf of the organisation and commit them on policy, resourcing and practice matters and hold their own organisation to account in respect of implementing local arrangements. However, the chief executive will ultimately remain responsible for any actions or decisions on behalf of the council.

7.3 The safeguarding partners must select which of the other relevant agencies set out in the Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Relevant Agency (England)

Regulations 2018 they will work with to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and the agencies selected must act in accordance with the local arrangements. The Guidance sets out that the safeguarding partners must ensure that all schools, colleges and other educational providers in the area to be fully engaged in the new safeguarding arrangements. Inclusion of the Managing Director of the Tower Hamlets Education Partnership (THEP) with additional representation from the Further Education sector as relevant agencies meets this requirement.

7.4 The statutory requirements for Child Death Reviews are set out in sections 16M-16Q of the Act and Chapter 5 of the Guidance. These must be carried out in partnership between the council and the CCG, and two or more local authority areas may combine to undertake CDRs. The proposals contained within Appendix C comply with the statutory framework and Guidance.

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## **Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents**

### **Linked Report**

- **\*Cabinet Report** (24.04.19) The Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Partnership (THSCP) Arrangements  
(<http://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/documents/s146940/6.3%20The%20Tower%20Hamlets%20Safeguarding%20Children%20Partnership%20THSCP%20Arrangements.pdf>)

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1: Published Safeguarding Arrangements

### **Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)**

#### **List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report**

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- NONE

#### **Officer contact details for documents:**

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