



## **SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**Chair:** John Clements, Independent Chair

**Vice Chairs:**

- Trevor Doughty, Strategic Director for Children, Families and Adults, Cornwall Council
- Aisling Hick, Senior Manager - Services to Our Community, Council of the Isles of Scilly

**Membership:**

- Cornwall Association of Primary Headteachers
- Cornwall Association of Secondary Headteachers
- Cornwall Council:
  - Lead Member for Children's Services (participant observer)
  - Service Director for Children and Family Services
  - Service Director for Education and Early Years
  - Strategic Director for Children, Families and Adults
- Cornwall Partnership Foundation Trust – Executive Nurse
- Council of the Isles of Scilly:
  - Lead Member for Children's Services (participant observer)
  - Senior Manager - Services to Our Community
- Devon and Cornwall Police:
  - Basic Command Unit Commander
  - Public Protection Unit Superintendent
- Further Education Colleges
- NHS Kernow – Executive Safeguarding Lead
- Quality Assurance and Scrutiny Panel Lay Member (silent observer)
- Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust – Executive Safeguarding Lead
- Safeguarding Partnership Manager
- Safer Cornwall Partnership – Chair
- Sub-Group Chairs:
  - Learning Group Chair
  - Missing and Sexual Exploitation Group Chair
  - Quality Assurance and Scrutiny Panel Independent Chair

Plus Legal Adviser (Cornwall Council) to be available when required.

**Frequency:** Six-weekly

**Quoracy:** In order that a meeting is quorate, either the Chair or Vice Chair must be in attendance, plus at least one representative from each of the four safeguarding partners, namely Cornwall Council, the Council of the Isles of Scilly, the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the Police.

In the event that Isles of Scilly representatives are unable to attend due to adverse weather conditions, a meeting will be considered quorate with either the Chair or Vice Chair in attendance plus at least one representative from Cornwall Council, the CCG and the Police. Such a meeting will not make decisions on any issues relating specifically to the Isles of Scilly.

**Deputies:** In case of absence, all members shall provide one consistent nominated deputy.

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 specifies arrangements under sections 16-23 that abolish the existing Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and replace it with a new set of arrangements led by a team of 'safeguarding partners' who are:

- the local authority,
- a clinical commissioning group for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area,
- the chief officer of police for a police area any part of which falls within the local authority area.

### **Aims and Objectives**

Under the revised Children Act 2004 Section 16E (as amended by Section 16 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017):

- The safeguarding partners for a local authority area in England must make arrangements for:
  - (a) the safeguarding partners, and
  - (b) any relevant agencies that they consider appropriateto work together in exercising their functions, so far as the functions are exercised for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area.
- The arrangements must include arrangements for the safeguarding partners to work together to identify and respond to the needs of children in the area.
- 'Relevant agency', in relation to a local authority area in England, means a person who:
  - (a) is specified in regulations made by the Secretary of State, and
  - (b) exercises functions in that area in relation to children.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined by “*Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015*” as:

- 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
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

### **Governance Arrangements**

The Safeguarding Children Partnership (SCP) will have strong links with other partnerships including:

- Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Community Safety Partnerships
- Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Health and Wellbeing Boards
- Cornwall Children’s Trust
- Cornwall Domestic Violence Forum
- Isles of Scilly Children’s Committee
- Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)
- South West Peninsula SCPs.

The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Safeguarding Children Partnership Board (SCPB) will progress its work with the assistance of sub groups comprising:

- Child Death Overview Panel (peninsula SCPs have collaborated to establish the CDOP)
- Learning Group
- Missing and Sexual Exploitation Group
- Quality Assurance and Scrutiny Panel

The SCPB will oversee the work of these sub-groups and hold them to account and, if appropriate, give consideration to the need for additional sub-groups or working groups to enable it to undertake its work effectively.

The SCPB will also set up three reference groups. Functions will include the review and development of policy and practice guidance, dissemination of learning, agreeing a multi-agency approach around specific areas of risk/practice, responding to national/local issues and reviewing agency compliance. The reference groups will be encouraged to table agenda items and present at the relevant sub group or Board.

#### **(i) Safeguarding Practitioners**

- Agency safeguarding leads to co-ordinate and report back into the Safeguarding Partnership support team.
- Senior Manager, Safeguarding Children Standards Unit, to co-ordinate a bi-annual meeting of safeguarding practitioners to discuss policy, practice guidance, disseminating learning and other key issues in safeguarding children.

- (ii) Children and Young People
  - Safeguarding Partnership apprentice to co-ordinate through existing groups/forums.
- (iii) Parents and Carers
  - Through existing groups/forums.

### **Involvement of Other Agencies and Groups**

All organisations will be invited to attend an annual Review and Planning Conference involving chief officers, safeguarding leads, sub group members and reference group members. The purpose of this annual meeting will be to 'look back' at what has been achieved over the year and to 'look forward' to what needs to be achieved in the year ahead, setting priority actions for the business plan.

### **Other Activities**

The SCP, where appropriate, may determine to promote individual initiatives with partner organisations, for example in relation to domestic violence or bullying. Its role is co-ordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of what its member organisations do, and contributing to broader planning, commissioning and delivery. The SCP is not an operational body that is expected to deliver services directly to children, young people or their families.

### **Structure of the Partnership and Conduct of Meetings**

- The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly SCPB will meet at least eight times in each year.
- The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly SCPB will be chaired by the Independent Chair. In his absence, the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly SCPB will be chaired by one of the Vice Chairs.
- Wherever possible the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly SCPB will make any decisions/recommendations on the basis of a consensus of agreement between all parties present.
- Where a decision on a matter is necessary and no consensus exists, the decision will be taken by a simple majority on a show of hands of the statutory members present. In the event of an equality of votes the Chair will hold the casting vote (but it is not the intention of the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly SCPB that the casting vote will be utilised unless it is unavoidable).

### **Authority**

- Each partner organisation will authorise its representative to make decisions at Cornwall and Isles of Scilly SCPB meetings.
- All partners commit themselves to be actively involved in the decision making processes and ensure they contribute to the annual work plan of the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly SCPB.

August 2017