

<b>Notice of:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE</b>
<b>Decision Number:</b>	EX29/2023
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Vicky Gent, Director of Children's Services
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Jim Hobson, Cabinet Member for Children's Services
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	10 July 2023

## **FUTURE STRUCTURE OF THE BLACKPOOL LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S BOARD**

### **1.0 Purpose of the report:**

- 1.1 To consider the proposal for a managed exit from the current Pan-Lancashire Child Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP) and develop a place based Safeguarding Partnership for Blackpool and seek Executive approval for work to progress through to delivery.

### **2.0 Recommendation(s):**

- 2.1 To approve in principle for the Pan-Lancashire Children Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP) to return its governance and structure to a Blackpool placed based Children Safeguarding Assurance Partnership, superseding the decision of the Executive from 25 February 2019 (Decision EX19/2019 refers).
- 2.2 To agree that the existing Pan-Lancashire Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) arrangement continues to exist to analyse the Pan-Lancashire data regarding 0-18 yr. old deaths.
- 2.3 To delegate authority to the Director of Children Services on behalf of the Council to:
- work with senior representatives from the Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Lancashire Constabulary as the 3 Strategic Leading organisations to sign off the final terms of reference and memberships on behalf of the Council and note that these will also be approved at the first meeting of the Blackpool Child Safeguarding Assurance Partnership Governance bodies.
  - deal with any resourcing implications arising from the review.

**3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):**

3.1 An evaluation effectiveness review has been undertaken regarding the current pan-Lancashire Child Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP) arrangements, to drive forward improvement and this review has recommended a return to a local place based approach.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

**4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:**

4.1 To continue with the existing arrangements which are no longer considered appropriate.

**5.0 Council priority:**

5.1 The relevant Council priority is: "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience".

**6.0 Background information**

6.1 On the 25 February 2019 the Executive considered a report on the replacement of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) to comply with the new area children's safeguarding arrangements (EX19/2019 refers). That Decision Notice included the following decisions:

1. To approve in principle the revised arrangements for the Blackpool, Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire Safeguarding Children Strategic Partnership Board to replace the Blackpool Local Safeguarding Children's Board in line with the Statement of Principles outlined in the report.
2. To note that the current Serious Case Review arrangements will be replaced by Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.
3. To note that the existing Child Death Overview Panel will continue to exist in the form outlined in paragraph 5.2 of the Executive report.
4. To delegate authority to the Director of Governance and Partnerships to sign off the final terms of reference and memberships on behalf of the Council and note that these will also be approved at the first meeting of the bodies and by the Police and Clinical Commissioning Groups.

The Pan Lancashire Children’s Safeguarding Arrangements have been in place and operational since 2019, with a Joint Business Unit in place to service this structure. This Joint Business Unit has been jointly funded and hosted by Lancashire County Council. At the time these safeguarding governance arrangements were put in place, the impending pandemic was not anticipated and the resulting change to the nature of safeguarding issues for children and families in our community.

- 6.2 As a result of this changing landscape, an evaluation effectiveness review has been undertaken regarding Pan-Lancashire Child Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP) arrangements agreed in February 2019. The review was to drive forward improvement and this review has recommended a return to a local place based approach. The unanimous view of the three Director of Children Services (Blackpool, Lancashire and Blackburn with Darwen), the strategic partnerships Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Lancashire Constabulary is that returning to place based arrangements will ensure that are local based strategic priorities focus on the needs of our community local need, vulnerability and risk.
- 6.3 Having placed based safeguarding arrangements offers the opportunity to bring the Children Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP) with the Blackpool Safeguarding Adult Board (BSAB) and Blackpool BSafe Community Safety Board, so the Blackpool placed based partnership leadership team and workforce ensure Blackpool’s children young people, vulnerable adults and communities are supported at the earliest stage and effectively safeguarded from experiencing harm.
- 6.4 The proposed new arrangements will involve the Commissioning of an Independent Scrutineer (within delegated budget), to hold partnership leadership to provide evidence based assurance of the quality of their practice safeguarding children and how they have implemented multi agency audits and case review learning.

6.5 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

7.1 None.

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

8.1 The new proposal for returning to place-based arrangements are within the current budget envelope.

## **9.0 Legal considerations:**

9.1 In considering this action full observation has been given to the Statutory framework:- “Working Together to safeguard Children” which contains legislation relevant to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The revised governance arrangements will also ensure that changes made by the revised “Working Together to Safeguard Children” are implemented by Blackpool Partnership agencies, this Statutory Guidance is currently subsequent to national consultation until 6 September 2023. [Working Together to Safeguard Children: changes to statutory guidance - Department for Education - Citizen Space](#)

## **10.0 Risk management considerations:**

### **10.1 Risk**

There is a risk to child protection and safeguarding if the change to these arrangements is not made effectively. Key steps in this report seek to minimize that risk.

### **10.2 Human Resources:**

There may be TUPE implications, and these will be considered when the staffing structure to support these arrangements across all three local authorities is finalised. Work with human resources support teams across all three local authorities will take place.

## **11.0 Equalities considerations:**

11.1 The Council does not believe that there will be any adverse impact of these proposal and will monitor the implementation to ensure there is no adverse impact of these proposals.

## **12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:**

12.1 None.

## **13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:**

13.1 There has been extensive consultation and collaboration between all partners involved within the current arrangements and agreements reached in relation to this decision. This included the three Local Authorities along with partners from health. On the 19 June 2023 a workshop with all partners was held to finalise views on the proposed structures. A formal consultation will commence during the summer in relation to the staff within the current Business Unit.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None

**15.0 Key decision information:**

15.1 Is this a key decision? No

15.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number:

15.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? No

15.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

**16.0 Call-in information:**

16.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? No

16.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE**

**17.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):**

Date informed:

Date approved:

**18.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):**

18.1 None.

**19.0 Summary of Discussion:**

19.1 Ms Vicky Gent, Director of Children's Services, presented the report to the Executive and in doing so Ms Gent highlighted the shifting landscape of safeguarding since the 2019 decision to combine safeguarding structures across Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and

Lancashire. Ms Gent reinforced her view that it would be more positive to develop place based synergies with other services including Adult Safeguarding and the Community Safety partnership. In response to questions from the Executive, Ms Gent informed members that the costs for service would be similar to the existing model but emphasised that the recommendation was based on the effectiveness review that had been undertaken.

**20.0 Executive decision:**

20.1 The Executive agreed the recommendations as outlined above namely:

1.To approve in principle for the Pan-Lancashire Children Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP) to return its governance and structure to a Blackpool placed based Children Safeguarding Assurance Partnership, superseding the decision of the Executive from 25 February 2019 (Decision EX19/2019 refers).

2.To agree that the existing Pan-Lancashire Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) arrangement continues to exist to analyse the Pan-Lancashire data regarding 0-18 yr. old deaths.

3.To delegate authority to the Director of Children Services on behalf of the Council to:

- work with senior representatives from the Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Lancashire Constabulary as the 3 Strategic Leading organisations to sign off the final terms of reference and memberships on behalf of the Council and note that these will also be approved at the first meeting of the Blackpool Child Safeguarding Assurance Partnership Governance bodies.
- deal with any resourcing implications arising from the review.

**21.0 Date of Decision:**

21.1 10 July 2023

**22.0 Reason(s) for decision:**

22.1 An evaluation effectiveness review had been undertaken regarding the current pan-Lancashire Child Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP) arrangements, to drive forward improvement and this review has recommended a return to a local place based approach.

**23.0 Date Decision published:**

23.1 11 July 2023

**24.0 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:**

24.1 The Executive noted that it could have agreed to continue with the existing arrangements which were no longer considered appropriate.

**25.0 Executive Members in attendance:**

25.1 Councillor Williams, in the Chair

Councillors Benson, N Brookes, Burdess, Farrell, Hugo, M Smith and Taylor

**26.0 Call-in:**

26.1

**27.0 Notes:**

27.1 The Following Non-Executive Members were in attendance: Councillors Hunter, Marshall and Webb.