

Report to:	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Vicky Gent, Director of Children's Services
Date of Meeting:	25 January 2024

SAFEGUARDING GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To provide an update on Safeguarding Governance arrangements.

2.0 Recommendations:

2.1 To review the update provided, challenging progress where appropriate.

3.0 Reasons for recommendations:

3.1 To ensure robust challenge to safeguarding governance.

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 None.

5.0 Council Priority:

5.1 The relevant Council Priority is:

- Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.

6.0 Background Information

6.1 In Autumn 2022, Safeguarding Partners commenced a review of the Pan-Lancashire Childrens and Adults Safeguarding Governance arrangements, with the aim of improving the governance and front-line practice of local arrangements. As a result, the Child Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP) Executive Board agreed to cease the PAN CSAP Lancashire arrangements and move to a place-based model, to ensure focus on the individual Local Authority communities’ needs and enable decision making at a local level.

To develop Blackpool’s children safeguarding partnership governance arrangements, The Director of Children Services (DCS) and statutory safeguarding partners from Lancashire Constabulary and Integrated Care Board (ICB) led a Workshop Development Meeting with wider partnership leaders on 15th March 2023. The partner agency leaders agreed Blackpool strategic safeguarding priorities (as set out in the table below), to ensure our partnership meets families’ needs at the earliest stage, ensure children attend and experience good quality education and ensure all agencies are working together to safeguard children and young people, so children can remain in loving home with their families wherever possible.

The table below sets out the Blackpool CSAP current governance ‘Strategic Delivery Groups’ and the partnership strategic leaders who chair the meetings and report assurance to the CSAP Board.

Strategic Delivery Group	Partnership Chairs
Early Help	Assistant Director Social Care, Children Services
Referral for Support Hub	Assistant Director Social Care, Children Services
Neglect	Consultant, Public Health & Head of Service Strengthening & Supporting Families, Children Social Care
Domestic Abuse – Children and Families (Will also reports to the Blackpool Domestic Abuse Board and BSafe Board)	DI Lancashire Constabulary & Head of Service Request for Support Hub & AWAKEN, Children Services
Contextual Safeguarding – Children Sexual Exploitation, Children	Head of Safeguarding Blackpool Teaching Hospital & Head of Service

Criminal Exploitation & Trafficking	Request for Support Hub & AWAKEN, Children Services
Workforce Development (CSAP, BSafe & Blackpool Safeguarding Adult Boards)	Head of Safeguarding Children & Strategic Partnership Boards
Rapid Review Panel	Head of Safeguarding Children & Strategic Partnership Boards
Voice of the Workforce	Head of Service Early Help, Children Services
Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) – continue current arrangements with Blackburn with Darwen & Lancashire.	CDOP Independent Chair (commissioned by Lancashire Council on behalf the 3 areas)

Blackpool’s Children Safeguarding Partnership Assurance Board (CSAP) commenced to meet in May 2023, several of the Strategic Delivery Group Meetings commenced to meet from the end of July 2023. The only meeting that has not yet commenced is the Domestic Abuse Children & Families Strategic Delivery Group, Lancashire Constabulary have confirmed the DI who will co-chair this in January 2024.

Blackpool Council Executive approved the Blackpool governance arrangements in July 2023. Pan-Lancashire CSAP Executive Board and the PAN Lancashire CSAP governance arrangements subsequently ceased 31st August 2023. From September 2023, responsibility and oversight of Safeguarding formally moved to remit of the 3 individual place-based boards.

During summer 2023 the DfE undertook a national consultation to update the ‘Working Together to Safeguard Children’ Statutory Guidance, the consultation ended 6th September 2023. The DfE draft ‘Working Together’ Consultation documents were used to inform the development of Blackpool’s CSAP governance arrangements. Blackpool’s CSAP Board commenced to be chaired by one of the ‘Delegated Strategic Leaders’, via an annual rota arrangement between Integrated Care Board (ICB), Lancashire Constabulary and the Local Authority’s Director of Children Services. For the first year of arrangements the Director of Safeguarding for ICB will chair Blackpool’s CSAP Board in the capacity of the one of the 3 Delegated Safeguarding Partners (p5 paras 61 & 62). A separate Independent Scrutineer (pp 26-37 paras 89-97) is currently being commissioned by Blackpool Council on behalf of the 3 Delegated Safeguarding Partners, an Interview Panel is arranged to take place in January 2024 involving; Cabinet Member for Childrens Services Blackpool Council

Chief Executive, Director of Children Services, Director of Safeguarding ICB and Superintendent, Lancashire Constabulary, a separate panel of children, young people and parents will also be undertaken.

From January 2024 the Cabinet Member for Childrens Services will attend the Blackpool CSAP Board, in the capacity as a Non Participation Observer, to have clear oversight of the partnerships work to safeguard children, young people and support their families.

A Blackpool Safeguarding Partnership Executive Board is in the process of being established and will commence meeting from January 2024. This will initially involve:

- Cabinet Member for Childrens Services
- Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care
- Blackpool Council Chief Executive Officer
- Blackpool Safeguarding Board Independent Chair
- Blackpool Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangement (MASA) Independent Scrutineer
- Blackpool MASA Delegated Safeguarding Partner – in the capacity as the MASA Chair (Yr1 rota - Director of Safeguarding, Integrated Care Board)
- Director of Adult Social Care & Health
- Blackpool MASA Delegated Safeguarding Partner - Director of Childrens Services
- Blackpool MASA Delegated Safeguarding Partner - Lancashire Constabulary Representative.

A subsequent stage would be to also involve the Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Street Scene and Neighbourhoods and the Director of Community and Environment Services, so the Blackpool Safeguarding Partnership Executive Board has strategic oversight of the 3 boards responsible for safeguarding children and young people, vulnerable adults and Blackpool's communities.

On 15th December 2023 the DfE published the revised 2023 'Working Together to Safeguard Children - A guide to multi-agency working to help, protect and promote the welfare of children' [Working together to safeguard children - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/118222/Working_together_to_safeguard_children_-_2023.pdf) Chapter 2 (pp 23-42) sets out the statutory requirements for Multi – Agency Safeguarding Arrangements. Blackpool's CSAP arrangements, including the

Partnership Chair and Independent Scrutineer and the roles of the 3 Statutory Safeguarding Partners (DCS, ICB and Police) meets all of the requirements. The only change required is the name of the Board, to ensure this is referred to as a 'MASA' – Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangement (p23 para 36). There is a statutory requirement to publish the new arrangements, Blackpool's arrangements, in accordance with this new Statutory Guidance, will be published in January 2024. The CSAP website will be updated and a monthly online newsletter will be developed, so leaders and frontline workforce practitioners across Blackpool Partnership are aware of the role of Blackpool's MASA, governance arrangements and the MASA Multi-Agency Workforce Development Offer. The Blackpool MASA logo and branding will be co-produced with representatives of Blackpool's children, young people and parents. A new Blackpool MASA Business Plan will be launched by the end of March 2024.

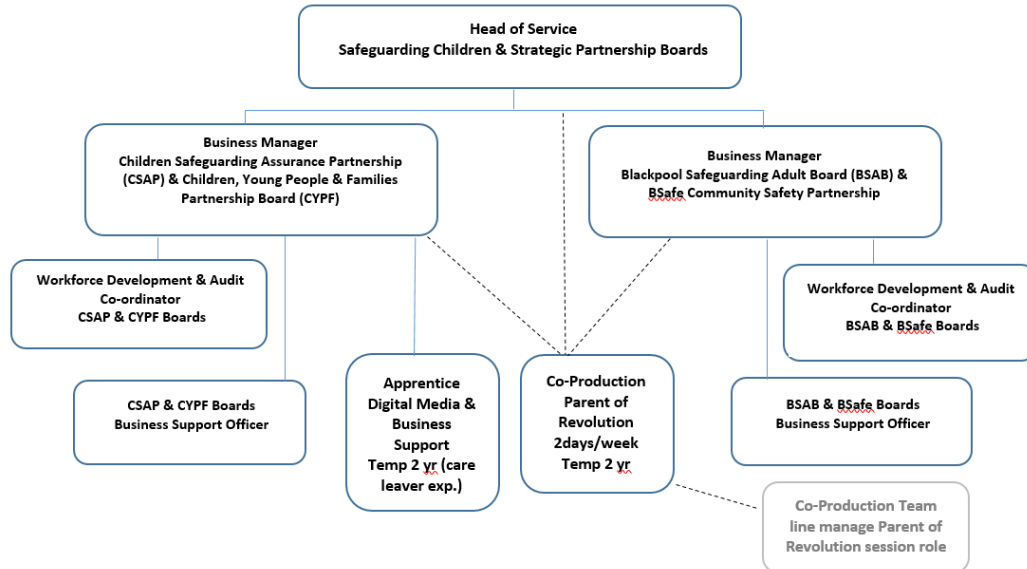
Alongside these Blackpool 'CSAP' to 'MASA' developments, a review has been undertaken with partners in Blackpool, to ensure our wider safeguarding partnership governance is brought together, supported via a Blackpool Partnership Business Unit. These joined up governance arrangements, involving the 3 Boards set out below, will provide assurance that partnership agencies are working effectively together to safeguard children, young people, vulnerable adults and Blackpool communities:

- Blackpool Children Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP)
- Blackpool Safeguarding Adult Board (BSAB)
- BSafe – Community Safety Board (BSafe)

Blackpool's Safeguarding Adult Board has appointed an Independent Chair. A BSAB Development Meeting has been held (25th September 2023) to agree a BSAB Strategic Plan, Business Plan, revised governance arrangements been launched. The 3 strategic priorities are:

1. Safeguarding Effectiveness – SAB Governance and Operational
2. Learning and Development
3. Making Safeguarding Personal

To support the 3 Boards, a Blackpool Partnership Business Unit has been developed, this is funded by the 3 statutory partnership agencies (Local Authority, ICB and Police). The diagram below sets out the Partnership Business Unit staffing structure which will provide Business Manager Capacity for the 3 Boards, lead multi agency training and quality audits, develop and launch Multi Agency Safeguarding Procedures, design and update a Safeguarding Children, Young People, Vulnerable Adults and Communities website and a monthly online newsletter and support undertaking Local Safeguarding Children Practice Reviews, Safeguarding Adult Reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews.



The Blackpool Partnership Business Unit also involves a Care Experienced Young Person, undertaking the role of a Apprentice Digital Media Officer role, to develop the website and online newsletters, as well as a Co-production Parent, which evidences Blackpool’s commitment to co-produce strategic developments with the people we serve. Staff who worked in the previous PAN Lancs Joint Partnership Business Unit have been supported to move across the 3 placed based boards Business Units. Staff who chose to work for Blackpool are commence to work for Blackpool from 1st Jan 2024.

Previous budget partnership allocations are being sustained to support the work of the 3 Partnership Boards work including:

- Commissioning a CSAP Independent Scrutineer & Independent Chair Safeguarding Adult Board.
- Commission i) Local Child Safeguarding Case Reviews (CSPRs), ii) Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) iii) Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) Independent Scrutineer / Report Author, in the event a case review is required to be undertaken following a child or vulnerable adults death is due to neglect or abuse, or domestic homicide take place and partners consider there is learning for Blackpool’s partnership practice.
- Support Partnership Launch events, as new strategic partnership plans, multi-agency pathways or procedures are developed.
- Deliver Multi-Agency Workforce Development activities for the 3 Boards, to ensure we communicate learning from reviews and audits and national procedure developments, to have a positive impact on front line partnership workforce.

- Ongoing website development, fund Tri-X Multi-Agency Online Procedures and a monthly online newsletter for the 3 Boards.

The annual partnership financial contributions, together with the returned reserves, will fund Blackpool's 3 Partnership Boards arrangements and the work of the Partnership Business Unit, for the forthcoming three year period until 2027.

Upon publishing the updated Working Together 2023 Statutory Guidance, the DfE announced £6,480,100 one off grant funding being provided to 137 multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, to support areas to transform local systems, and deliver the reforms set out in Chapter 2 of Working Together and embed the practice described in the National Framework.

General questions / comments

Councilors will have the opportunity to raise questions / comments on any matter in the Cabinet Member's portfolio.

Glossary of Terms

- PAN CSAP** **PAN Child Safeguarding Assurance Partnership** - Previous reference term used to reflect the multi-agency Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool government arrangement overseeing partnership safeguarding practice and Local Safeguarding Children Practice Reviews.
- MASA** **Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangement** – new term in National Statutory Guidance Working Together (p23 para 36) *'The way in which these organisations and agencies work together is known as multi-agency safeguarding arrangements (MASAs). Robust arrangements help to ensure that information about a child and their family is shared effectively, risk of harm is correctly identified and understood, and that children and families receive targeted services that meet their needs in a co-ordinated way.'*
- SAB** **Safeguarding Adult Board** - The overarching purpose of an SAB is to help and safeguard adults with care and support needs. It does this by:
- assuring itself that local safeguarding arrangements are in place as defined by the Care Act 2014 and statutory guidance
 - assuring itself that safeguarding practice is person-centred and outcome-focused
 - working collaboratively to prevent abuse and neglect where possible

- ensuring agencies and individuals give timely and proportionate responses when abuse or neglect have occurred
- assuring itself that safeguarding practice is continuously improving and enhancing the quality of life of adults in its area.

LSP **Lead Safeguarding Partner** Working Together 2023 (p26 paras 47-48) sets out the requirement that in relation to the Police, the LSP is defined as the Chief Officer of Police, for local authorities, the LSP should be the Head of Paid Service, also known as the Chief Executive and for ICBs the LSP should be the Chief Executive.

DSP **Delegated Safeguarding Partner** Working Together 2023(page 28 paras 56-56) sets out the requirement that each LSP should appoint a Delegated Safeguarding Partner (DSP) for its agency who should be named in arrangements. 57. DSPs²³ should be sufficiently senior to be able to speak with authority, take decisions on behalf of the LSP and hold their sectors to account.

RRM **Rapid Review Meeting** – Is held when a Significant Notification to the National Case Review Panel is submitted by the Local Authority when a child has died in the local authority area, or is significantly harm with long impact and there is partnership learning.

LSCPR **Local Safeguarding Practice Review** – A multi-agency case review undertaken when a child had died and there is partnership practice learning. Overseen by a LSPR Multi Agency Panel, chaired by one of the partnership leaders or a Independent LSCPR Panel Chair and the LSCPR Report is written by and Independent Reviewer commissioned by the Board.

CDOP **Child Death Overview Panel** – Working Together (p146 & p150 flowchart) sets out that partners must make arrangements to review all deaths of children normally resident in the local area and, as indicated, of any non-resident children who have died in their area. This should be done via a Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP).

6.2 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 None.

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 None.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Equalities and Children and Young People's considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 None.

13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

13.1 None.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.