

**Multi-Agency Safeguarding Partnership arrangements**

**Proposal to LSCB meeting 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018**

**and SAB meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

**Introduction**

1 This document initiates LSCB and SAB board member discussion to develop and publish multi-agency partnership arrangements for safeguarding children and adults in Slough. The development will also be progressed in accordance with Working Together 2018 guidance in relation to children and the Care Act 2014 in relation to safeguarding vulnerable adults. (See references to links below).

2 This proposal has emerged in discussions in the Slough Safeguarding Executive Board and is put forward jointly by the Slough Borough Council Directors of Children, Learning and Skills and the Director of Adults and Communities.

3 From discussions to date there is consensus around the following;

<b>What needs to remain</b>
Maintain and strengthen the positive mature partnerships in Slough
Relevant partners attending meetings, engaging and challenging.
Improving business and forward planning
Developing QA arrangements
Case reviews
Improving communications
Strengthening governance through the Slough Strategic Safeguarding Executive Board.
<b>What needs to change</b>
Too many meetings
Duplication for partners attending both the LSCB and the SAB in a climate of decreasing resources.
Ensuring common issues such as domestic abuse and criminal exploitation have a focus on children and vulnerable adults while avoiding duplication across partnership boards and promotion of clear and strong governance.
Ensure core safeguarding priorities for 2019/21
Ensuring we do not duplicate/overlap with other partnerships e.g. around communications and training.
Getting best value from each partnerships event/meeting

4 Since the single Safeguarding Business Unit was developed in November 2017 there are increasingly common processes. It is clear that a number of individuals and agencies who attend both Slough boards often have similar discussions at both boards and it should be possible, with appropriate mechanisms and management, to ensure that a single discussion can progress issues across both areas.

5 There is a strong commitment to safeguarding by board members in Slough. Specifically in regard to the LSCB there is commitment to ensuring a sound understanding of “contextual safeguarding” as referred to in Working Together 2018 (Chapter 1 para 33) *“As well as threats to the welfare of children from within their families, children may be vulnerable to abuse or exploitation from outside their families. These threats can take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple threats, including: exploitation by criminal gangs and organised crime groups such as county lines; trafficking,*

*online abuse; sexual exploitation and the influences of extremism leading to radicalisation. Extremist groups make use of the internet to radicalise and recruit and to promote extremist materials. Any potential harmful effects to individuals identified as vulnerable to extremist ideologies or being drawn into terrorism should also be considered”.*

Although Working Together is specifically concerned with safeguarding children, the concerns set out here are just as applicable to vulnerable adults. This means that safeguarding priorities must be informed by understanding these threats to children, young people and vulnerable people in Slough in addition to understanding the local familial abuse issues and the needs of vulnerable parents.

6 Members of the LSCB, SAB and the Slough Strategic Safeguarding Executive Board are increasingly aware of the areas of common business and the need to find ways to align business discussions around these common threats while maintaining appropriate focus on specific issues relating to children and adults.

To achieve this, the following is proposed:

- i) While keeping the boards separate as statutory boards, ensure that they work in concert by scheduling them for a single event with mechanisms in place to ensure there is a specific focus on any particular children’s or adults issue but with the bulk of the meeting expected to be discussing issues relevant to effective safeguarding for all Slough Residents.
- ii) That a unified safeguarding business plan is developed for both boards focusing on priorities for both boards. Indicatively, this joint business plan would have as its main headings joint priorities such as
  - Neglect; (e.g., for adults\*, self neglect, MCA and for children\*, parental neglect)
  - Exploitation; (e.g. for adults; vulnerable individuals, radicalisation, cuckooing, sexual, financial, modern slavery and for children; CSE, gangs, county lines)
  - Risk identification and management: (e.g. for adults, changed circumstance after a significant life event, hospital discharge, mental health, MSP and for children, family stresses, missing from education, familial abuse and child protection)
  - Domestic abuse (e.g. for both children’s and adults, awareness, support, preventative pathways)
  - Board(s) effectiveness: for both, effectiveness of process, learning and development, specific training, SCRs and SARs, impact on service quality and partnership working, multi-agency understanding and working.

\* Note, where priorities are identified in relation to adults or children, this is not as indicating a risk to them exclusively, for example radicalisation of vulnerable children and adults or risk of sexual exploitation applies to both groups.

- iii) Building from what already exists the development of shared sub-groups, eg,
  - Communications
  - Domestic abuse
  - Learning and Development
  - Exploitation
  - Quality Assurance and performance

7 With aligned boards, future board meetings would mean one event each quarter to deliver both the statutory obligations of the new Childrens partnership arrangements and the Safeguarding Adult Board, ensuring the focus on both children and vulnerable adults remains distinct where required. This does not represent a merging of both boards as it is important that the focus of each board is respected as they carry out their statutory responsibilities. But it does mean the business will be more closely aligned and is likely to result in better use of partners' time, increased productivity and coherence in addressing priorities in Slough.

It will require clear and agreed consensus on board priorities for 2019/2020 and beyond building on the outline at 6ii.

### 8 Risks and mitigators.

It is important that both boards consider possible risks and ways of addressing them if this proposal is taken forward. See table below;

Risks	Mitigators
Focus: Ensuring compliance with statutory regulations of each board	Regular self assessments to ensure compliance and responsiveness to any external and regulatory requirements.
Focus: on children and on vulnerable adults:	External scrutiny by independent chair, away day events and peer review
Business overload	One event per quarter, held on the same morning with similar themes and clear focus on each group Excellent business and forward planning by consensus. Clear and focussed priorities and stick to them for at least one financial year. Clear Quality Assurance framework with a focus on each group and on priorities. One communications group. Partners attend one meeting per quarter and will need to prepare well for them and ensure dissemination and consultation in their organisations.

9 This proposal needs more detailed work to ensure it is implemented with clear processes, clarity of focus and effective connection with other partnerships in Slough. Board members are asked to support this development and to contribute to the development of the model outlined.

### References:

Working together 2018:

<https://www.sloughsafeguardingboards.org.uk/lscb/lscb/membership-and-subgroups/membership-and-subgroups>

Care act 2014

<https://www.sloughsafeguardingboards.org.uk/sab/sab/about-us/about-the-board>