



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE



Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board

Our new arrangements

April 2019



The purpose of local safeguarding children arrangements is to support and enable local organisations and agencies to work together in a system where:

- children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted
- partner organisations and agencies collaborate, share and co-own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children
- organisations and agencies challenge appropriately and hold one another to account
- there is early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues and emerging threats
- learning is promoted and embedded in a way that local services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice
- information is shared effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and families

Introduction

Following on from the 2016 Wood Review, the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 introduced a new duty to be placed on three agencies: Local Authorities, the Chief Constable and Clinical Commissioning Groups to make arrangements for the safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area. These three agencies are to be known as Safeguarding Partners.

In Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire, we have come together as a single Safeguarding Partnership to deliver a system that protects children, especially the most vulnerable. Protecting, safeguarding and ensuring the wellbeing of children are complex tasks that can only be successfully achieved by agencies working together in a coherent and effective manner.

Our new arrangements have been informed through consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, including

current 2018 Safeguarding Board partners and Executive Group members, Head Teacher Forums and Designated Safeguarding Leads. The partners that cover both Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire are supportive of our arrangements that consider a broader Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire footprint to reduce duplication of effort and improve efficiency of the partnership, but also has the flexibility to recognise local difference and drive for better partnership outcomes for vulnerable children.

We have put in place safe and effective new arrangements to safeguard our children. The principles of transparency, scrutiny and challenge are at the forefront of this partnership moving forward.

The partnership has adopted the title of Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board and this will be effective from 1 April 2019.

Jennifer Sims
Assistant chief constable
Staffordshire Police

Heather Johnstone
Executive director of nursing and quality
Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Clinical Commissioning Groups

Mark Barratt
Director children and family services
Stoke-on-Trent City Council

Helen Riley
Deputy chief executive and director for families and communities
Staffordshire County Council



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A shared vision and values

Safeguarding children, especially the most vulnerable, is a core duty and responsibility for all agencies in Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire. Protecting, safeguarding and ensuring the well-being of children are complex tasks that can only be successfully achieved by agencies working together in a coherent, honest and effective manner.

The vision of the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Safeguarding Partnership is that **for children to be well educated, healthy and safe, cared for by resilient families and strong communities.**

The partnership recognises that for it to be successful it will work to the following eight values:

- An ethos of collaborative working and putting children at the centre of decision-making
- Adopt a listening and learning culture – with no blame culture, but with all parties being accountable
- Encourage innovation
- Culture of professional challenge
- Kindness and compassion
- Honesty and integrity throughout the partnership arrangements
- Respect and tolerance
- Trust



To deliver this vision, the Board safeguards and promotes the welfare of children by focusing on prevention, early intervention and statutory intervention. This will consider the need to promote equality of opportunity and meet the diverse needs of all children living in our communities.

(1) To identify and prevent harm and impairment of health or development and ensure that all children are provided with safe and effective care as they are growing up by:

- Ensuring mechanisms are in place to identify abuse and neglect wherever they may occur
- Working to increase the understanding of safeguarding children issues and looked after children in the professional and wider community, promoting the message that safeguarding children is everybody's responsibility
- Helping to ensure that organisations working or in contact with children operate safe recruitment and safe workforce practices that consider the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children

- Monitoring the effectiveness of organisations' implementation of their duties under section 11 of the Children Act 2004
- Helping to ensure that children know who they can contact when they have concerns about their own or others' safety and welfare
- Helping to ensure that adults (including those who are harming children) know who they can contact if they have a concern about a child or young person
- Supporting the development of effective local strategies in respect of key national safeguarding children agendas



(2) To be proactive and commission and request assurance on targeted work:

- To safeguard and promote the welfare of children who are potentially more vulnerable than the general population, for example: children living away from home; children who have run away from home; children who have adversely come into contact with the police; children in the youth justice system; children excluded or missing from education; young carers; children with SEND and children and young people affected by gangs
- Through the development and evaluation of threshold and procedures for work with children and families where a child has been identified as being 'in need' under the Children Act 1989 and Early Help
- To protect children who are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm (section 47, Children Act 1989), including:

- o Children abused and neglected within families, including those harmed, in the context of domestic abuse; as a consequence of the impact of substance misuse or parental mental ill health;
- o Children abused outside of families by adults known to them; including those in fear of or subject to forced marriage and honour-based violence;
- o Children abused and neglected by professional carers, within an institutional setting, or anywhere else where children are cared for away from home;
- o Children abused by strangers;
- o Children abused and or exploited by other young people;
- o Young perpetrators of abuse;
- o Children abused through sexual exploitation and child trafficking;
- o Young people experiencing adverse childhood experiences that can impact on their lives, such as risk of offending, and;
- o Young victims of crime

Priorities

Safeguarding partners, supported by the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Scrutiny and Assurance Hub will utilise intelligence gathered from a number of sources, including but not limited to:

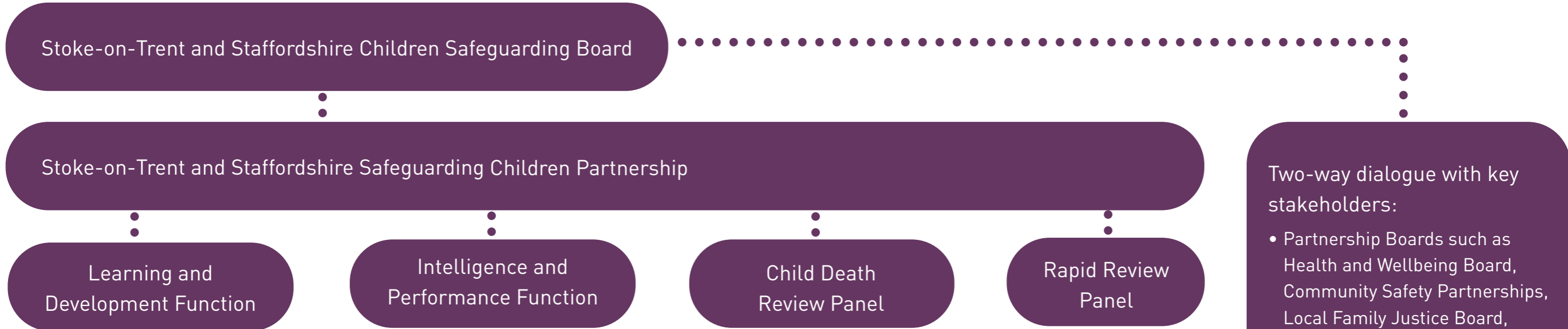
- Feedback from children, young people and families
- Partner agency inspection findings
- National strategies, policy and legislative changes
- Learning from reviews including: child death reviews, domestic homicide reviews, serious case reviews, rapid reviews, learning reviews, multi-agency audits
- Performance and audit information
- National, regional and local research, for example, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).
- Safeguarding practice as highlighted through the section 11 audit.
- Education safeguarding practice as highlighted through the section 175 audits.



Governance structure

Based on the feedback received, the statutory partners will have one Safeguarding Children Board covering both Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire which will reduce duplication. However, there is an acknowledgement that there will need to be a focus on local nuances as partners will be required to work in a more joined up way, for example, the locality approach will see an improved alignment with local partnership arrangements, such as Community Safety Partnership as well as key local partners, including GP's and schools.

The Safeguarding Children Board is committed to multi-disciplinary partnership working in order to overcome 'silo' working and to deliver effective outcomes and a positive impact on the lives of young people. The Board will liaise with other partnerships, as outlined in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018), such as the Safeguarding Adult Board and Health and Wellbeing Board to further streamline services, identify and address gaps and reduce duplication. The Board recognises the importance of working with a full range of partners to protect children and promote their best interests, agree priorities and share resources.



Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Scrutiny and Assurance Hub

The Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership will receive, review and seek assurance from partners based on the evidence and the findings from the Scrutiny and Assurance Hub. The hub will be supported by the Safeguarding Children’s Board Team.

The Safeguarding Children Board Team will co-ordinate Task and Finish Groups when required, such as:

- Priority Groups that are responding to emerging needs based on intelligence and analysis
- Feedback including voices of children, families and communities, complaints, training, operational teams etc.
- Policy Reviews
- Legislative and Policy Changes

Key functions of the Hub

- Gather relevant partner performance that monitors the progress of multi-agency activity and creates analysis across children’s safeguarding agenda, analysing and highlighting areas of concern
- Coordinate multi-agency audits
- Coordinate Rapid Review process
- Coordinate Child Death reviews
- Coordinate maturity matrix to monitor the maturity of the partnership

Two-way dialogue with key stakeholders:

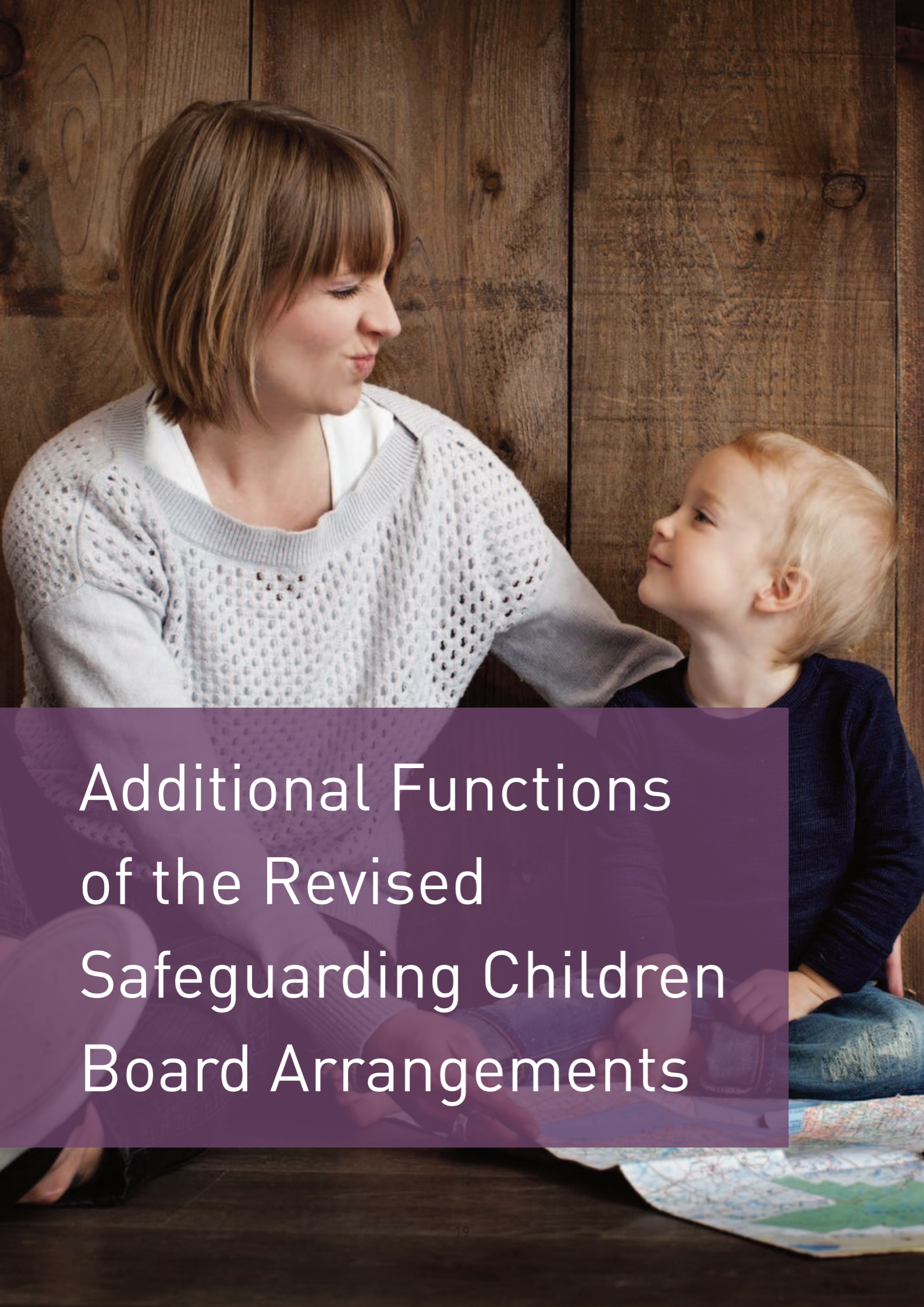
- Partnership Boards such as Health and Wellbeing Board, Community Safety Partnerships, Local Family Justice Board, Family Strategic Partnership, Criminal Justice Partnership, Clinical Commissioning Groups
- Education Leads
- Designated Safeguarding Leads (Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent)
- Headteacher Forums (Stoke-on-Trent)
- Early Years Forums
- District/Borough Councils
- Safer City Partnership

The table below provides an overview of how the governance structure will operate:

Name of Meeting	Description
<p>Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board</p>	<p>The Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board is the key decision-making forum and will consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffordshire Police represented by an Assistant Chief Constable • Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Clinical Commissioning Groups represented by the Executive Director of Nursing and Quality • Stoke-on-Trent City Council represented by the Director of Children’s Services • Staffordshire County Council represented by the Director of Children’s Services • Stoke-on-Trent Lead Member for Children’s Services (Non-voting) • Staffordshire Lead Member for Children’s Services (Non-voting) <p>Invitations will be extended to partners to present reports and to other guests, as and when required, to present information which is relevant to the Annual Business Plan and priorities and keeping children safe in Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire.</p> <p>The chairing of the meeting will rotate every six months between the four statutory Safeguarding Partners.</p> <p>The Board will initially meet monthly from April to July 2019. From July 2019 onwards, the board will meet on a quarterly basis with support provided by the Children’s Safeguarding Board Team (or as required should the need arise).</p> <p>The Board will be responsible for setting the strategic direction of travel and will task the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership to co-ordinate the activity to deliver on the new arrangements and identified priorities.</p> <p>In line with the Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, the Board has a key responsibility to work with agencies and other strategic groups, i.e. the Health and Wellbeing Boards, Community Safety Partnership, Member Scrutiny; Local Enterprise Partnerships to address any issues that impact on improving outcomes for children in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. The formal links between the various strategic partnership boards are being reviewed to ensure there are clear lines of accountability and that the Boards key function is that of scrutiny and assurance and to ensure that the wider partnership understands that safeguarding children is everyone’s responsibility.</p> <p>See appendix 1 for terms of reference.</p>

Name of Meeting	Description
Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board	<p>The Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership will have delegated responsibility to deliver a scrutiny and assurance function on behalf of the Board and will be the key body that directs the production of key documents, such as the Annual Report, on behalf of the Board. Membership of the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership will consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Authority Safeguarding Lead x 2 (Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire) • Staffordshire Police Children Safeguarding Representative • Third Sector Chief Executive Representative x 2 (Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire) • Probation Children Safeguarding Representative • Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) Children Safeguarding Lead Representative • Youth Offending Children Safeguarding Lead x 2 (Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire) • Designated Nurses (Children Safeguarding Lead) x 2 (North and South) • Designated Doctors (Children Safeguarding Lead) x 2 (North and South) • Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust Children Safeguarding Lead Representative • Hospital Children Safeguarding Lead Representative - UHNM • North Staffs Combined Healthcare Children Safeguarding Lead Representative • Education Children Safeguarding Lead Representatives (0-25 years) • CAFCASS Children Safeguarding Lead Representative <p>All partners will be designated accountable leads with authority to effect change and decision making on behalf of their organisation as well as the partnership.</p> <p>The partnership forum will meet monthly for the next 12 months and will be reviewed in 2020. The chairing of the meeting will be agreed by the partners within this forum.</p> <p>The Children Safeguarding Board Team will be an integral part of the Safeguarding Children Partnership to ensure the partnership forum is effective in its role and function.</p> <p>See appendix 2 for terms of reference.</p>

Name of Meeting	Description
<p>Formal Sub-groups of Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership</p>	<p>The Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board will utilise focussed sub-groups in order that the statutory functions of the Board via the Safeguarding Partnership can be fulfilled. These are: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child death review panel • Rapid review process • Learning and development • Intelligence and performance • Priority working groups as required • Review of restraint <p>As appropriate these groups will be reviewed by the Safeguarding Children Partnership during the evaluation period to ensure that the mechanisms are appropriate to meet the priorities of the Board.</p> <p>Terms of reference to be reviewed.</p>
<p>Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Scrutiny and Assurance Hub</p>	<p>The Scrutiny and Assurance Hub, staffed by the Safeguarding Children Board Team, will collectively analyse a range of information from a variety of sources relating to multi-agency practice. The hub will have an intelligence led evidence-based approach and will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consider frontline challenges and successes • review information from a wider range of sources • bring together the views of children, their families and professionals to inform the continuous development of services and approaches aimed at protecting children from harm and making positive differences to their lives. • makes suggestions and recommendations to improve multi-agency working • co-ordinate task and finish groups



Additional Functions of the Revised Safeguarding Children Board Arrangements

Learning and development

The Safeguarding Children Board is fully committed to multi-agency workforce development and will seek a range of ways to deliver key safeguarding messages and test how the learning has been implemented in practice. The training offer will be reviewed during 2019/2020 and the Board will ensure that there is a training offer available to public sector, private sector and voluntary sector, education establishments (0-25) and charities.

Independent scrutiny

In December 2019, an independent review of the new arrangements will take place to assess the effectiveness of delivery against the Boards priorities. The review will inform future developments of the safeguarding multi-agency arrangements. Safeguarding Partners will identify key lines of enquiry that independent scrutiny will utilise to assure the Board of their effectiveness against the Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 guidance. The review will identify where there has been progress

in the safeguarding of children in the local area and contribute to setting objectives and areas of focus for the year ahead.

The Lead Member for Children's Services in each local authority holds key political accountability for ensuring that the needs of all children and young people, including the most disadvantaged and vulnerable, and their families and carers, are addressed. In doing so, they work closely with other local partners to improve the outcomes and well-being of children and young people. Therefore, the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Lead Members for Children Services will also attend Board meetings, as in the former arrangements, in a participant observer role to maintain their independence to facilitate this.

In addition, a national sector led expert will be commissioned to assess the impact and outcomes achieved of the priorities set by the Board in the business plan.

Multi-agency partners working with children and families have specific statutory duties to promote the welfare

of children and ensure they are protected from harm under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 and Section 175 of the Education Act 2002. These duties are detailed in Chapter 2 of the Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 statutory guidance.

The Board will use feedback from multi-agency audits, inspections/regulators, children, young people and families as well as views from front-line practitioners to demonstrate its impact on the safeguarding of children.

The Board will engage in conversations with West Midlands partners to understand the appetite to develop a regional peer review model.

A Lay Member will act as a 'critical friend' to the board and consider what difference the discussions held and decisions made etc. make to children and practitioners. This role will be reviewed regularly to ensure its efficiency.

Funding and support

All activities undertaken on behalf of the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board arrangements shall be funded using the existing agreed funding agreements. The Board will review future funding formulas.

Annual report

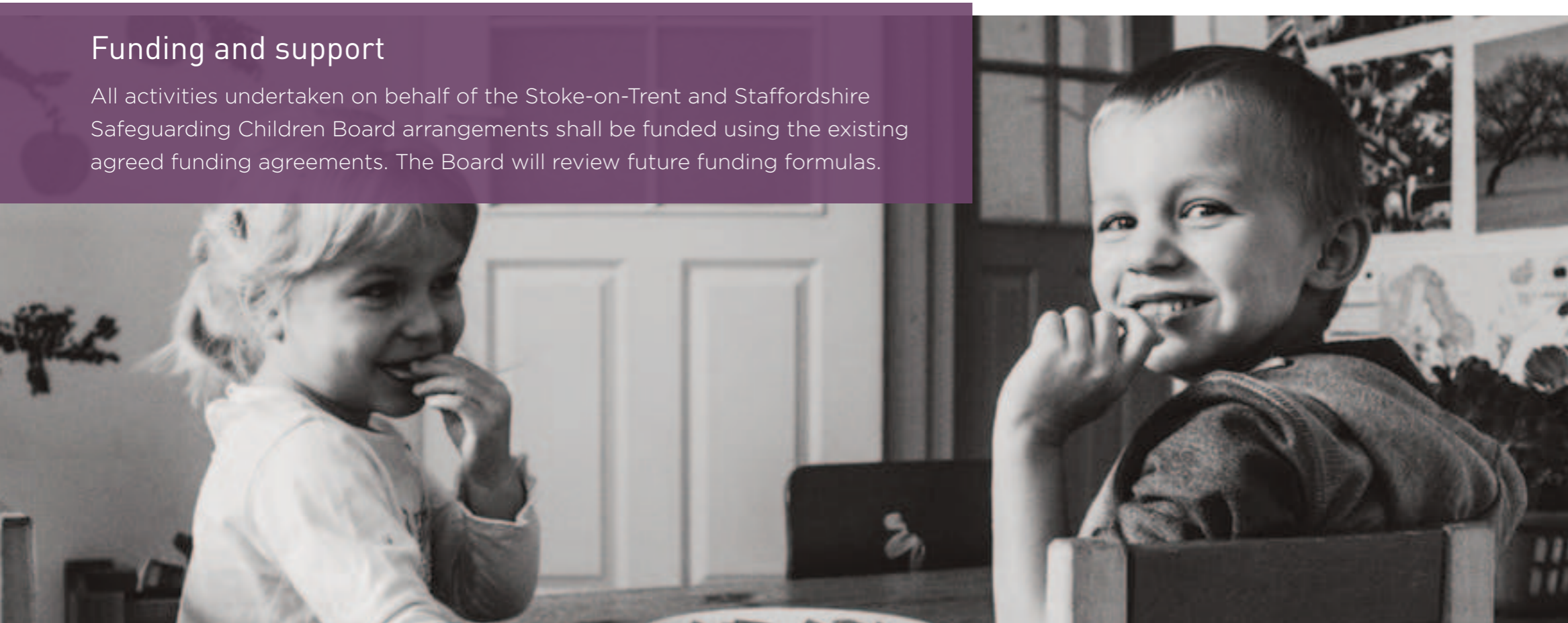
Each year, the Safeguarding Partners will publish an Annual Report setting out what has been done by the Partnership, and the partners, to safeguard children and young people during the previous year and how effective the partnership arrangements have been.

This report will include information about:

- agreed priorities
- analysis of progress (or lack of progress) against priorities
- decisions and actions taken by partners
- feedback from children and young people and how this has been utilised to inform work and influence service provision
- the commissioning, delivery and impact of multi-agency safeguarding training
- the learning from, and impact of, any child safeguarding practice reviews and other safeguarding issues, for example, the use of restraints in secure establishments

Any changes to the arrangements described in this document will be outlined in the Annual Report and reasons given for those changes.

The annual report will be independently scrutinised and will be distributed across all relevant partners for dissemination throughout their organisations.



Appendix 1 Terms of reference

Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board

The Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board is responsible for progressing the Boards business priorities through the business plan and commissioning the production of the annual report. It will authorise the policy, process, strategy and guidance required to support Board priorities and effective safeguarding. It will scrutinise, challenge and maintain an overview of the effectiveness of children's safeguarding in Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire. This will be undertaken through quality assurance activity, learning and development programmes and commissioning and overseeing Serious Case Reviews (SCR's)/learning reviews (as required).

The Board will be responsible for setting the strategic direction of travel and will task the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership to co-ordinate the activity to deliver on the new arrangements and identified priorities.

The Board has a key responsibility to work with agencies and other strategic groups, i.e. the Health and Wellbeing Boards, Community Safety Partnership, Member Scrutiny; Local Enterprise Partnerships to address any issues that impact on improving outcomes for children in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. The formal links between the various strategic partnership boards are being reviewed to ensure there are clear lines of accountability and that the Boards' key function is that of scrutiny and assurance and to ensure that the wider partnership understands that safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility.

The Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board is the key decision-making forum and will consist of:

- Staffordshire Police represented by an Assistant Chief Constable
- Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Clinical Commissioning Groups represented by the Executive Director of Nursing and Quality
- Stoke-on-Trent City Council represented by the Director of Children's Services

- Staffordshire County Council represented by the Director of Children's Services
- Stoke-on-Trent Lead Member for Children's Services (Non-voting)
- Staffordshire Lead Member for Children's Services (Non-voting)

Invitations will be extended to Partners to present reports and to other guests, as and when required, to present information which are relevant to the Annual Business Plan and priorities and in keeping with children safe in Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire.

The chairing of the meeting will rotate every six months between the four statutory Safeguarding Partners.

The Board will initially meet monthly from April to July 2019. From July 2019 onwards, the board will meet on a quarterly basis with support provided by the Children's Safeguarding Board Team (or as required should the need arise).



Appendix 2 Terms of reference

Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

The role of the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership is to support the Board by implementing the business plan, manage the preparation of detailed proposals and documents for Boards approval, coordinate the dataset, audits and other sources of information about safeguarding in the local authority areas and ensure that learning is used to inform and improve practice, including through the learning and development function. It will carry out this role within the meeting, through task and finish groups or by identifying responsible individuals as required.

Membership of the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership will consist of:

- Local Authority Safeguarding Lead x 2 (Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire)
- Staffordshire Police Children Safeguarding Representative
- Third Sector Chief Executive Representative x 2 (Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire)

- Probation Children Safeguarding Representative
- Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) Children Safeguarding Lead Representative
- Youth Offending Children Safeguarding Lead x 2 (Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire)
- Designated Nurses (Children Safeguarding Lead) x 2 (North and South)
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- Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust Children Safeguarding Lead Representative
- Hospital Children Safeguarding Lead Representative - UHNM
- North Staffs Combined Healthcare Children Safeguarding Lead Representative
- Education Children Safeguarding Lead Representatives (0-25 years)
- CAFCASS Children Safeguarding Lead Representative

All partners will be designated accountable leads with authority to effect change and decision make on behalf of their organisation.

The partnership forum will meet monthly for the next 12 months and will be reviewed in 2020. The chairing of the meeting will be agreed by the partners within this forum.

The Children Safeguarding Board Team will an integral part of the Safeguarding Children Partnership to ensure the partnership forum is effective in its role and function.

The Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership will draft the Terms of References of Task and Finish groups it establishes.

