



City of  
**Stoke-on-Trent**

# One Minute Guide

## **Subject: The Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Board (SCB)**

Date: September 2018

Version:4

### **Legislative background and guidance frameworks**

To achieve the best possible outcomes, children and families need to receive targeted services to meet their needs in a co-ordinated way. Fragmented provision of services creates inefficiencies and risks to disengagement by children and families. Local agencies are the front line when it comes to safeguarding children and it is vital that they work well together. There is a shared responsibility between agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area. In order to do this effectively, local agencies should develop processes that promote:

- The commissioning of services in a co-ordinated way
- Co-operation and integration between universal services such as schools, GP practices, adult services, early years settings, youth services and colleges, voluntary and community and specialist support services

Following a national review of safeguarding, new guidance came into effect in July 2018 which sets out the roles and responsibilities of key partner agencies:

*A safeguarding partner in relation to a local area in England is defined under the Children Act 2004 as:*

- *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 an area any part of which falls within the local authority area*

The three safeguarding partners will now begin to set out how they will work together with any other relevant agencies whose involvement they consider may be required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in particular cases. They must also set out how their arrangements will receive independent scrutiny. Once agreed, the safeguarding partners will publish the new arrangements. The purpose of the local arrangements is to support and enable local agencies to work together in a system where:

- Excellent practice is the norm
- Partner agencies hold one another to account effectively
- There is early identification of 'new' safeguarding issues
- Learning is promoted and embedded
- Information is shared effectively
- The public can feel confident that children are protected from harm

The new safeguarding arrangements will continue to bring together representatives from various agencies and organisations to work in partnership to protect vulnerable children, young people and their families in the city. By sharing our knowledge, expertise and best practice, we can ensure that professionals have access to the right support and guidance. The primary function of the new arrangements is to ensure that agencies work in partnership to deliver effective safeguarding throughout the city to help make sure that work to protect children and young people from harm, is properly coordinated and effective.

## **Background in Stoke-on-Trent**

The current Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Board (SCB) was established by Stoke-on-Trent City Council under Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 in April 2006 in its capacity as the Children's Services Authority for this area. Following the review of Working Together to Safeguard Children (WT) 2015, the revised guidance was published in July 2018 setting out the new local safeguarding arrangements.

## **Where we want to be in the future**

### **The vision of the SCB in its current structure is:**

Partner agencies in Stoke-on-Trent will work actively together to achieve the vision which is for all of our children and young people to:

- Be happy, safe and healthy
- Be inspired and enabled to succeed in all aspects of their life.

***To create a bright future for all children in Stoke-on-Trent; a future where all children feel happy, healthy and safe and able to fulfil their potential from early childhood into adulthood.***

Stoke-on-Trent SCB and Staffordshire SCB have agreed key strategic priorities which are reflected within the Terms of Reference of each individual sub-committee.

### **To help us achieve this vision, we have three key strategic priorities 2018/2020:**

- **Child Sexual Abuse** (Child Sexual Exploitation: Intra-familial Sexual Abuse: Youth Violence: Missing Children: Trafficked Children)
- **Neglect and the Toxic Trio** (Parental mental ill health: domestic abuse: alcohol and substance misuse)

All partner agency settings linked to the Safeguarding Children Board are currently working to address these strategic priorities in order for us to have a good understanding of:

- the local 'picture'
- the importance of early help and intervention
- what work is currently being undertaken
- how effective is this work
- how can we evidence that we are making a difference
- are we achieving best outcomes for children, young people and families

We continue to improve the level of challenge and develop and embed a culture of 'high challenge and low tolerance' across the partnership.

The SCB is committed to improving the lives of vulnerable children, young people and their families. This will be achieved by:

- The continued development of robust multi agency partnerships under new safeguarding arrangements
- Robust analysis of multi-agency data
- Agreeing future safeguarding work
- Continuing to provide the high quality multi-agency training opportunities in order to ensure all partner agencies have highly trained and effective frontline staff.

### **Who leads and who else is involved**

John Wood has been the Independent Chair since 2015. The SCB Manager is Carole Preston and Lead Officer to the SCB is Elaine Webster Interim Strategic Manager: Quality and Assurance. The SCB Core team includes a Training Officer, Education Safeguarding Development Officer, and administrative support staff.

At the time of compiling this quick guide (and until the new local safeguarding arrangements have been agreed ), the key agencies represented at senior level on the Board include representatives from:

- Stoke-on-Trent City Council –Children, Adult and Family Services
- Staffordshire Police
- Education Settings represented by SASCAL (incorporating High Schools, Primary Schools, Special Needs Schools, Early Years Settings, Academies and Further Education)
- Stoke-on-Trent Clinical Commissioning Groups
- NHS England Shropshire and Staffordshire Area Team
- University Hospital of North Midlands NHS Trust Royal Stoke
- North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust
- Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust
- Nominated Third Sector representation
- Staffordshire and West Midlands Probation Trust
- Staffordshire and West Midlands Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)
- NSPCC
- City of Stoke-on-Trent Youth Offending Services
- CAF/CASS
- Staffordshire Fire and Rescue
- West Midlands Ambulance Service
- Public Health
- Elected Members
- City of Stoke-on-Trent Legal Services

### **What other services does this subject link to?**

The full SCB meets quarterly and is supported by an Executive Group and the following sub-committees and forums:

- Training sub-committee
- Serious Case Review sub-committee
- Communications and Publicity sub-committee
- Practice sub-committee
- Policy and Procedures sub-committee (joint arrangement with Staffordshire LSCB)
- Performance Group (joint arrangement with Staffordshire LSCB)
- Child Sexual Abuse Forum – (joint arrangement with Staffordshire LSCB)
- Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP - joint arrangement with Staffordshire LSCB)
- Domestic Abuse Partnership

In addition, the existing SCB will continue to work alongside the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

### **Any other relevant comments/issues**

Please view the Safeguarding Children Board website for further information:

[www.safeguardingchildren.stoke.gov.uk](http://www.safeguardingchildren.stoke.gov.uk)

### **Contact for more information**

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