



<b>Report to:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE CABINET</b>
<b>Date:</b>	25 July 2018
<b>Executive Member / Reporting Officer:</b>	Councillor Leanne Feeley – Executive Member for Lifelong Learning Councillor Oliver Ryan – Executive Member for Children & Families James Thomas – Director of Children’s Services (DCS)
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>CHILDREN’S GOVERNANCE REVIEW</b>
<b>Report Summary:</b>	The report sets out a review of children’s governance arrangements and should be read in conjunction with the report to Board in respect of proposals for revised Local Safeguarding Children’s arrangements.
<b>Recommendations:</b>	Executive Cabinet is asked to note the content of the report and approve the recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To initiate a new Starting Well Board as a sub-group of the Health &amp; Wellbeing Board</li> <li>• To initiate four new Children’s Partnership Workshops, one in each neighbourhood</li> </ul>
<b>Links to the Corporate Plan:</b>	The Corporate Plan outlines the priorities for improving the borough of Tameside including the quality of life for children and families.
<b>Financial Implications:</b> (Authorised by Section 151 Officer)	There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
<b>Legal Implications:</b> (Authorised by Borough Solicitor)	These arrangements need to go to Cabinet and Council so there is absolute clarity as to how decisions are made and assurance provided.
<b>Risk Management:</b>	Contained in the body of the report.
<b>Access to Information :</b>	The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writers James Thomas  Telephone: 0161 342 3354  e-mail: <a href="mailto:james.thomas@tameside.gov.uk">james.thomas@tameside.gov.uk</a>

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The needs of children and families are complex, encompassing an enormous diversity of issues across the life course from pre-birth to 25, from those only needing the support of universal health and education services to those children with special needs and disabilities to those in need of protection from abuse and neglect, and necessarily including the needs of the parents and carers who are the key to children's development and their welfare.
- 1.2 Consequently, the range of services that meet those needs is necessarily a diverse and complex one. There are both statutory and voluntary services. There are services targeted at particular age groups and others which work with every age you could find within a family. There are those focused upon the whole of Tameside, whilst others work to a particular neighbourhood patch, or indeed to a wider footprint than our borough. There are those meeting one level of need and those which meet all levels of need.
- 1.3 So it is hardly a surprise that ensuring that effective governance arrangements are in place is so challenging. There will always be a risk of duplication – just as needs and services do not sit in neat separate boxes – so governance boards and groups will have overlapping areas of responsibility. There is of course also a risk that there are gaps and that some areas of need and service have no proper oversight. And there will always be a risk of ineffectiveness, where there may be a significant amount of activity but less evidence of added value or impact.
- 1.4 Whilst there have been a some specific triggers to carry out this review, which are outlined in the section below on context and developments, the inter-connected nature of all that we are dealing with means that it is not possible to have a narrow look at one part of our system without looking at the whole. This does not mean we need to think about changing things where they are working well, but does mean we need to look at the whole system.
- 1.5 Whilst we aim to ensure that our structures are the optimal ones to ensure the delivery of effective services, of course good structures alone are not sufficient, and we will need to pay just as much attention to the ways of working that are key to the delivery of effective leadership and governance. Ofsted's 2015 report on effective leadership and governance provides a useful summary:
- Open, honest and collaborative
  - Strong moral base informed by solid professional knowledge
  - Modelling behaviour, setting clear expectations
  - Leaders who are visible and credible
  - Culture of support and challenge
  - Effective lines of accountability – scrutiny of both soft and hard data for deeper understanding
  - Boards and partnerships – mature, strong relationships, mutual understanding of roles and responsibilities, differences dealt with appropriately, challenge seen as helpful and constructive, positive view of impact of collaboration; common language; shared data sets; escalation as positive step to resolution
  - Members – roles and responsibilities clearly understood, their understanding of the issues, passion and lead roles ensuring understanding by all members

## **2 CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS**

- 2.1 This report will not detail the overarching political and corporate governance arrangements under which Children's governance sits within the Council and CCG, rather will focus upon those arrangements specific to children.

### **Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)**

- 2.2 The current statutory requirement is for a LSCB to be independently chaired and engage membership from a set of prescribed partner agencies. This will change as the Children & Social Work Act is enacted with revised statutory guidance expected by the end of June 2018. The current LSCB has been judged by Ofsted to Require Improvement, and the appointment of a new Independent Chair from February 2018 has re-energised the Board as we prepare to be an Early Adopter of new local safeguarding arrangements. A set of Sub-Groups reports into the LSCB. Work is underway to strengthen the co-ordination of children's safeguarding work with that of both adult safeguarding and community safety arrangements.

### **Improvement Board**

- 2.3 This Board was initiated early in 2017 as a response to the Inadequate Ofsted judgement from late 2016. Independently chaired and with a membership including the Leader, Lead Member and Chief Executive, the Board provides both support and challenge to the work of the Children's Team in driving the agreed Improvement Plan, as well as a means to manage the external scrutiny of the DfE. The expectation is that this is a time limited Board to see Tameside through to its next full inspection and an improved judgement, although clearly the confidence with which the Board will then be wound up will also depend upon the robustness of the ongoing governance arrangements.

### **Education Attainment Improvement Board (EIAB)**

- 2.4 The EIAB is an established member led council committee with a wide remit to support and challenge educational attainment in the borough. The EIAB has a direct reporting line from the SEND Strategic Steering Group, and a link to the statutory Schools Forum which provides financial governance over schools funding, and to Headteachers and their own organisation through TAPH and TASH.

### **Health & Wellbeing Board & Strategic Commissioning Board**

- 2.5 The statutory member led partnership committee with a wide remit to support and challenge health and wellbeing for all ages across the borough. There is currently consideration to the potential benefits of the H&WB Board being strengthened through being positioned as the Tameside Reform Board. Children's issues currently form a sub-set of the overall agenda. The Strategic Commissioning Board provides the means for the Council and the CCG to take joint commissioning decisions, including where this related to children, and SCB has a direct reporting line from two sub-groups which also cover children's health services.

### **Corporate Parenting Board**

- 2.6 The member led group with responsibility for driving the council's corporate parenting agenda and ensuring we all fulfil our corporate parenting responsibilities. A strong focus upon the Voice of Children in Care in particular through linking with the Children in Care Council.

### **Youth Offending Management Board**

- 2.7 Statutory requirement to have clear partnership governance over the Youth Offending Team. Recently the Board membership and agenda has been re-energised and current engagement is positive.

### **Youth Council and Children in Care Council**

- 2.8 The two primary groups where children and young people are able to give their views directly and as representatives of other young people. The Children in Care Council has a direct line to the Corporate Parenting Board.

### **Integrated Care & Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel**

- 2.9 The effective delivery of children's services is a core focus of the Integrated Care & Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel, which will also be able to maintain a rigorous focus upon the

extent to which the Voice of the Child is at the heart of service delivery and service improvement.

### **3 KEY CONTEXTUAL DEVELOPMENTS**

- 3.1 GM governance arrangements continue to evolve, with the recent formation of the GM Children's Board – led by the ten local authorities rather than the GMCA and the core membership is based upon the ten lead members and DCS's. The Board will pull together reporting lines from the specific children's focused GM boards, in particular the GM Education & Employability Board, the GM Children's Health & Wellbeing Board, and the GM Safeguarding Standards Board.
- 3.2 Safeguarding Reform – a separate paper sets out the proposed new local children's safeguarding arrangements.
- 3.3 Strategic Neighbourhood Forums and Integrated Neighbourhood Working
  - An opportunity to align the new local member forums with the developing neighbourhood model of partnership and service delivery for children and families
  - Proposals being developed for a neighbourhood model for Children & Families in Tameside to complement the Care Together neighbourhood model for health and adult social care, and the INS for policing and community safety.
  - Consultation with partners being conducted as a joint exercise along with local safeguarding arrangements.
  - Proposal is for four neighbourhoods which enable more effective partnership working on the ground.

### **4 KEY ISSUES TO ADDRESS**

#### **Gap in Governance**

- 4.1 The absence of dedicated board for the wider children's agenda since the demise of the Children's Trust has left a gap which the existing governance arrangements are not covering entirely satisfactorily. Recent examples include that the drive for an Early Help Strategy and reporting of the Early Help Strategy Sub-group has come from the Improvement Board although this can only be a time limited solution; and that the drive for a Voice of the Child Strategy has come from the LSCB despite recognising that its safeguarding remit limits its ability to ensure the strategy is promoted across all services. There are other partnership groups which currently do not have any effective reporting line upwards, such as for Early Years and CAMHS Transformation.

#### **Joining the Dots**

- 4.2 There is a need to strengthen the join up of varying partnership and governance arrangements through the rigour of reporting arrangements and co-ordination of action. Examples would include the need to strengthen reporting of the Corporate Parenting Group to Cabinet; the need to co-ordinate strategic planning between the TSCB, Adult Safeguarding Board and Community Safety Partnership; the need to strengthen the proportionate links between GM and Tameside; and for clearer reporting lines for some groups currently operating without these (eg Early Help Strategy Sub-Group) and for some that will need to provide dual reporting (eg Domestic Abuse Strategy Group).

#### **The Neighbourhood Opportunity**

- 4.3 The widespread partner support for a neighbourhood model of working demonstrates the opportunity this presents for much stronger engagement with those partners at an operational level on the ground, to complement the work being done in strategic boards at the centre.

## 5 PROPOSALS

### **NEW - Executive Children's Safeguarding Partnership**

- 5.1 The proposals for a revised approach to Local Safeguarding Arrangements are drafted in a separate paper.

### **Improvement Board**

- 5.2 No change proposed following recent revision of the Board's TOR and membership.

### **Education Attainment Improvement Board**

- 5.3 No change proposed.

### **NEW – Starting Well Board as Sub-group of the Health & Wellbeing Board**

- 5.4 The Early Help Strategy Sub-Group should morph into a Children & Families Sub-Group of the H&WB Board, with terms of reference that specify the scope to provide partnership governance over the range of children's health issues and early help. This new Sub-Group would have direct reporting lines from: the Early Years Delivery Group, CAMHS Transformation Group, Family Nurse Partnership Board; would link to HCAG and the Youth Council; and would drive the Voice of the Child Strategy. To be chaired by the DCS.

### **Corporate Parenting Group**

- 5.5 No change proposed. To strengthen the discipline of reporting to Cabinet and Council every six months, and the links with the refreshed Children in Care Council.

### **NEW – Partner Engagement through the Neighbourhood Model**

- 5.6 Each of the four proposed neighbourhoods to convene a Children's Neighbourhood Partnership Workshop three times a year, as part of our new statutory local safeguarding arrangements as well as a focus on the wider Successful Families agenda. Dual reporting up to the Executive Children's Safeguarding Partnership and the Starting Well Board, as well as the opportunity to align and work closely with members at the local level through the new Strategic Neighbourhood Forums.

### **Strengthened Governance through more Systematic Ways of Working**

- 5.7 The knowledge and experience brought to bear by officers, members and partners in each of these groups to be enhanced by a more systematic approach to the evidence upon which strategic decisions are made which always takes into account three core sources of information:
- Data – with the most accurate possible single version of the truth provided by the corporate performance team
  - Quality Assurance findings – from formal and systematic audit and other forms of QA
  - Voices of children, young people, parents and families – gathered on a systematic basis to inform our understanding of their experiences and what works – it will be good practice to start all key strategic discussions with a focus upon what our children and families are telling us.

## 6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 As stated on the report cover