

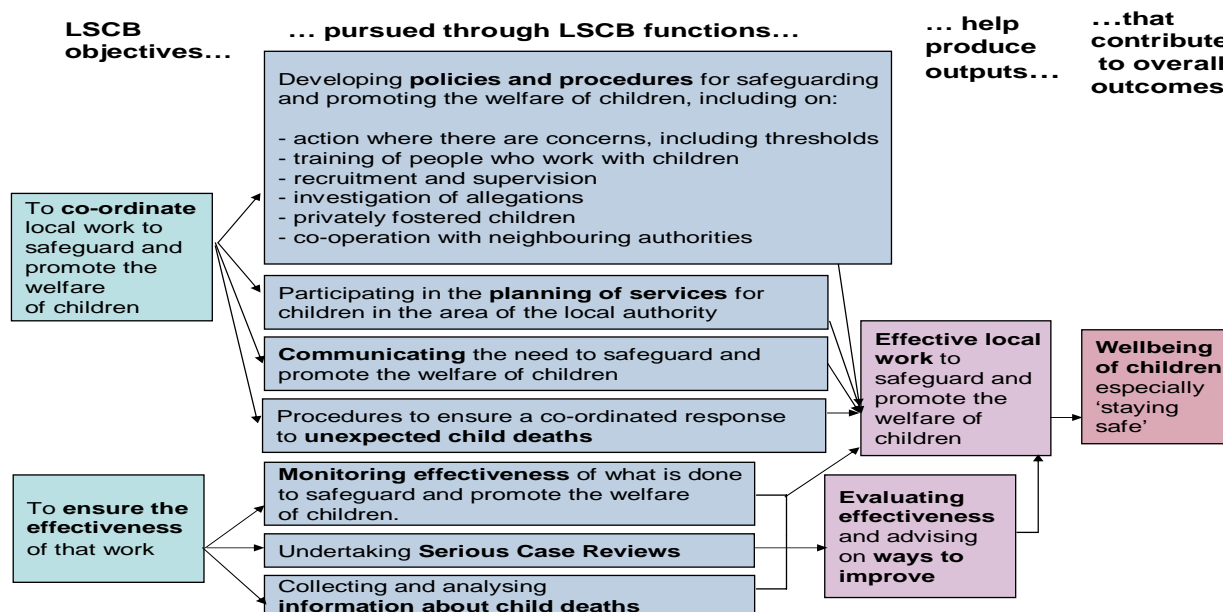
# STRATEGIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR SAFEGUARDING

## STAFFORDSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (SSCB) AND MULTI-AGENCY PUBLIC PROTECTION ARRANGEMENTS (MAPPA)

### The Role of Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board

1. Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) was established in April 2006 and replaces the former Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC).
2. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children within Staffordshire requires effective coordination. SSCB is the key local statutory mechanism for agreeing how relevant organisations will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Staffordshire and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do.
3. Staffordshire Children's Trust arrangements as set out in the Children and Young People's Plan, aims to improve the overall wellbeing of children. The wellbeing of children is a legal definition (Section 10, Children Act, 2004) based on the following five outcomes.
  - Be Healthy
  - Stay Safe
  - Enjoy and Achieve
  - Make a Positive Contribution
  - Achieve Economic Well-Being
4. The work of SSCB is part of these wider children's trust arrangements to improve the well-being of children, with a particular focus upon 'staying safe'.
5. The core objectives of SSCB are set out at FIG 1.

Fig 1



6. The scope of the work of SSCB is activity that affects all children, proactive work that aims to target particular groups and responsive work to protect children.

7. SSCB fulfils a number of core functions in relation to:

- Policies and procedures
- Communicating and raising awareness
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Participating in planning and commissioning
- Serious Case Reviews
- Safeguarding Training

8. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 SSCB will also fulfil specific functions relating to collecting and analysing information about the deaths of all children in Staffordshire's geographical area, and ensuring a co-ordinated response by appropriate agencies to the unexpected death of a child within Staffordshire's boundaries.

9. Membership of SSCB is as directed by Working Together (2006)

10. SSCB is also supported in its work by the following board officers.

- Safeguarding Board Manager
- Training Manager
- Training Coordinator
- Administrative Officer(s)

11. SSCB is also supported by nine core sub-groups who generally meet bi-monthly. These are:

- Performance Management
  - Policy and Procedures
  - Professional Development and Training
  - Child Death Review Panel
  - Communications and Marketing
  - Serious Case Review
  - Prevention
  - Health
  - Development and Resources
12. Other shorter life task-to-finish groups are convened to address additional work streams identified by the Board.
13. SSCB is funded in cash or in kind by agencies represented on the Board.

### **Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)**

1. MAPPA is the means by which offenders who pose a risk to the public are identified, assessed and managed. As such MAPPA play an important role in the safeguarding of children.
2. The Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 placed a statutory duty on the Police and Probation Service to be known as the “Responsible Authority” to make joint arrangements for the assessment and management of relevant sex and violent offenders and other persons who, by reasons of offences committed, are considered by the Responsible Authority to be persons who may cause serious harm to the public.
3. The Criminal Justice Act 2003 brought the prison service into ‘The Responsible Authority’ and introduced a ‘duty to cooperate’ on other agencies (e.g. Children and Adults Social Care, Youth Offending, Housing, Health).
4. The duty to cooperate, as outlined in the “Memorandum of Understanding, Staffordshire MAPPA Duty to Cooperate Policy and Procedures January 2005” requires all agenda with a ‘duty to cooperate’ to:
  - share any information relevant to the offender or people who be at risk of harm from that offender
  - coordinate any intervention with other agencies with a role with the offender and his/her family

- contribute to the risk assessment and risk management plan where time is compatible with existing agency statutory responsibilities
- to assist with the identification of relevant offenders (see below)

### **MAPPA Offender Criteria**

5. Category 1 – Those subject to the notification requirements of Part 1 of the Sex Offenders Act 1997 (Registered Sex Offenders).
6. Category 2 – Those sex and violent offenders sentenced to a term of imprisonment of 12 months or more and includes those sentenced to detention and training orders, hospital and guardianship orders.
7. Category 3 – This category comprises other offenders, not in either category 1 or 2 but who are considered by the Responsible Authority to pose a risk of serious harm to the public.
8. Any professional who is concerned about an individual who they believe may meet the MAPPA criteria should contact the Public Protection Unit on 01785 235170, 235171, 232032, 232085 for advice.
9. Notification of cases should be to the Public Protection Unit on a MAPPA referral form MAPPA 3 (ring the number above for a form if it is not available within own agency).

### **Multi-Agency Public Protection Panels**

10. Risk Assessment and management planning is achieved through a range of panel meetings which take place regularly across the county.
11. There are two levels of panels.
12. Level 3 – This is for the most serious offenders, considered the ‘critical few’.
13. These are cases which require close cooperation between agencies at a senior level due to the complexity of the case, because of the unusual resource commitments required or the case is exceptional because of the likelihood of media scrutiny/public interest in the case.
14. There are 2 monthly panels – North and South.
15. Level 2 – Local Inter-Agency Risk management. This is for cases where the active involvement of more than one agency is required, but where the level of risk or complexity is not so great as to require Level 3 MAPPP.
16. There are 4 monthly panels on each of the police divisions (except for Stoke, where the panel meets fortnightly).

17. In addition, at Level 2, there are 2 Youth Panels, North and South, which meet 3 monthly, and 3 'Hostel' panels to discuss residents at Staffordshire Probation Approved premises which also meet 3 monthly.

18. Offender case discussions can move between panels when required.

19. Level 1 – Ordinary Risk Management, where risks are managed by one agency. There are no panels at this level.

### **Expectations of Professionals**

20. Professionals of the responsible authority agencies have clear agency requirements in relation to MAPPA cases.

21. Staff from those agencies with a statutory duty to cooperate and who have an involvement with a MAPPA offender, his family or any person who may be identified as at risk from the offender should:

- share relevant information with police/probation/prison colleagues so far as is consistent with agency responsibilities
- attend panel meetings if invited and should inform their manager accordingly. Attendance should be given due priority
- if unable to attend, managers should arrange for a suitable alternative representative to attend
- where it is not possible to attend, a report detailing all relevant information should be provided to the panel
- ensure that any action agreed at the Panel meeting is completed in a timely fashion and the outcome reported to relevant persons

### **For further information:**

"MAPPA Guidance, Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements 2004". Available at [www.probation.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.probation.homeoffice.gov.uk).

"Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements guidance for Youth Offending Teams 2006". Available at [www.youth-justice-board.gov.uk](http://www.youth-justice-board.gov.uk)

"Memorandum of Understanding, Staffordshire MAPPA duty to Cooperate Policy and Procedures". (Contact Public Protection Unit if not available in your agency).

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements Guidance for Social Care Staff is available for Staffordshire Social Care Staff.

Tel: 01785 854019.