

Part 11B – Role and Function of the Safeguarding Children and Young People Panel

1. Background

In response to the April 2012 Ofsted report on Safeguarding and Looked After Children a number of recommendations were put to Cabinet in 18 June 2013. Cabinet agreed to establish a Safeguarding and Young People Panel. This would be in addition to the robust scrutiny of safeguarding, undertaken by the Children's Select Committee or a task group. The Panel should run in a similar manner to the Corporate Parenting Panel, in the following ways:

- Membership to include both members and officers;
- Close liaison with the broad range of teams and local agencies involving parents, children and young people (when appropriate) to develop policy; and
- ~~A clearly defined and mutually agreed distinction between the Panel's liaising role and the monitoring and scrutinising role of Scrutiny.~~

2. Purpose

The Panel's purpose will be to secure councillor involvement and commitment throughout the council to deliver better outcomes to ensure that all Wiltshire children and young people are safe.

3. Structure of the Safeguarding Children and Young People Panel

The Safeguarding Children and Young People Panel will comprise up to 8 elected councillors politically balanced and nominated by group leaders.

Group leaders may also appoint substitute members to cover absences.

~~The Cabinet member with responsibility for Children's Services will be an observer to the meeting.~~

The Associate Director and other relevant Council Officers will be part of the Panel, including front line Social Workers.

~~Core members will include:~~

- ~~Health Visitors/ School Nurses~~
- ~~Child protection Social Workers~~
- ~~Wiltshire Police~~
- ~~Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub~~

Relevant partner agencies and children and young people and their families/carers would be invited to attend as appropriate.

4. Responsibilities of the Safeguarding Children and Young People Panel

The Safeguarding Panel is a key mechanism by which councillors and officers can ensure that children and young people are safe by:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development
- Ensuring children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

5. Chairing

The Panel will be chaired by the Lead Member for Children's Services' or their designated representative. The Vice Chair will be appointed by the Panel.

6. Administration

- Democratic Services, Wiltshire Council will be responsible for the preparation of the agenda in consultation with the Chairman and relevant officers and minutes for the meetings of the Panel.
- The agenda and papers will be issued in advance of the meeting.

7. Cancellation of Meetings

Meetings where not required may be cancelled following consultation with the Chairman.

8. Links with existing groups

The Panel will maintain links with other bodies with a focus on safeguarding children. These should include but not be limited to:

- Cabinet
- LSCB
- Health and Wellbeing Board
- Children's Trust Commissioning Executive
- Complex Families Project Board
- Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Commissioning Group
- 13 to 19 Strategy Board
- Children in Care Commissioning Group
- Corporate Parenting Panel
- Wiltshire Association of Secondary Heads
- Primary Heads Forum