



## **Croydon Safeguarding Children Board (CSCB) and Sub-Groups**

### **Partner Compact**

**(February 2017)**

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The CSCB Compact sets out the commitments and standards for partners to work independently and collectively to safeguard children and young people through their role as part of the CSCB. For the Board to be effective, partner agencies must commit to engaging in the Board's statutory functions, including the business plan and other activities. This will ensure that the Board's plans are well coordinated, effectively monitored and successfully delivered.
- 1.2 This document will be reviewed annually by the CSCB in line with other policy developments relating to children and young people.
- 1.3 The CSCB will aim to provide information, support and advice for partner agencies to assist them in fulfilling their safeguarding obligations and statutory requirements.

#### **2. Commitments and Standards**

- 2.1 CSCB partners have agreed the following set of commitments and standards:
  - Partner agencies must contribute to, and engage fully and effectively in the work of the CSCB and/or the Subgroups, including chairing Subgroups or other meetings as nominated by the CSCB
  - Partner agencies must ensure strategic safeguarding issues are promptly brought to the attention of the CSCB and CSCB Independent Chairperson.
  - Partner agencies should support the work of the CSCB outside of CSCB meetings and ensure they report to the CSCB how they promote the wider health and welfare of children and young people and improve safeguarding outcomes
  - Partner agencies should ensure that CSCB representation covers both strategic and professional expertise and responsibilities (this may be through one or more person)
  - Partner agencies to agree to ensure commitment of time to CSCB business within and outside meetings
  - Partner agencies accepts and agrees to provide financial or other resources r if agreed by the CSCB to support the work of CSCB in line with Working Together 2015

- Partner agencies agree to ensure that there is liaison and feedback between the agency representative and front line staff of the agency in respect of the work of the CSCB
- Partner agencies to provide data for the CSCB dataset quarterly in a timely manner in accordance with the published timetable.
- Partner agencies to engage with the CSCB dataset process which includes reviewing the data submitted on Huddle by other agencies and comment on it on the Huddle conversation thread prior to the QAPP meetings when actions will be decided based on the data.
- Partner agencies comply with the programme of Section 11 safeguarding audits by submitting, presenting and taking action on their agency's audits and supporting the Board in scrutinizing other agencies returns
- Partner agencies to release resources to enable the CSCB to undertake a programme of case and other audits
- Partner agencies to commit to ensuring their staff access relevant in-house and multi-agency safeguarding training, provide data on the impact of training and contribute towards the CSCB learning and development strategy
- Partner agencies to contribute to the publication of the CSCB Annual Report (which is the responsibility of the LSCB Independent Chairperson to publish)
- Partner agencies agree to identify and undertake specific pieces of work in line with the work programme of the CSCB
- Partner agencies to ensure deadlines for work/reports are met as agreed by the CSCB
- Where a Partner Agency's representative cannot attend the CSCB meeting, then an appropriate nominated representative from the agency should aim to attend on their behalf
- If an agency's named representative fails to attend two consecutive or two CSCB board or sub-group meetings in a year without notifying the Board or identifying another representative of the agency, a letter will be written to the Chief Executive of the organisation by the CSCB Independent Chairperson.

2.2 In addition, where a CSCB representative is acting on behalf of a group or professional forum (e.g. voluntary sector, schools) the identified representative should:

- Be nominated by their sector (wherever possible)
- Publicise their name and contact details to their network and offer to raise issues to the CSCB (through the Independent Chairperson, the Board or the Subgroups) on behalf of practitioners, groups and forums, and
- Ensure effective communication across their sector in order that the wider views of that network informs the CSCB.

2.3 CSCB partner responsibilities in relation to an LSCB's statutory objectives and functions (Chapter 3, Working Together 2015) are shown in Appendix 1.

## Appendix 1

### Statutory objectives and functions of LSCBs (Chapter 3, Working Together 2015)

Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 sets out the objectives of LSCBs, which are:

- (a) to coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and
- (b) to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.

Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006 sets out that the functions of the LSCB, in relation to the above objectives under section 14 of the Children Act 2004, are as follows:

- 1(a) developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority, including policies and procedures in relation to:
  - (i) the action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare, including thresholds for intervention;
  - (ii) training of persons who work with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children;
  - (iii) recruitment and supervision of persons who work with children;
  - (iv) investigation of allegations concerning persons who work with children;
  - (v) safety and welfare of children who are privately fostered;
  - (vi) cooperation with neighbouring children's services authorities and their Board partners;
  - (vii) communicating to persons and bodies in the area of the authority the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising their awareness of how this can best be done and encouraging them to do so;
  - (viii) monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advising them on ways to improve;
  - (ix) participating in the planning of services for children in the area of the authority; and
  - (x) undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learned.

Regulation 5 (2) relates to the Child Death functions and LSCBs are responsible for:

- collecting and analysing information about each child death, and
- putting in place procedures for ensuring that there is a coordinated response by the authority, their Board partners and other relevant persons to an unexpected death.

Regulation 5 (3) provides that an LSCB may also engage in any other activity that facilitates, or is conducive to, the achievement of its objectives.

In order to fulfil its statutory functions under Regulation 5 an LSCB should use data and, as a minimum, should:

- assess the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families, including early help;
- assess whether LSCB partners are fulfilling their statutory obligations set out in Chapter 2 of Working Together 2015;
- quality assure practice, including through joint audits of case files involving practitioners and identifying lessons to be learned; and
- monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of training, including multi-agency training, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Local authorities and Board partners should provide the LSCB with data to enable it to fulfil its statutory functions effectively.

LSCBs do not commission or deliver direct frontline services though they may provide training. While LSCBs do not have the power to direct other organisations they do have a role in making clear where improvement is needed. Each Board partner retains its own existing line of accountability for safeguarding.