

## APPENDIX 4 - Relationship between ISCB and the Children and Families Board (CFB)

### Protocol agreement between the Islington Children and Families Board and Islington Safeguarding Children Board

Function

The Children and Families Board is a strategy development body which promotes strong joint planning and effective commissioning of services and support. It is responsible for developing and promoting a child and family-centred, outcome-led vision, set out in the Children and Families Strategy (formerly the Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP)) to drive improved outcomes for all local children and young people. It develops, supports and promotes joint working and frontline delivery, organised around the child or their family. The Strategy identifies Islington’s vision and priorities for improving children’s lives, clearly informed by their views and those of families and the community and a comprehensive needs analysis. The CFB monitors progress against its priorities at a high level and is responsible for putting in place robust arrangements for inter-agency governance. It produces an annual report on the extent to which the CFB partners act in accordance with the Strategy.

The LSCB is not a delivery body, it is a scrutiny body. However it would expect to initiate activities which investigate and improve practice in Safeguarding. It has the authority to call any agency represented on the Children and Families Board to account for its safeguarding activity. The LSCB and its activities are part of the wider context of children’s trust arrangements. The work of LSCB contributes to the wider goals of improving the wellbeing of all children. Within the wider governance arrangements its role is to ensure the effectiveness of the arrangements made by individual agencies and the wider partnership to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It is not subordinate to, or a sub-group of, the Children and Families Board

Relationship

The Children and Families Board will:

- Consult the Islington Safeguarding Children Board (ISCB) on issues which affect how children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted.
- Take note of recommendations and identified areas for improvement made by the LSCB and report back to the ISCB on subsequent progress
- Ensure the ISCB is formally consulted during the development of the Children and Families Strategy
- Invite the Chair of the ISCB to attend the Children and Families Board meetings, as needed
- Ensure that messages and information provided by the ISCB are appropriately disseminated within CFB member organisations
- Take an overview of the ISCB’s activities as part of its monitoring arrangements, where the work of the LSCB falls within the framework of the Children and Families Strategy.

The LSCB will:

- Take responsibility for monitoring action to improve safeguarding including action plans arising from Serious Case Reviews.
- Not be accountable for the operational work of local individuals and organisation. Each CFB partner retains their own existing lines of accountability for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children by their services
- Hold the CFB to account on matters of safeguarding in all its activities, providing appropriate challenge on performance and results of performance indicators
- Undertake audits and feedback results to the CFB, advising on ways to improve and highlight areas of underperformance
- Feedback learning from Serious Case Reviews and ensure that the lessons are learnt
- Highlight gaps in service for the CFB to consider as part of its joint commissioning process
- Will provide six monthly reports on its findings from its scrutiny activity to the Children and Families Board, including the annual report.

	<p>Both organisations will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have an ongoing and direct relationship, communicating regularly</li> <li>• Work together to ensure action taken by one body does not duplicate that taken by another</li> <li>• Ensure they are committed to working together to ensure there are no unhelpful strategic or operational gaps in policies, protocols, services or practice.</li> </ul>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>Implementation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Chair of Islington Children and Families Board will sit as a “participant observer” on the ISCB and, in a reciprocal arrangement, the ISCB chair will sit as a “participant observer” on Islington Children and Families Board. In practice, this means attending meetings and receiving all written reports. They will engage in discussions, seek clarity and ask questions, but will not be part of the decision making process.</li> <li>• ISCB will be involved in the development of the Children and Families Strategy from its inception. It will be consulted about the needs assessment and contribute to the setting of priorities. The ISCB will take responsibility for oversight and evaluation of the multiagency safeguarding elements of the Plan</li> <li>• At each 6-month and annual review of the CYPP, both Boards will receive a formal report of progress against targets.</li> <li>• Relevant issues arising from each ISCB meeting will be considered within the agenda-setting process for the subsequent Children and Families Board meeting, and vice versa.</li> <li>• Quarterly meetings will be held between respective business unit managers to ensure ongoing communication between, and connectivity of, relevant areas of business progressing through Boards. This will also help to avoid duplication of work and gaps in policies and services and ensure an aligned agenda-setting process between Boards. Minutes of Board meetings will be shared to assist this process.</li> </ul>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>Leader &amp; Chief Executive</b></p>	<p>The Leader of the Council and Chief Executive have a responsibility to ensure that both bodies are well led, managed and effective. As part of this role, the Leader and Chief Executive will consider the ISCB Annual Report regarding the effectiveness of arrangements for Safeguarding Children in Islington, including the effectiveness of governance and partnership arrangements in this regard. Their assessment, based on information within the ISCB Annual Report, will be included within the Children and Families Annual Report and will reflect the Children and Families Board response to the ISCB Annual Report.</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>Families</b></p>	<p>Both Boards have their respective scrutiny and challenge function.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both Boards will develop and monitor an agreed suite of performance information, including national and local, and quantitative and qualitative indicators.</li> <li>• In addition to these methods of mutual challenge the following routes may be instigated when required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Either Chair making a formal written request for information or consideration of an area of concern.</li> <li>• Either Chair making a request for an item to be placed on either Board meeting agenda to address a particular area of concern.</li> <li>• Either Chair requesting a meeting between Board Chairs (and other relevant representatives) to consider and agree a way forward regarding issues that have not been resolved by the above.</li> <li>• Where an area of concern cannot be resolved within the above framework, a resolution meeting will be held between Board Chairs, the Director of Children’s Services and Islington Council’s Chief Executive, as a minimum.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>