

Open Report on behalf of the Executive Director, Performance and Governance

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	9 September 2011
Subject:	Proposed merger of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board Scrutiny Sub-Group with the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board Scrutiny Sub-Group

Summary:

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to merge the Safeguarding Children Board Scrutiny Sub Group with the Safeguarding Adults Board Scrutiny Sub Group.

Actions Required:

To approve the proposal to merge the Safeguarding Children Board Scrutiny Sub-Group with the Safeguarding Adults Board Scrutiny Sub-Group.

1. Background

Current Arrangements

The County Council currently has two safeguarding scrutiny sub-groups: -

- The Safeguarding Adults Board Scrutiny Sub-Group, which reports to the Adults Scrutiny Committee, considers the effectiveness of the Lincolnshire Strategic Safeguarding Adults and Dignity Board.
- The Safeguarding Children Board Scrutiny Sub-Group, which reports to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, considers the effectiveness of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board.

Each sub-group considers the minutes of the most recent Safeguarding Board meeting and any other reports requested. The minutes of each scrutiny sub-group are reported to the next meeting of the relevant scrutiny committee.

Proposal for Merger

At the meeting of the Children's Safeguarding Scrutiny Sub-Group on 19 May 2011, it was suggested by members and officers present that the two safeguarding sub-groups could be merged. A merged sub-group considering both children's and adults safeguarding would represent the most effective use of member and officer time and would ensure that there was a full agenda for each meeting.

It should be emphasised that the Lincolnshire Strategic Safeguarding Adults and Dignity Board and the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board would continue to operate as separate entities.

Current Composition of the Scrutiny Sub Groups

Currently the two Sub Groups have the following membership:

<p align="center">Safeguarding Adults Board Scrutiny Sub-Group (eight members)</p>	<p align="center">Safeguarding Children Board Scrutiny Sub-Group (eleven members)</p>
<p>Six County Councillors:</p> <p>Councillor Mrs P A Mathers (Chairman) Councillor W J Aron Councillor Mrs C M H Farquharson Councillor J D Hough Councillor J R Marriott Vacancy</p> <p>Two Additional Members:</p> <p>Mr Richard Childs (NHS Lincolnshire) Mr Fred Mann JP (Police Authority)</p>	<p>Six County Councillors:</p> <p>Councillor S F Williams (Chairman) Councillor Mrs C M H Farquharson Councillor J R Hicks Councillor J D Hough Councillor H R Johnson Councillor R A Shore</p> <p>Five Additional Members:</p> <p>Mr Richard Childs (NHS Lincolnshire) Mr Fred Mann JP (Police Authority) Vacancy (District Council member representative) Mrs Elizabeth French (Parent Governor) Mr Steve Tyrell (Foster Carer)</p>

Proposed Membership

The membership of the proposed Sub Group could be as follows: -

<p align="center">Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group (eleven members)</p>
<p>Six County Councillors</p> <p>Five Additional Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS Lincolnshire • Police Authority • District Council Representative • Parent Governor • Foster Carer

Chairman and Vice Chairman

It is also proposed that the Chairman and Vice Chairman will be one of the six county council members of the Scrutiny Sub-Group. The Chairman will also be a

member of either the Adults Scrutiny Committee or the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, with the Vice Chairman being a member of the other Scrutiny Committee.

Draft Governance and Terms of Reference

Draft Governance Arrangements and Terms of Reference for the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group are attached at Appendix A.

Timetable for Implementation

Assuming that there is support for the proposals and each committee formally approves the proposed arrangements, councillors would be nominated to the new merged sub-group. The first meeting would then be scheduled for October or November 2011.

The following timetable summarises the arrangements:

12 July 2011	Consideration by the Safeguarding Adults Scrutiny Sub-Group
15 July 2011	Consideration by the Safeguarding Children Scrutiny Sub-Group
9 September 2011	Approval sought from the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
28 September 2011	Approval sought from the Adults Scrutiny Committee
October / November 2011	First Meeting of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group

It is proposed that the new merged sub-group will meet on a quarterly basis.

2. Conclusion

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is asked to approve the proposed merger of the two safeguarding scrutiny sub-groups, which is also subject to approval by the Adults Scrutiny Committee.

3. Consultation

Senior officers involved with safeguarding have been consulted regarding this proposal and they are supportive and, importantly, they do not believe that the Council's approach to safeguarding would be diminished by this merger.

A report on the proposed merger was considered at a meeting of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board Scrutiny Sub-Group on 15 July 2011. The draft minutes from this meeting are also on today's agenda as a separate item. The Safeguarding Children's Scrutiny Sub-Group supported the proposal in principle, but suggested that it should be introduced on a six month trial basis to see whether or not a merged safeguarding scrutiny body would work in practice. The Safeguarding Children's Scrutiny Sub-Group also felt that consideration should be

given to whether the attendance of the Independent Chairmen of the two Safeguarding Boards should be incorporated in the draft terms of reference for the proposed merged body.

The same report was also considered by the Safeguarding Adults Scrutiny Sub-Group at its meeting on 12 July 2011 where the proposal for the merger was approved.

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

Not applicable

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Joint LSCB LSAB Scrutiny Sub-Group Terms of Reference

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Tracy Johnson, who can be contacted on 01522 552164 or tracy.johnson@lincolnshire.gov.uk.