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There are many agencies in Hertfordshire supporting children and young people, and they all work together as a partnership to ensure they are keeping children safe.

Some changes have been made to the way these agencies work together to keep children safe, because of new government guidance. The main changes are that:

1. There are now three organisations in Hertfordshire who are jointly responsible for the partnership arrangements for keeping children safe:
   - Hertfordshire County Council
   - Hertfordshire Constabulary
   - The two local Clinical Commissioning Groups: East and North Herts CCG and Herts Valley CCG

2. The Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board will change its name to the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

3. The Partnership will adopt a new structure which includes someone independent challenging its work, and a focus on learning.

This Plan sets out the detail of how the new Partnership will work, as well as why and how the changes were made.

At the heart of the arrangements is a commitment from all agencies to work together to keep children safe and to continuously improve and learn how to best do this.
Welcome to the Hertfordshire children’s multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and our plan of how we will adopt and implement these new arrangements across the partnership.

The changes have given us the opportunity to review and change some of our ways of working, building on strengths within the good partnership relationships that already exist but focusing on how we can make a real difference to multi-agency frontline practice to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families. We aim to achieve these improvements by developing and spreading good practice based on what we know works well and is evidenced based.

This plan of arrangements, sets out how we, as the safeguarding partners, will work together and with other agencies, to identify and respond to the needs of children in Hertfordshire. Our ambition is to develop an equitable and robust partnership and the plan outlines our new ways of working. This ensures a proactive and responsive approach to the needs of children, young people and families in the area and drives opportunities to shape and influence policy development leading to improved practice and outcomes.

“I believe the new arrangements will enable the partners to work even more effectively together and I welcome the challenge and chance to continue to improve together, outcomes for children in Hertfordshire.”

Director of Nursing and Quality, East and North Herts

“The development of these new partnership arrangements have given the Hertfordshire safeguarding partners the opportunity to build the strengths of the safeguarding system and continue to improve services, promote a learning culture and involve young people and families in designing our responses.”

Director of Children’s Services

“These changes enhance the already strong partnerships we have in Hertfordshire. The new arrangements will ensure that we consistently check and challenge ourselves in our work to jointly make children safer. The Partnership aim is to consistently improve our responses and to never be complacent when it comes to protecting the most vulnerable people in society.”

Assistant Chief Constable for Local Policing
Background

Local context to safeguarding children in Hertfordshire

Hertfordshire is located just to the north of London, covering an area of 634 square miles, with a population of around 1.1m making Hertfordshire one of the most densely populated shire counties in England.
About Hertfordshire

Population

- **267,000**
- Under 18
- Approximately 11% of children in Hertfordshire are in low income families
- 10-14 year olds: 13.6%
- 15-19 year olds: 24.2%
- Population growth in under 19’s between 2018 and 2027 compared with 6% nationally

Deprivation

- Approximately 11% of children in Hertfordshire are entitled to claiming free school meals

Diversity

- The largest minority ethnic groups of children and young people in the area are Asian and mixed ethnic groups
- Children and young people from minority ethnic groups (excluding white other)
- 17% of all children living in Hertfordshire
- 22% of all children living in the country

Education

- 534 schools in Hertfordshire
- 87.7% of Hertfordshire schools rated good or outstanding by Ofsted (Sept 2018)
- 2% of pupils in Hertfordshire schools have an Education Health and Care (EHC) Plan or Statement
- National average is 2.8%
Safeguarding children in Hertfordshire has previously been successfully led by the ‘Hertfordshire Children Safeguarding Board’.

The Wood Review 2015 and the subsequent government guidance ‘Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018’ required all local areas to review their safeguarding arrangements. As an Early Adopter of the guidance, Hertfordshire undertook a systematic review of the existing Board during summer 2018.

The initial principles and considerations adopted when conducting the review were to:

- Involve all partner agencies, not just the three statutory partners
- Learn from experience and evidence and what works well
- Ensure workable strategic and operational arrangements – fit form to function
- Aim to reduce duplication across partnerships
- Champion the interests and rights of children and young people
- Ensure accountable oversight and feedback on performance and outcomes
- Scrutinise and improve practice
- Ensure partnerships are proportionate, efficient, effective and adequately resourced
This document publicly sets out the detail of how the Partnership arrangements will operate from January 2019, which was agreed following the review. As an Early Adopter of the new arrangements, some of the elements of the Partnership are new and will require some testing before confirming their suitability for the longer term.

**Learning about what works is at the heart of Hertfordshire’s approach.**
The three local safeguarding partners jointly leading the Partnership are:

- **Hertfordshire County Council**: represented by the Director of Children’s Services
- **Hertfordshire Constabulary**: represented by the Assistant Chief Constable for Local Policing
- **The two local Clinical Commissioning Groups**: East and North Herts CCG and Herts Valley CCG: represented by the Director of Nursing and Quality, East and North Herts

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**New child safeguarding arrangements for Hertfordshire**

The previous Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board will change its name to the *Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership*.

Safeguarding partners in Hertfordshire will work together in order to identify and respond to the needs of children through the new Partnership.

The Partnership will operate in line with the requirements of the statutory guidance ‘Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018’ and will cover the geographical area of Hertfordshire, as defined by the local authority boundaries. The geographical footprint corresponds with that of the East and North Herts CCG and Herts Valley CCG footprint and the Hertfordshire Constabulary. The safeguarding partners and other organisations and agencies included in these arrangements will fulfil their statutory duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children from Hertfordshire who live or are placed outside of our local authority area.
Thresholds and levels of need

The Partnership will oversee the safeguarding of children with a range of levels of need, as shown by Hertfordshire’s continuum of need below, which forms part of the local threshold document:

- **Universal Services/Universal Plus**
- **Emerging needs/Universal Plus** Requiring additional support
- **Targeted/Universal Partnership** Additional & complex needs requiring multi-agency support
- **Intensive family support** Intensive multi-agency support over a limited period

This continuum forms an integral part of Hertfordshire’s approach to supporting children, ensuring the right support is provided by the right agency, based on the child’s level of need. The approach also promotes earlier support for families to address issues before they escalate to crisis point and ensure that children are kept safe from harm.
Vision and Values

Vision
The Partnership’s vision is that multi-agency child safeguarding arrangements in Hertfordshire are of the highest quality, with the child at their heart; and that practice continuously improves and evolves across all agencies to reflect changing needs and circumstances.

Values
Safeguarding partners in Hertfordshire are committed to delivering their vision according to a set of agreed values and principles, and these govern the work of the whole Partnership:

- The child is at the heart of everything we do
- Sharing information between partners, and operating with trust and openness
- Continuous learning and the flexibility to evolve the Partnership as needs change
- Ensuring everyone has a voice, including children and families
- Partners taking ownership and responsibility
- Strong communication and engagement within the Partnership, with clear roles and responsibilities
- Excellent integration between adults and children’s safeguarding
- Ensuring a balance of respect for individual organisations and appropriate challenge
- Ensuring alignment, connection and learning across the Partnership – a golden thread from the Strategic Board, through the subgroups to the front line
- Ensuring involvement and focus on front line practitioners
- Keeping a preventative mind-set and adopting a ‘Think Family’ approach
- Joint priority setting across partner agencies
The strength of local partnership working is dependent on safeguarding partners working collaboratively together with relevant agencies, whose involvement the safeguarding partners consider is required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

In addition to the three main statutory safeguarding partners, a number of other relevant agencies will also work as part of the Partnership, reflecting the strong partnership relationships already built up in Hertfordshire over many years. These agencies will be members of the Strategic Partnership Group and participate in the Learning Hubs; and some will also be members of subgroups.

**Schools** – with 534 settings in Hertfordshire (including 60 independent schools), schools are a vital safeguarding partner. Schools will be engaged as part of the Strategic Partnership Group and subgroups to ensure joint working to safeguard children within a multi-agency shared approach. The Partnership will aim to build on established relationships with schools and education providers to ensure they remain a key partner agency when the landscape of school organisation is changing. There will also be a focus on exploring how schools can contribute to ensuring the voices of children and young people contribute to safeguarding developments and priorities. The termly twilight sessions for Designated Safeguarding Leads in schools will mirror the Learning hub arrangements and topics and will act as a mechanism for schools to learn, as well as an opportunity to provide feedback and participate in the work of the partnership.

**Early Years Settings** – with 2,300 settings in Hertfordshire including private and voluntary sector providers, childminders and after school clubs, this is a large but important sector to include in the Partnership. Settings will be engaged through the Learning Hubs to ensure effective sharing of learning and practice and a multi-agency approach to safeguarding children.

**Probation** – both National Probation and the CRC will continue to be key partners within the new arrangements and will contribute to the Strategic Partnership Group, subgroups and Learning hub.

**District councils** – Hertfordshire as a two tier authority, has ten district councils who are crucial for delivery of services to families with Hertfordshire and have specific responsibilities for Community Safety. The District Council Chief Executive lead will sit on the Executive group and will chair the Joint (adults and children) District council subgroup to coordinate and lead on safeguarding.
| **CAFCASS** | will remain a partner within the new arrangements and will be invited to attend the Strategic Partnership Group. |
| **NHS Trusts:** | East & North Herts Hospitals NHS Hertfordshire Community Health Trust, West Herts Hospitals NHS Trust, Herts Partnership NHS Foundation Trust – remain key to delivering services to children and families in Hertfordshire and therefore will be represented on the Executive and Strategic Partnership group, with representatives on subgroups. Frontline practitioners will also be represented on the Learning Hubs. |
| **NHS England** | Hertfordshire and South Midland Local Area Team – have not normally attended the Board. They will be invited if and when necessary. |
| **Hertfordshire County Council Public Health** | will remain as a key partner and contribute to the Board through the Strategic Partnership Group. |
| **Hertfordshire County Council Adult Care Services** | the Partnership will share a business unit with the Safeguarding Adults Board, recognising that effective join up is required between the two safeguarding partnerships which share many of the same partner agencies and overall objectives. The Learning and Development and the District Council subgroup will also be run jointly with the Adult Board. |
| University of Hertfordshire | is not currently a member of the current Board but a representative of the University contributes to the Learning and Development subgroup and this will continue in the new arrangements. |
| **Other providers of commissioned services to children and families e.g. local school partnerships, Family Centre Service, Drug and Alcohol treatment provider, Sexual Health Service provider** | These services will be invited to contribute to specific subgroups. They will be required to give regular updates about their work to ensure safeguarding is embedded in their arrangements as part of the scrutiny process. Frontline staff will be involved with Learning Hubs where relevant. |
| **Police and Crime Commissioner** | will be involved in the bi-annual arrangements for strategic partnerships to consider joint priorities. |
| **Voluntary sector** | will continue to be involved with the partnership arrangements and a representative will be invited to Strategic Partnership Group and local voluntary sector representation on the local Learning Hubs. |
| **Lead Member for Children’s Services** | will continue to be a member of the Strategic Partnership group. |
The systematic review of the previous Board’s structure described above, sought to reduce duplication and improve integration with other local partnerships.

As a result of the review the number of subgroups forming the Partnership has significantly reduced, and new groups are strongly focussed on improving practice and ensuring an emphasis on learning, enabling a feedback loop across partner agencies and the front line.

A Chairs group will support and coordinate the work of the subgroups, providing a mechanism for the chairs of each subgroup to meet regularly, receive reports, undertake analysis, monitor plans and approve work completed. This will ensure that there is coordination and information sharing between them and the work they oversee.

A visual structure is below, along with a detailed description of the role of each group:

**Partnership Structure**

**Executive Group**

**Strategic Partnership Group**

- Audit & Performance
- Local Safeguarding Practice Review Panel
- Joint Learning & Development
- Practice, Policy & Procedures
- Strategic Safeguarding Adolescents Group
- Joint District Safeguarding Group

**Subgroups**

- Multi-agency Learning Hub
- Task & Finish Groups
- Chairs Group
Executive Group

The three safeguarding partners will come together regularly as part of the Executive Group to drive forward the work of the Partnership, ensuring the vision and values are upheld. This group will also develop, implement and monitor an annual plan and agree priority actions against core business; and will direct the Partnership’s subgroups into delivery of the plan. Finally, this group will ensure effective scrutiny arrangements are in place across the Partnership.

Strategic Partnership Group

This Strategic Partnership Group will have a wide strategic membership of other stakeholders and ‘relevant agencies’, including schools, probation services, district councils, the Lead Member for Children’s Services and health providers. It will meet three times a year, with meetings themed around agreed local and national safeguarding priorities and areas identified through data and performance, to provide a learning model based meeting that is focussed on outcomes.

Audit and Performance Group

The Partnership will use data intelligence and audits to ensure the help being provided to children in Hertfordshire is effective. To achieve this, the Audit and Performance Subgroup, will be responsible for analysing multi-agency safeguarding performance data to inform the Board of relevant trends and risk to performance, and conducting a series of multi-agency audits per year, informed by data intelligence, Board priorities and findings from case reviews.

This group will:

- Include membership from early help teams and the analysis of early help data, as well as data from safeguarding and specialist services.
- Conduct a series of multi-agency audits per year, informed by data intelligence, Board priorities and findings from case reviews. It is expected that at least two major ‘deep dive’ audits will be conducted per year, in addition to smaller ‘dip dive’ audits which may be multi or single agency depending on the identified need.
- Develop and monitor actions plans resulting from multi-agency audits or identified performance risks, and ensure that actions are completed in a timely manner (within six months).
- Identify whether practice has changed as a result of completed audits and action plans, through performance data review and re-auditing where necessary.
- Ensure that all relevant safeguarding partners are included in multi-agency performance data analysis and audits, including schools.
- Receive, analyse and challenge relevant single agency audit reports and performance reviews, and identify any significant issues that need to be monitored and/or raised to the Board.
Local Safeguarding Practice Review Panel

This group will oversee the review of serious child safeguarding cases which raise issues of importance in relation to Hertfordshire. The purpose of undertaking child practice reviews will be to identify any improvements that should be made locally to safeguard children. The reviews will enable partners to identify and understand the reasons and causes of strengths and weaknesses in local practice. The arrangements will include sharing of good practice as well as assessment of situations where there have been ‘near misses’, and will set out how lessons learnt will be applied and monitored.

This group will ensure clarity, high quality and consistency in practice in carrying out case reviews and ensure that the partnership learn lessons that can improve the response to children and families. All case reviews will be carried out to provide learning and development for individuals, teams and organisations involved in safeguarding. The subgroup will maintain this learning as its primary focus.

Joint Learning and Development Group

Inter-agency training is another clear priority for the safeguarding partners. The Joint Learning and Development Subgroup will identify multi-agency safeguarding learning needs that require addressing to ensure partner agencies develop their workforces to a high quality standard and are keeping children safe. The group will also encompass safeguarding training to support vulnerable adults with care needs and domestic abuse training, to ensure effective join up across the system.

The group will:

• Be responsible for planning and organising appropriate multi-agency safeguarding learning and development activities, as well as challenging or influencing the activities delivered by individual agencies.

• Ensure identified multi-agency safeguarding learning needs are addressed for the children’s and adults’ workforces. This may include planning and organising appropriate multi-agency safeguarding learning and development activities, as well as challenging or influencing the activities delivered by individual agencies.

• Deliver consistently high quality multi-agency safeguarding learning and development activities that incorporate relevant research, national good practice and learning from case reviews and safeguarding adult reviews.

• Evaluate multi-agency learning and development activities to seek assurance that delivery is of high quality and has met requirements and to inform future planning.

• Annually report to the Children’s Safeguarding Partners and the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board on how inter-agency training will be commissioned, delivered and monitored for impact, including how learning will be embedded across different agencies.
Practice, Policy and Procedures Group
Hertfordshire has a range of effective inter-agency Child Protection and Safeguarding Children Procedures. This group will regularly review these procedures to ensure they remain fit for purpose and are updated to reflect changing needs, government legislation, partnership reviews and the findings of quality assurance exercises and inspections.

The group will also proactively challenge and support multi-agency working to improve outcomes for children and families and will develop new strategies to support multi-agency partnership working on specific issues where needed.

Strategic Safeguarding Adolescents Group
There is a group that focusses on vulnerable young people in Hertfordshire who are at risk of going missing, CSE, trafficking, gang affiliation and County Lines. This group will provide a local framework in which all partner agencies can work to deliver collectively the best protection for these children, through developing contextualised safeguarding across the partnership, sharing best practice, improving data and intelligence collection and continuous monitoring of performance. It will also monitor the delivery of the strategic plan for Serious Violence in areas involving children and young people.

Joint District Safeguarding Group
The Partnership is committed to ensuring that services to Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults across the district and borough councils in Hertfordshire are provided in accordance with legislation and statutory guidance. This group will therefore provide district councils with a link to the Partnership, advising of any challenges faced by district councils in delivering their safeguarding responsibilities and supporting the district safeguarding representatives in reviewing, implementing and monitoring all district and borough council protocols, policies and procedures relating to safeguarding of all vulnerable groups. It will also act as a consultative forum for each council on the development of new policies and procedures that might impact on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

Child Death Review Group
This group will manage the completion of child death reviews, following the new statutory guidance in this area. It will adopt a Hertfordshire footprint to reviewing child deaths, consistent with the previous approach adopted by the child death overview panel.
In order to ensure coordination with other partnership arrangements in Hertfordshire, there will be a biannual meeting between all the Partnership Boards with a safeguarding remit for vulnerable children and adults that operate across the county.

This includes:
- Domestic Abuse Partnership
- Health and Wellbeing Board
- Hertfordshire Adults Safeguarding Board
- Drug and Alcohol Strategic Board
- Youth Justice Board
- Community Safety Board
- Criminal Justice Board

These links will promote effective communication and engagement and ensure not only that “safeguarding is everybody’s business” but also synergy of work programmes.

To provide a framework for this engagement a protocol will be developed to articulate:
- Role and responsibility of the partnerships
- Accountability and governance arrangements
- Scrutiny and challenge
- Priorities and responsibilities for delivery
The responsibility for how the system learns lessons from serious child safeguarding incidents lies at a national level with the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and at a local level with the safeguarding partners.

**Serious child safeguarding cases are those in which:**
- abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected and
- the child has died or been seriously injured

**The three safeguarding partners must make arrangements to:**
- identify serious child safeguarding cases which raise issues of importance in relation to the area
- commission and oversee the review of those cases, where they consider it appropriate for a review to be undertaken

There is an ongoing commitment to continuous learning and improvement leading to enhanced practice, improved outcomes and experiences. Safeguarding partners will continue to take account of the findings from all local and national reviews with a view to considering how identified improvements should be implemented locally. This includes the way in which organisations and agencies work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

We will look at using different methods including appreciative enquiry to undertake and learn from these reviews of practice. Findings from the local reviews undertaken in Hertfordshire will be shared with relevant parties locally through the Learning Hubs and there will be regular auditing to ascertain progress on the implementation of recommended improvements.

The sustainability of these improvements will be monitored regularly and followed up by the independent scrutineer to ensure that there is a real impact on improving outcomes for children.

The Partnership will run a Learning Hub, which will improve local safeguarding practice. The Hub aims to be an important two way feedback loop between front line practitioners and the Strategic Board, ensuring learning on priority local issues is shared and acted on at all levels in a timely way.
The Learning Hubs will focus on three themes each year. These themes will be priority issues for local practice as identified by the Executive Group.

For each theme, the Hub will:

1. Identify a senior manager from the local authority, Police or CCGs to lead.

2. Produce an online newsletter detailing current data, statutory guidance, good practice and research, and circulate this to front line practitioners with an online survey requesting feedback on how to improve multi-agency working in this area.

3. Run five Local Learning Hub Forums for front line practitioners in community venues across Hertfordshire, three times a year. Each Local Forum will have a consistent local chair and will provide an opportunity for front line practitioners in the area to hear from experts about how to improve their own practice and also feed their views, concerns and suggestions into the wider Partnership.

4. Present the suggestions and recommendations received from front line practitioners to the Strategy Partnership Group.

5. Feedback action taken by the Partnership to frontline practitioners through the next newsletter and next forum.

The Learning Hub will be for all front line practitioners and managers involved in working with children and families, across all agencies in Hertfordshire including the voluntary sector. Practitioners working with vulnerable adults will also be welcome to participate where the theme is relevant to their work.

The Learning Hub will link to the rest of the Partnership in the following ways:

- The Partnerships’ Learning and Development Sub-Group will continue to plan and deliver a programme of safeguarding training courses for front line practitioners, and it will take into account feedback from the Learning Hub when developing its annual training programme.

- Regular Twilight Sessions for Designated Safeguarding Leads will run separate to the Learning Hub Forums, but they will adopt the same themes as far as possible.

- The work of all other Partnership Groups will contribute towards identifying the themes for the Learning Hub, and taking action in response to feedback received from front line practitioners.
Effectiveness and change

Implement agreed improvements

Multi-agency training

Practice with children young people and families

Multi-agency
Partnership
Board

Safeguarding Champions

The decisions and oversight

The frontline

Learning Hub

Learning output

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The safeguarding partners understand the key role of independent scrutiny in providing assurance, monitoring and challenging the quality of agencies’ work, in order to judge the effectiveness of the multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Hertfordshire.

It is recognised that the role of independent scrutiny is to provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases. It is envisaged that the scrutineer will act as a constructive critical friend and be a key driver to promoting reflection for continuous improvement across the partnership.

It is expected that the scrutiny system will consider how effectively the arrangements are working for children and families as well as for practitioners, as well as how well the safeguarding partners are providing leadership.

To reflect the importance placed on scrutiny, a workshop was held in December 2018 to develop a local model for scrutiny in Hertfordshire. Using an appreciative inquiry approach, the workshop allowed partner agencies to consider what scrutiny and challenge meant, what worked well currently and what their aspirations were for the future. The following approach is therefore based on considerable discussion and input from a range of partners.

**Culture of scrutiny**

Scrutiny in Hertfordshire will be focussed on learning as its outcome and will be positive in its approach. The Partnership will aim to build a culture where everyone involved in safeguarding children from the front line up to the Strategic Board, welcomes scrutiny and actively participates in it; trusting and learning from each other as well as taking accountability. We aim to achieve improvement by developing and spreading good practice based on what we know works well and is evidenced based.

In practice this will involve using tools such as appreciative inquiry to conduct audits and prepare information for the Learning Hub, seeking to normalise peer to peer challenge, and ensuring that the work of the Partnership is strengths based, consistently asking about how partners can learn from positive practice and the experiences of children and families, as well as where things don’t go so well.
System of scrutiny

Hertfordshire will adopt a system of scrutiny. This system will involve rolling scrutiny using multiple forms, with oversight from an independent Scrutineer who will require assurance of whether all agencies are fulfilling their responsibilities to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

The Scrutineer will be independent from the statutory partners, and they will have expertise in child safeguarding, an understanding of local need and effective partnerships.

They will oversee the development of the scrutiny system and the delivery of an annual scrutiny plan, and their role will include:

- Attending the Executive Group and Strategic Partnership group in their scrutiny role, as well as the Audit and Performance subgroup.
- Reviewing the Partnership’s annual report.
- Reviewing audits and performance data, including s11 audits.
- Ensuring regular thematic peer reviews.
- Determine the effectiveness of arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases.
- Involvement in the escalation and conflict resolution process.
- Contribution to the Learning Hub.
- Have a direct line of sight to frontline practice including conversations/feedback with frontline practitioners.
- Ensuring the voice of the child and service users is at the heart of all aspects of scrutiny by talking with and receiving direct feedback from children, young people and families to test the interconnectedness between performance, practice and the voice of the child, young person and family.
- Culture change throughout the Partnership to embed scrutiny as a positive process with learning as its outcome.
- Ensuring informed challenge from Elected Members takes place.

Further work will be undertaken in the first year of the Partnership’s operation to develop and define the scrutiny system though the agreement of a consistent set of principles for scrutiny and an annual scrutiny plan. A model of appreciative enquiry will be at the centre of developing the scrutiny framework.

Going forward, the Executive Group will regularly review the scrutiny system and delivery against the scrutiny plan and will make changes as required. The Executive Group will also be responsible for ensuring that any recommendations from scrutiny are taken forward.
The voice of the child is at the heart of the Partnership. Involving children and families is important to safeguarding in Hertfordshire both in contributing to delivering the Partnership’s vision and in helping to scrutinise and review the partnership arrangements themselves.

The Partnership will make use of the many existing arrangements in place across Hertfordshire to regularly involve children and families in its work and hear their voices.

These include:

- Children in Care Council
- Young Commissioners programme
- Health Watch
- Service user panels

The Partnership will ensure children and families are involved regularly and that their views are included particularly on the following elements of its work:

- When conducting audits
- When developing new policies and procedures
- When gathering information on identified themes for the Learning Hub
- When conducting scrutiny exercises and peer reviews
- When setting annual priorities – an annual engagement exercise will take place to ask for their views
Dispute resolution and escalation process

Independent scrutiny will also assist in the event of a disagreement between the safeguarding partners and/or relevant agencies involved in the partnership and will form part of the escalation process.

Transition

The new Partnership will commence on 31st January 2019, with a transition period in February and March, with the full arrangements in operation by 1st April 2019.

A transition plan will be developed by the Partnership’s business unit to ensure that all current actions in the 2018/19 Business Plan and ongoing case reviews are completed in line with the original objectives and set out in statutory transition guidance.
The work of the Partnership will be supported by a business unit hosted by Hertfordshire County Council and shared with the Adult Safeguarding Board.

This continues the same arrangements used for the previous Safeguarding Children Board. The administrative support for child death reviews will also remain hosted within the business unit.

The safeguarding partners are committed to equitable and proportionate funding of this business support and the work of the Partnership as a whole. Contributions from relevant agencies to support the local arrangements have therefore been agreed, and enhanced by one of the partners to ensure a more proportionate contribution. These are sufficient to cover all elements of the arrangements, including the cost of local child safeguarding practice reviews.

**Funding for 2019/20 is as follows, note that CAFCASS and Probation funding is currently subject to final agreement:**

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<thead>
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More information

For more information on the work of the Partnership including the latest news and updates, please see the Partnership’s website or contact:

SafeguardingBoards@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Team
Room 152
Postal Point CH0116
County Hall
Hertford
SG13 3DQ

01992 588757
Signatures

Signature of Local Authority Chief Executive

(Owen Mapley – Chief Executive, Hertfordshire County Council)

Signature of Local Authority Director of Children’s Services

(Jenny Coles – Director of Children’s Services Hertfordshire County Council)

Signature of the accountable officer for the Clinical Commissioning Group which is mainly responsible for the area

(Beverley Flowers – Chief Executive, East & North Herts CCG)

Signature of the local Chief of Police

(Charlie Hall - Chief Constable, Hertfordshire Constabulary)

Date: 31st January 2019