



## **Sandwell Statutory 5+ Boards Partnership Protocol**

- **Sandwell Health and Wellbeing Board**
- **Sandwell Safeguarding Adults Board**
- **Sandwell Children's Safeguarding Partnership**
- **Safer Sandwell Partnership Police and Crime Board**
- **Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership**
- **Sandwell Youth Justice Partnership Board**
- **Sandwell Children and Families Strategic Partnership**
- **CONTEST**

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## Introduction

This protocol was developed to confirm a shared set of values and behaviours that will serve to underpin and strengthen partnership work and ensure clear expectations and protocols between all 5+ statutory and other non-statutory boards.

This will ensure a transparent, efficient and clear process for the sharing of knowledge, skills, information and resources and will clarify the distinct roles and responsibilities of the Boards, the inter-relationships between them in terms of their priorities and the means by which we will secure effective co-ordination and coherence.

This paper sets out a proposed protocol which will secure effective joint-working between the 5+ Boards, starting with a set of agreed values and behaviours.

### Values

- Integrity: doing what we say we will do;
- Equality: recognising uniqueness and treating everyone fairly;
- Empowering: enabling everyone to work in partnership in a co productive relationship
- Inspiring: striving for excellence;
- Valuing: treating everyone with respect and dignity;
- Inclusion: valuing equality and diversity and a person-centered flexible approach.

### Behaviours

- Commitment to partners;
- Effectively communicate, make decisions and be accountable;
- Combine expertise;
- Actively work to remove barriers to equality of access and opportunity;
- Maintain clarity of expectations and achieve agreed outcomes;
- Monitor, evaluate, review and report on performance, progress and celebrate success.

## Working in Partnership

Each of the Boards are independent of each other but need to ensure that they take a *whole family* approach to setting priorities and reporting performance where needed.

The following standards are a way for partners to agree a way of effective working determined by this partnership agreement.

The statutory 5+ board partnership will:

- ✓ embed high ethical standards in partnership working;
- ✓ build strong and constructive relationships;
- ✓ hold each other to account and encourage constructive challenge and dialogue between Boards;
- ✓ aid mediation on disagreement by providing reference to clearly defined commitments by partners;
- ✓ exercise leadership by demonstrating high standards of behaviour to other partners and to the public
- ✓ promote trust amongst the wider partnerships demonstrating strategic leader's commitment to a certain standard of behaviour.
- ✓ Commit to making best use of resources and seek to join up activity as a priority.

### Communication and Engagement opportunities

In order to enhance progress and where necessary scrutinise the work of each board, it is essential to develop clear methods of communication and to identify relevant engagement opportunities to support and enable the embedding of the principles of co-production.

#### Communication and engagement aims:

- To increase awareness and understanding of local people on the role and work of the 5+ statutory boards
- To publicise the progress of the boards to all relevant partners and providers of services

#### Across board communications aims:

- Develop a coordinated approach across the 5+ boards
- Ensure information sharing channels are developed and maintained
- Creating *added value* by utilising joint communication and engagement opportunities wherever possible

- Ensure learning from each other is built on and shared
- Ensure the systems are regularly reviewed in terms of effectiveness and impact and consideration given, as part of this review process, to different ways of working that maximise opportunities for working together better (this could include sharing resources as well as learning)

## **The 5+ Board Managers**

- Board managers/officers will work together to build on effective partnerships and relationships acting as “champions” of the joined-up approach and the overall aims of the 5+ Boards. They will do this by:
  - Working together
  - Agreeing a structure that enables clear communication both internally and externally
  - Engaging effectively with individual Board Chairs and the 5+ Board Chairs as a collective
  - Supporting the agreed work programme and priorities of the 5+ Boards
  - Agreeing clear actions and out comes
  - Clear lines of accountability to individual Boards and the 5+ Boards

## **The 5+ Board Chairs**

- Will demonstrate an active commitment to the 5+ Boards principle and ambition, they will do this by
  - Working together with the Board Managers and each other and engage in proactive challenge and learning
  - To act as “champions” of the joined-up approach and the overall aims of the 5+ Boards.
  - Actively consider opportunities to promote working together as the Statutory 5+ Boards
  - Set a clear strategic direction
  - Support and enable resolution of potential barriers to effective working together where possible
  - Celebrate success and achievement
  - Support and enable a learning culture and share good practice
  - Joint Priorities and Collaborative working

Board Chairs and Managers recognise that there are several cross-cutting themes within individual Boards, which each of the partnerships have an interest in. To avoid duplication, and to take leadership of the area, one of the Partnerships will be allocated a lead role.

**Joint Priority 1: *Prevention of Violence and Exploitation (PoVE)*** (already an agreed priority across all 5+ boards in 2016, led by the SSP.)

A mandate to continue this work collectively will ensure strategic direction is established and operational resources identified to implement the partnership PoVE Delivery Plan. The PoVE lead based within the Community Safety team co-ordinates the Plan acting as a conduit to share programme details, bring leads together and provides progress assurance to the Board chairs.

The priorities identified below were also agreed by the Joint Chairs of the key statutory Boards identified within this document at their meeting on 09/05/22 and further confirmed 10/11/22. These will be subject to review over the next 12 months.

**Joint Priority 2: *Develop an Early Help offer for adults and continue to develop the early help offer for children and families with learning being shared across the system enabling the development and understanding of a cohesive offer***

**Joint Priority 3: *Domestic Abuse as it relates to adults with additional care and support needs and the impact of domestic abuse on children (this supports the continued delivery of the Think Family model ensuring families are a whole)***

**Joint Priority 4: *Ensuring that learning from all statutory reviews is shared and embedded in all practice and that systems are developed to maximise all opportunities for learning and the publication of meaningful recommendations***

## Ways of Working

Across all 5+ boards internally we will:

- Ensure information sharing channels are developed and maintained
- Creating *added value* by utilising joint training, communication and engagement opportunities wherever possible
- Other cross cutting areas identified will be allocated a lead partnership as required
- Ensure each Board is regularly updated on progress made in the implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the

individual Board Business Plans in a context of mutual scrutiny and challenge

- Annually reporting evaluations of performance to provide the opportunity for reciprocal scrutiny and challenge and to enable Boards to feed any improvement and development needs into the planning process for future years' strategies and plans.
- The annual reports from both Safeguarding Boards will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

## Desired Partnership Outcomes

The outcomes from ensuring coordination and collaboration between the Partnerships will be:

- ✓ securing an integrated approach to working together
- ✓ aligning the work and business planning functions of all the statutory partners outlined and signed up to this document
- ✓ ensuring safeguarding is "everyone's business" and is reflected across all statutory board strategies
- ✓ identifying coordinated approaches for performance management, transformational change and commissioning
- ✓ cross board accountability and challenge and "holding to account" 5+ boards for overall performance and contribution
- ✓ identifying opportunities to 'add value' as a collective

## Governance

Our Partnerships need effective governance to make a positive impact and achieve better outcomes for the Borough. This includes having clear protocols for sharing:

- information, skills and knowledge to achieve improved outcomes within and across all sectors;
- resources be that financial, facilities, time or people for improved efficiencies;
- celebrations and the joint promotion of achievements;
- risk, responsibility and accountability for the delivery of the partnerships aims and objectives.

Each of the Partnerships will make sure that their Board and supporting sub-groups work effectively together to deliver strategic priorities and those cross-cutting issues are addressed by providing effective leadership, strong

direction, challenging and/or support when necessary. An outline of Board accountabilities and connectivities has been developed.

## Meetings

- The Chair and Vice Chair will be agreed on a rota basis
- Each of the Partnership Chairs and where applicable the Vice Chairs and the lead officers supporting the Boards will meet on a quarterly basis.
- A work Programme will be developed to underpin these requirements and ensure that the fundamental objectives are met.
- The work Programme will be developed by the Chairs and supported by Board managers.

**Chair: Agreed that each chair will serve a 12 month term.**

## Overview and Scrutiny

The business of this partnership shall be monitored through 'mutual scrutiny' and the opportunity to act as a 'critical friend' to drive improvement and innovation.

The business of each of the Partnerships is also open to scrutiny by their partner agencies (many of which the boards share).

This partnership may be asked to attend Council Scrutiny to enable Scrutiny to make early, constructive contributions to policy as well as supporting scrutiny of decisions made, monitoring outcomes and targets achieved and the review of practice and progress.

## Review of Partnership Protocol

Any proposed amendments to this Partnership Protocol will have to be agreed by each of the Partnership Boards. This will enable the promotion of transparency and accountability of partnership coordination and decision making. The finalised Partnership Protocol will be a public document.

This document will be reviewed annually or more frequently if required.



	<p>Emma Taylor Signed on behalf of Sandwell Children's Safeguarding Partnership</p>
	<p>Richard Parry Signed on behalf of Sandwell Safeguarding Adult Board</p>
	<p>Cllr Jackie Taylor Signed on behalf of Sandwell Health and Wellbeing Board</p>
	<p>Chief Supt. Kim Madill Signed on behalf of Safer Sandwell Partnership, Police and Crime Board</p>
<p>DASP</p> <p>Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership</p>	<p>Nicola Plant Signed on behalf of Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership</p>
 	<p>Emma Taylor Signed on behalf of the Youth Justice Board</p>

<p>CaFSP</p> <p>Sandwell Children and Families Strategic Partnership</p>	<p>Sally Giles Signed on behalf of Sandwell Children and Families Strategic Partnership</p>
<p>CONTEST</p>	<p>Alun Lunt Signed on behalf of Sandwell CONTEST</p>