



## Protocol to describe the relationships between the Safeguarding Adult and Safeguarding Children Boards in Halton

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Definitions and Abbreviations</b>
1.1	<p><u>HSCB</u>: Halton Safeguarding Children Board</p> <p><u>CT</u>: Halton Children's Trust</p> <p><u>SAB</u>: Halton Safeguarding Adults Board</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Purposes of this Protocol</b>
2.1	Although the HSCB and SAB are discharging their functions for very different groups of people, and have different statutory footings, there are many overlaps between the processes they use and the organisations who support the Boards to deliver their objectives.
2.2	This Protocol briefly describes the roles and responsibilities of both Boards, the expectations on members of the Boards, and the areas of overlap and potential joint working between the two Boards. It aims to provide clarity about accountabilities and to promote effective, healthy challenge between the Boards.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Halton Safeguarding Children Board</b>
3.1	The HSCB is a statutory body with the overarching responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people in Halton. It is a multiagency body with membership drawn from all services working with children and families. The Board has an independent Chair with no connections to any of the partner agencies.
3.2	<p>The functions of the HSCB include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing robust challenge to all partners on their performance in ensuring that children and young people are kept safer in the Borough</li> <li>• Ensuring that all agencies work collaboratively and efficiently to promote the safety and welfare of children and young people</li> <li>• Monitoring the collaborative work of relevant agencies within the</li> </ul>

	<p>Children's Trust to ensure that there is sufficiently resourced provision of early help to meet local need</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing and ensuring the implementation of local policies for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children</li> <li>• Identifying training needs and evaluating the extent to which these needs are met by commissioned services</li> <li>• Ensuring that all agencies learn the lessons from national and local serious incident enquiries, and that any resulting action plans are closely monitored until all outcomes are achieved</li> </ul>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Halton Safeguarding Adults Board</b>
4.1	<p>Unlike the HSCB, the SAB is not underpinned by statute, although national policy guidance clearly lays out how localities are expected to ensure that vulnerable adults are protected from harm. The SAB is central to this process, working across and providing challenge to all local organisations working with vulnerable adults to ensure their safety and welfare are protected. The SAB is chaired by the Strategic Director (Communities Directorate) from Halton Borough Council, which is the lead agency for implementing adults safeguarding procedures.</p>
4.2	<p>The functions of the SAB are identified in its priorities, which are in summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To promote awareness of potential abuse of vulnerable adults and promote their right to dignity</li> <li>• To ensure service users and carers are engaged with the safeguarding agenda, and that services keep people safe but help them to make informed choices about risk</li> <li>• To ensure there is a strong multiagency approach to achieving the safety, wellbeing and dignity of vulnerable people</li> <li>• Ensure that all staff have the necessary tools to safeguard vulnerable adults and ensure their dignity is respected</li> </ul>
<b>5</b>	<b>Joint Working</b>
5.1	<p>There are a number of areas which are common to the work of both Boards. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raising awareness of the potential for harm and abuse to children, young people and vulnerable adults, using a variety of media</li> <li>• Developing appropriate training and staff development which promotes awareness of safeguarding and dignity</li> <li>• Ensuring that procedures are in place for the safer recruitment of staff who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults</li> <li>• Holding all agencies to account for their performance in delivering safe outcomes for children, young people and vulnerable adults</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring that lessons from public enquiries and serious incidents are learned across all agencies and that actions are put in place as a result to improve local services</li> </ul>
5.2	<p>Given this, the Boards have agreed through this protocol that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Both Boards will formally report to other on a quarterly basis to ensure robust and effective challenge between the two systems</li> <li>Relevant learning from public enquiries and serious incident reviews will be shared across both Boards</li> <li>The chairs of both Boards, plus relevant support officers from the Boards, will meet twice a year to review current joint working practices and opportunities for future joint working and efficiencies</li> <li>Policies and procedures will be reviewed to ensure closer alignment</li> <li>Performance reporting processes will be reviewed to establish simpler and more consistent reporting for partner agencies</li> <li>Training opportunities will be developed jointly across both Boards</li> <li>The Boards will seek to more closely align their media and communication processes within the wider community</li> </ol>
<b>6</b>	<b>Responsibilities of Board members:</b>
6.1	Although Board members are there to provide advice, support and challenge to the Boards, they are also there as representatives of their organisations. As such it is their duty to make sure that their whole organisation is aware, as needed, of the actions, issues and requirements of the Boards, even though they may be employed only within a section of that organisation.
6.2	<p>There is a small number of Board members who sit on both Boards. As a part of this protocol, it has been agreed that two of these people will not only represent their organisations on the Boards, but will also be a direct formal link between the two Boards. These people are:</p> <p>From the SAB:        Divisional Manager, Adult Mental Health  From the HSCB:      Operational Director, Children &amp; Family Services</p>
6.3	These people have the additional responsibility of acting as the line of communication between the two Boards. They will attend all Board meetings – or ensure that fully-briefed representatives attend if they cannot – and will take actions and challenges across the Boards as required. As necessary, they will also sit on Subgroups of both Boards.
<b>7</b>	<b>RESOLUTION PROCESS</b>
7.1	Both Boards will request evidence from the other if any issues arise from any aspects of its work. The HSCB will monitor the SAB as to its

7.2	<p>rigour in ensuring that the SAB's work to safeguard adults also ensures that the safety and welfare of children and young people is being met. The resolution would require a formal response/action from the SAB.</p> <p>Similarly, the SAB will hold the HSCB to account to ensure that child safeguarding and welfare processes always consider the impact of its work on the safety and dignity of vulnerable adults. This again would require a formal response from the HSCB in order to ensure a resolution.</p>
8	<b>Term of this Protocol:</b>
8.1	This protocol will be reviewed three years after the date of signature by the Chairs of both Boards.

This protocol is agreed by the undersigned on behalf of the Halton Safeguarding Children Board and Halton **Safeguarding Adults Board:**

<b>Halton Safeguarding Children's Board</b>	<b>Halton Safeguarding Adults Board</b>
<b>Chair</b>	<b>Chair</b>
<b>Date of Signature:</b>	<b>Date of Signature:</b>