

## Bath & North East Somerset Council

<b>MEETING:</b>	Cabinet	
<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> August 2011	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 2259
<b>TITLE:</b>	B&NES Local Safeguarding Adults Board Communication & Media Protocol (Safeguarding)	
<b>WARD:</b>	All	
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>		
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b>		
<b>Appendix 1: B&amp;NES Local Safeguarding Adults Board Communication &amp; Media Protocol (Safeguarding)</b>		

### 1 THE ISSUE

1.1 B&NES Local Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) made up of a range of statutory, voluntary and independent agencies identified the need for a multi-agency communication and media protocol to be agreed and implemented by Board members. The LSAB requested that communication leads from statutory agencies liaise and develop a joint working approach to media responses in respect of safeguarding adults. The LSAB have approved the attached protocol and now seeking cabinet approval.

### 2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The Cabinet agrees for the LSAB to adopt the B&NES LSAB Communications and Media Protocol.

### **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 None.

### **4 CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

4.1 Building communities where people feel safe and secure.

### **5 THE REPORT**

5.1 The Awareness, Engagement and Communication sub-group of the LSAB highlighted the need for a joint communication and media protocol. The LSAB acknowledged that it was in both the public interest and the local agencies interest to have an agreed approach to media communications and requested the sub-group develop this. The Royal United Hospital Communications Manager led the development of the protocol in partnership with Police, PCT and B&NES Council communication lead officers. The LSAB have approved the final version attached to this report.

### **6 RISK MANAGEMENT**

6.1 The report author and Lead Cabinet member have fully reviewed the risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

6.2 The protocol sets out the main principles for dealing with an incident. Where there is sufficient time for this to be done the protocol timescales will be adhered to, where there is insufficient time the timescales will be accelerated.

### **7 EQUALITIES**

7.1 An equalities risk assessment has not been completed and is in the process of being done. It is not anticipated that the assessment will highlight any concerns. LSAB members are from a wide range of multi agency settings and have considered this in terms of equalities.

### **8 RATIONALE**

8.1 The multi-agency protocol sets out clear arrangements, practice guidance and training needed for LSAB member agencies regarding managing safeguarding cases which might attract media attention. The implementation of the protocol will ensure that media presentations are coordinated appropriately.

### **9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

9.1 None.

### **10 CONSULTATION**

10.1 Cabinet member; Staff; Other B&NES Services; Community Interest Groups; Stakeholders/Partners; Other Public Sector Bodies

10.2 Say HOW consultation was or will be carried out (mandatory)

The protocol has been developed in partnership with LSAB members and has been shared and consulted on at several meetings. LSAB members and communications leads have input into the development of the protocol. The LSAB have agreed to adopt this final version.

## 11 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

11.1 Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Human Resources; Human Rights; Corporate; Health & Safety; Impact on Staff; Other Legal Considerations

## 12 ADVICE SOUGHT

12.1 *The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.*

<b>Contact person</b>	Lesley Hutchinson, Assistant Director for Safeguarding & Personalisation [Tel: 01225 396339]
<b>Sponsoring Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Simon Allen
<b>Background papers</b>	Not applicable
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	