

**Working together protocol for strategic partnership boards in Devon**  
**Report of the Chief Officer for Communities, Public Health, Environment and Prosperity**

**Recommendation:** That the Devon Health and Wellbeing Board discusses the draft protocol and suggests any changes to the current draft ahead of wider circulation and formal sign-off later in the year.

**1. Context**

1.1 One of the objectives for board development highlighted by the task group review in September 2018 was to establish alignment with other partnerships focused on the wider determinants of health.

1.2 A draft 'working together' protocol has been developed by officers supporting strategic partnership boards in Devon (appendix 1) to describe working relationships and support collaboration between boards. This has been developed in the first instance between the Health and Wellbeing Board, Children and Families Partnership, Safeguarding Adults Board, Safer Devon Partnership and Sustainability and Transformation Partnership.

1.3 The establishment of a protocol between partnership boards will also support the refresh of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which will seek to align board priorities with other partnerships.

**2. Working together protocol**

2.1 The current draft protocol (appendix 1) sets out the overall aim of inter-board collaboration to coordinate partnership activity, avoid duplication and achieve better outcomes for the people of Devon. The protocol sets out common objectives, how we will work together and what we expect to achieve.

2.2 Whilst this has been drafted by the partnership boards described above, the intention is to invite other strategic partnerships, including those in Plymouth and Torbay to participate, which should also support the development of the integrated care system across Devon.

**4. Conclusions and Next Steps**

4.1 The protocol will be refined based on comments by this board. Other strategic boards will be invited to participate, and the updated protocol will return for sign-off at the next suitable board meeting.

**5. Risk Management Considerations**

Not applicable.

**6. Options/Alternatives**

Not applicable.

**7. Public Health Impact**

The development of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the identification of priorities relating to health inequalities and the wider determinants of health will focus on improving public health in Devon.

**Dr Virginia Pearson**

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**DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Electoral Divisions: All**

Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health Services: Councillor A Leadbetter and Cabinet Member for Community, Public Health, Transportation and Environmental Services: Councillor R Croad

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Background Papers  
Nil



## Working Together

### Statement of Intent Protocol for Strategic Partnerships in Devon

#### 1. Aim:

The 'Working Together' protocol describes the new ways in which strategic partnerships will work together, through co-ordinated partnership activity, to achieve better outcomes for the people of Devon.

#### 2. Scope:

The Partnership Protocol has been developed by:

- Devon Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB)
- Devon Children's and Families Partnership (DCFP)
- Devon Safeguarding Adults Board (DSAB)
- Safer Devon Partnership (SDP) including Devon Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)
- The Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP)

The protocol covers the relationships between these partnerships, with the intention of extending the agreement over time to include other strategic partnerships covering the wider Devon area.

#### 3. What we want to achieve:

- A **reduction in inequalities** by targeting and supporting people, groups and areas of greatest need
- An **integrated approach to tackling key issues and commissioning services** by sharing information and intelligence; for example, contributing to and learning from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, the Strategic Assessment of Crime and Disorder in Devon and Organised Crime Local Profiles
- Partnerships working together to **develop effective joint approaches and to understand the impact of services on outcomes.**
- **Alignment of annual plans with shared strategic priorities**, including safeguarding children, young people and adults
- A **co-ordinated approach to sharing information/intelligence between partnerships to inform effective responses** to specific threats or risks to reduce harm
- **Complementary approaches to performance and risk management, quality assurance and transformational change**
- **Collaboration** in relation to **workforce planning and development**
- A **co-ordinated approach to multi-agency learning reviews** which include Domestic Homicide Reviews, Serious Case Reviews and Safeguarding Adults Reviews
- An **Integrated approach to developing a broader awareness and understanding of trauma (including Adverse Childhood Experiences) and the impact it has on individuals, families and communities** and exploring system-wide solutions to addressing this across the wider Devon area.

#### **4. How we will do this:**

- We will share information through regular or thematic reports that also include the response and/or action required from the receiving partnership board/executive and partners.
- Annual reports and other relevant reports and strategies will be shared between partnership boards/executives to inform priority setting.
- We will ensure that all annual reports and other relevant reports and strategies include an open and transparent evaluation of performance against annual plans and provide an opportunity for reciprocal scrutiny and challenge that will inform the development of future years' strategies and action plans.
- We will share needs analyses such as the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the Strategic Assessment of Crime and Disorder with partnership boards/executives at key points in the planning cycle, with a specific focus on identifying inequalities.
- Business plans will be shared between partnership boards/executives in the formulation stages to avoid duplication, identify gaps, and enable co-ordination and shared business priorities where areas of work overlap.
- Chairs and lead officers for each partnership board/executive will review progress, ensure that key issues are identified, and respective roles and responsibilities are clear in emerging areas of concern. The lead officers will also identify opportunities for joint working to reduce duplication of effort.
- Membership of each partnership board/executive will include appropriate cross-partnership chief officer representation to enable on-going communication and provide opportunities for cross-cutting issues to be raised directly and acted upon in meetings by lead members.
- This protocol will be reviewed annually to identify benefits, measure progress and ensure approaches are fit for purpose.
- Consideration will be given to wider partnership participation across the South West Peninsula.

#### **5. Success will be evident in the following ways:**

- There will be identifiable improvements attributable to multi-agency work on themes of common interest/concern.
- Opportunities to improve lives in Devon will be identified by better coordinating local expertise and assets.
- Areas of emerging concern will be identified in a timely manner and reflected in business priorities via effective risk management, quality assurance, and issue escalation processes.
- Partnership board/executive members will have a clear understanding of the remit and responsibility of the partnership(s) of which they are a member.
- Each partnership board/executive will be informed and aware of the work of other partnerships and its interface with and effect on the areas of work it oversees.
- The intelligence gathered through needs analyses will be evident in the shared priorities of the partnerships.
- Clear examples will be available of how an integrated approach has led to efficiencies and improvements.

**Signed By:**

**DSAB**

**SDP**

**H&W**

**DCFP**

**STP**