

The Voice of Health in Safeguarding Partnerships

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people is defined as:

- **Protecting children from maltreatment**
- **Preventing impairment of children's health and development**
- **Ensuring that children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care**
- **Taking action to enable children to have all the best outcomes**

Health will bring distinctive elements to the new partnership arrangements that include:

- Continuing relationships with children from before birth to adulthood
- An evidence based approach to interventions
- Outcomes that focus on healing
- A universal set of values

The NNDHP regards the new arrangements as a critical opportunity to reverse the deteriorating situation in children's health and welfare. We urge that the new safeguarding partnership arrangements must, with their new tripartite leadership, move to dramatically reduce problems that together constitute a national child health emergency viz:

- Childhood obesity
- Child and adolescent mental health disorders
- Rising neonatal and infant mortality rates
- Excessive death rates from asthma, epilepsy and pneumonia

This set of ambitions is consistent with the paramouncy of the needs of children, gives a voice to all those children who are telling us about their concerns and is in line with the right of every child to the best possible health.

In the spirit of multi-agency collaborative working, we urge action to:

- allow the voices of all children to be heard
- reverse the worsening levels of all child maltreatment including fatal assaults
- further research to turn back any damaging consequences of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

The NNDHP see the establishment of local safeguarding needs analysis as vital to achieving these outcomes.

Bibliography:

- 1) *Working Together 2018*
- 2) *The Children and Social Work Act 2017*
- 3) *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) 1989*
- 4) *The Lancet Vol 392 P 106*
- 5) *The State of Child Health: Short report series 2017 RCPCH*
- 6) *Innocenti Report Card 14: 2017 UNICEF*
- 7) *Countdown for UK Child Survival 2017: mortality progress and targets* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/archdischild-2017-314184>