

HOSC/40/16

Committee Health Overview and Scrutiny

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Joint Working with the Safeguarding Boards

Report by Graham Hughes, Scrutiny Officer

Contact details: graham.hughes@essex.gov.uk Tel: 033301 34574

Background:

The Essex Safeguarding Children Board and the Essex Safeguarding Adult Board are both statutory bodies which seek assurance on the robustness and sustainability of local safeguarding arrangements for children and adults respectively and that all statutory partners are acting to help and protect the vulnerable.

The HOSC Chairman and Vice Chairman and the Scrutiny Officer have been in various discussions with the Independent Chairman of the two Safeguarding Boards and supporting officers to identify opportunities for co-operation and joint working, and the sharing of information, between the HOSC and the Safeguarding Boards.

The January 2016 meeting of the HOSC was advised that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was being developed for this purpose which will also ensure that each body is also able to continue to focus on its core role and responsibility and maintain its operational and statutory independence. The MoU has now been finalised and is attached (**Appendix 1**).

Recommended:

That the Committee:

- (i) Supports identifying opportunities for closer co-operation and joint working, and the sharing of information, between the HOSC and the Safeguarding Boards;
- (ii) Are invited to comment on the relationship they wish to see develop with the HOSC and Safeguarding Boards;
- (iii) To consider and approve the draft MoU; and
- (iv) That the HOSC Chairman be authorised to agree and sign the final version of the MoU for and on behalf of the Committee.