



Statement of Commitment
September 2017

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1.0 Introduction

This document sets out Stockport's arrangements for carrying out the functions of Stockport Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) in accordance with legislation and guidance. The work of the SSCB is part of the wider context of Children's Trust arrangements that aim to improve the overall well-being of all children in the Stockport area.

The Children Act 2004 required Local Authorities to establish Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) involving key partners as listed at section 13(3) of the Act. It requires members of the Board to co-operate with each other in the establishment and operation of this Board and places a duty on key partners to co-operate with Children's Services. Section 11 of the Act places a duty on these key partners to ensure that their single agency functions are discharged with regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 Chapter 3 updated previous guidance in relation to LSCB duties and functions.

http://www.workingtogetheronline.co.uk/chapters/chapter_three.html

2.0 The Statutory Objectives and Functions of SSCB

2.1 The main objectives of SSCB are :

- a) To co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the board for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area and local work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children;
- b) To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.

2.2 The functions of SSCB are:

- a) To develop policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area including policies and procedures in relation to:
 - i. the action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare, including thresholds for intervention
 - ii. training of persons who work with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children
 - iii. recruitment and supervision of persons who work with children
 - iv. investigations of allegations concerning persons working with children
 - v. safety and welfare of children who are privately fostered

- vi. cooperation with neighbouring children's services authorities and their Board partners
- b) To communication to persons and bodies in the area of the authority the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising their awareness of how this can best be done and encouraging them to do so
- c) To monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by the Authority and their board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advising them on ways to improve
- d) To participate in the planning of services for children in the area
- e) To undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and board partners on lessons to be learned.
 - SSCB also has a duty to carry out a Child Death Review Function through Child Death Overview Panel.
 - SSCB may also engage in any other activity that facilitates or is conducive to the achievement of its objectives

2.3 SSCB carries out these functions in the following ways:

- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by SSCB members and their agencies, individually and collectively, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people, and advise them of ways to improve.
- Influencing the local planning and commissioning of services for children, young people and their families, to ensure that they take safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children into account.
- Collecting and analysing multi-agency information (both qualitative and quantitative) relating to safeguarding children and young people and prioritising the work of the SSCB and member agencies in response to this analysis.
- Collecting and analysing information relating to all child deaths and serious injuries in Stockport, using this information to inform commissioning, and learning/awareness raising by agencies and the general public
- Undertaking Serious Case Reviews where neglect or abuse has been a known or suspected factor in deaths or serious injuries and ensure that any lessons arising from the Review is learnt effectively
- Monitor and assess how well all agencies learn from Serious Case Reviews and change/improve their working practices as a result where identified
- Co-ordinating the development of policies and procedures that safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in Stockport through direct contribution to the Greater Manchester Policies and Procedures

- Co-ordinating the delivery of effective and relevant multi agency training relating to safeguarding in order to contribute towards a confident and competent workforce in Stockport
- Communicating and raise awareness of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children to people and agencies in Stockport, raising their awareness of how this can be done, and encouraging them to do so.
- Acting as a Responsible Authority in relation to licensing

2.4 The SSCB does NOT have operational responsibility for services, or deliver services themselves. Neither does the SSCB directly commission operational services.

3.0 SSCB agency representation, accountability and common responsibilities

3.1 Role of the Chair and Vice Chair

The SSCB is chaired by an Independent Chair, who is appointed by the Chief Executive of Stockport Council. The Chair appointment will be reviewed 2 yearly, appraisals taking place annually during this period. The Chair works closely with the Director of People and the Service Director for Safeguarding and Prevention, and with all SSCB partners.

The Chair is required to publish an Annual Report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The annual report will be published in relation to the preceding financial year and will be published by the September of the new financial year. The Report will be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board. This Annual Report will also be shared widely through partner agencies and will be available on the SSCB website.

The Vice chair will be nominated and appointed by the SSCB bi-annually to stand in for the Chair when required to do so.

3.2 Statutory and non-statutory members

Guidance on the membership of LSCB's is provided within

- [Section 13 of the Children Act 2004](#),
- [Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009](#)
- [Section 13\(4\)](#) of the Children Act 2004

The following membership has been agreed for Stockport Safeguarding Children Board;

a. Independent Chair

b. Statutory partners:

- Stockport Council - Director of People
- Stockport Council –
 - Service Director for -Safeguarding and Prevention Services
 - Director of Stockport Family
 - Director for Education
- Superintendent Greater Manchester Police Stockport Division
- Chief officers of the National Probation service and the Community rehabilitation Service or their representatives
- Head of Youth Offending Service
- NHS England
- NHS Stockport Clinical Commissioning Group
- Clinical Commissioning Group Director
- Stockport NHS Foundation Trust
 - Director of Nursing and Midwifery
- Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust – Director level representation
- CAFCASS (Children and Family Courts Advisory and Support Service)

- Lay members – Lay members are full members

c. The following attend the Board as professional advisors:

- Head of Safeguarding and Learning
- Designated Doctor
- Designated Nurse
- Education representatives for Primary, Secondary, and Independent Schools and Colleges
- Housing Services - Stockport Homes senior manager
- Public Health specialist
- Voluntary, Community and Faith sector representative –presently Together Trust

- Sub group chairs
- d. Participant observers
- Executive councillor for Children and Young People. (This role is as Participant observer)

SSCB staff

- SSCB Performance and Development manager
- SSCB administrator

3.3 Agency representation and attendance

The SSCB expects agency representation of an appropriate person, who has a strategic role in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children within their organisation. In order to fulfil the role of SSCB member, the representative must be able to;

- Speak for their organisation with authority as a member of the SSCB,
- Commit their organisation to policy and proactive matters in relation to safeguarding children and young people,
- Have sufficient authority within their organisation to hold their organisation to account in relation to safeguarding children and young people,
- Be able to influence planning and commissioning of services within their agency in a way that effectively safeguards and promotes the welfare of children and young people,
- Maintain attendance at the SSCB main meeting, and any subgroups or other working groups that they are also a member of. Where the SSCB members are not able to attend a meeting, they must ensure that they send an appropriately experienced and briefed substitute in order to ensure representation.
- Promote the priorities of the SSCB within their work . for 2017-19 these are Transitions, Neglect, Domestic abuse, Complex Safeguarding with a thread of mental health running through all these issues. The strategic plan can be found here <http://www.safeguardingchildrenstockport.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/SSCB-SSAB-Strategic-Plan-2017-2020.pdf>

Attendance has been agreed as 80% for all members. Concerns about level of attendance will be raised with agencies by the Head of Safeguarding and Learning in the first instance, and if they that cannot be resolved at this level will be escalated to the Independent Chair who will arrange a meeting to discuss their difficulties.

3.4 **Responsibilities/accountability of SSCB Members**

All new members will receive an induction pack and meet with the Independent Chair and/or Business Manager before taking a seat on the Board to discuss mutual expectations and any areas for personal/professional development.

The SSCB will commit to providing members with access to the SSCB multi-agency training where training needs have been identified. Each SSCB member will have responsibility for their own personal development and will be expected to seek support from their own agency and the SSCB in this area if needed. Members are required to have sufficient knowledge of child protection and the wider safeguarding agenda in order to contribute effectively to the work of the SSCB.

All SSCB members have a duty to behave objectively when assessing the effectiveness of single and multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, and recommending or deciding necessary steps to resolve problems. This duty should take precedence over their role as a representative of their organisation. It is each individual member's responsibility to ensure they have an awareness and appreciation of the role and priorities of other member agencies and operate in a way that respects and takes account of different agency culture. There is an expectation of members that they will ensure the SSCB is consulted about proposed changes within their organisation which could have an impact on safeguarding children.

Each member has a duty to support the work of the SSCB and is accountable for the effective communication and dissemination of this work within their organisation in way that promotes positive outcomes for children. In particular, all SSCB members will be accountable for ensuring the following;

- The agency undertakes a self-assessment known as the Section 11 Safeguarding Standards as requested, and develop and implement an action plan for improvement where this is identified through moderation by the quality assurance Sub group,
- Ensure that information sharing protocols are implemented and understood,
- Promote a culture of listening to children in relation to individual decisions and the development of services,
- Provide sufficient time, funding, supervision and support to fulfil safeguarding duties effectively,
- Where their agency undertakes assessments of children, young people and their families, these include evidence from all professionals involved, take account of case histories and significant events and include direct contact with the child,
- The agency contributes effectively to request for involvement in Serious Case Reviews, and other reviews such as Multi-Agency Learning Reviews, including meeting statutory and local timescales and deadlines, and allocating resources to support the process where required,
- The agency responds to requests in relation to the multi-agency audit programme,

- The agency contributes to the delivery of SSCB multi-agency training, and ensures that their staff access and attend relevant SSCB multi agency training.
- The agency effectively communicates the lessons to be learnt from SCRs and Multi-Agency Learning Reviews to all staff, especially frontline staff, and proactively implements any relevant recommendations arising from reviews for their agency.
- Policies, procedures and protocols relevant to their agency’s work are embedded into practice within their own agency, taking steps to remedy this if this is not the case,
- The agency has effective systems in place to ensure safer recruitment and staff management, including the management of allegations against staff,
- Where a representative chairs a subgroup or task and finish group on behalf of the SSCB, they take full ownership of this work, leading and supporting group members, ensuring timescales are met, proactively working with SSCB staff and escalating issues or blockages promptly to the SSCB Chair where needed.

All prospective members will be expected to formally sign a Statement of Commitment agreement outlining these accountabilities before becoming a member of the SSCB. Escalation of concerns in relation to co-operation will be made through the agency chief officers, up to the Independent chair if required.

4. Governance and accountability

4.1 Independence

The Independent Chair has a crucial role in making certain that the Board operates effectively and can secure an independent voice on behalf of the SSCB. The chair will be independent of local agencies so that he or she can exercise the key role of challenge effectively. The SSCB must maintain a discernible independence from the Children’s Trust Board arrangements within Stockport whilst ensuring clear and consistent communication channels between the Boards. The SSCB Implementation group is responsible for the ‘Staying safe’ responsibility of the Children Trust Board. The links between the Children Trust Board, Stockport Safeguarding Adult Board, the Health and Wellbeing Board and the SSCB are set out in the Memorandum of Understanding which was ratified by SSCB on, September 2017.

The Independent Chair attends the Corporate Safeguarding accountabilities meeting where the Chief Executive, the Leader of the Council, and the Executive member for children and families have the opportunity to hold SSCB to account. The Head of Safeguarding and Learning has responsibility for both the Children and Adult Safeguarding Boards and the Safer Stockport partnership

SSCB has the benefit of two lay members who have a role to play in challenging and holding SSCB to account to the public through their objective, non-specialist role. Other boards do not have this arrangement to date.

4.2 Scrutiny arrangements

The Elected Member with responsibility for children and families will have a role, via the Scrutiny Committee, in determining how well the Local Authority is fulfilling its responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Stockport, and the work of the SSCB in this.

5.0 How does business get done?

5.1 SSCB Board

The main Board currently meets bi-monthly with all members being expected to attend as outlined in 3.3. The purpose of this meeting is for the Board to receive reports in relation to the key functions outlined in section 2.0, and any other matters which contribute to coordination or effectiveness of safeguarding work. The Board will also receive updates on the progress of the work contained in the SSCB Business Plan.

The Board has a range of full Board members and advisors to the Board.

The Board will be considered quorate if 50% of its members are present and at least four different agencies are represented.

5.3 SSCB Subgroups

There are 9 Sub Groups carrying out the business of SSCB. Sub-Group participants are expected to attend as requested (bi monthly in most cases apart from Quality Assurance and Performance management which meets 6 weekly) and take an active role in the development and implementation of SSCB work. The SSCB will convene task and finish groups if needed in order to carry out specific pieces of work.

Each subgroup will have clear terms of reference and an action plan within which to operate, which will clearly link to the SSCB Business Plan.

5.4 Role of the Subgroup/Task and Finish Group Chair

All subgroups/task and finish groups will be accountable to the SSCB for the development of their action plan, and performance against this, via their subgroup Chair and regular reports to the SSCB Implementation Sub. See section 3.3 for more information on accountabilities of Subgroup and task and finish group Chair role.

6.0 SSCB Resources

6.1 Funding make up

Members of the SSCB share responsibility for determining how resources are provided to ensure that the Board discharges its key functions. Statutory Board partners may either make payments towards expenditure incurred in carrying out the work of the Board, or provide staff, goods or other resources. Contributions will be agreed locally by the SSCB on an annual basis and will be published within the Annual Report. Members that contribute financially to the work of the SSCB will commit funding in advance, into a pooled budget, administered by the Local Authority. The SSCB will receive regular reports relating to financial issues, including the need for additional resources as required.

6.2 Decisions on use of SSCB budget

SSCB will approve budget is spending, but that to ensure there is no undue delay in business getting done the duty will be delegated to the Head of Safeguarding and Independent Chair, subject to subsequent ratification by the Board.

6.3 SSCB staff team

The SSCB has agreed the following support roles

- Performance and Development Manager
- Multi-Agency Training manager

These posts are currently hosted by Stockport Council Children's Services but are multi-agency funded posts, working across agencies in relation to the safeguarding children agenda. The following role is funded by stockport Council

- SSCB administrator
- Additional resource to complete SCR and other tasks will be required from time to time

6.4 'In kind' resourcing

Members who are not in a position to offer financial resources to support the work of the SSCB can offer 'in kind' resourcing which can take the form of staff, goods, services, accommodation or other resources. 'In kind' contributions will be considered annually alongside financial resourcing.

Attached appendices

1. Safeguarding Children Board Structure



03f. Complex
Safeguarding Accou

2. Matrix of Safeguarding accountabilities

3. Sub Group Terms of Reference

- **Implementation Sub**



Terms of Reference
- Implementation Su

- **Quality assurance sub**



QA Sub Group
Terms of Reference (

- Audit and Monitoring



Terms of Reference
Audit and Monitorir

- **Complex Safeguarding Sub**

- Child sexual Exploitation



TOR CSE Strategic
Sub Group March 20

- Children At risk



05 TOR Children at
Risk roup v2.docx

- **On Line Safety sub**



02. Terms of
Reference & Membe

- **Policy and Practice**



Policy and Practice
Sub Group Terms of

Tripartite arrangement with other LSCB's

- Child Death Overview Panel
-



ToR GM CDOP
Annual Report Dec 2

Sub Groups shared with other Strategic Boards

- Early Help and Prevention Sub - TOR Awaited

- Joint Training Sub - TOR Awaited

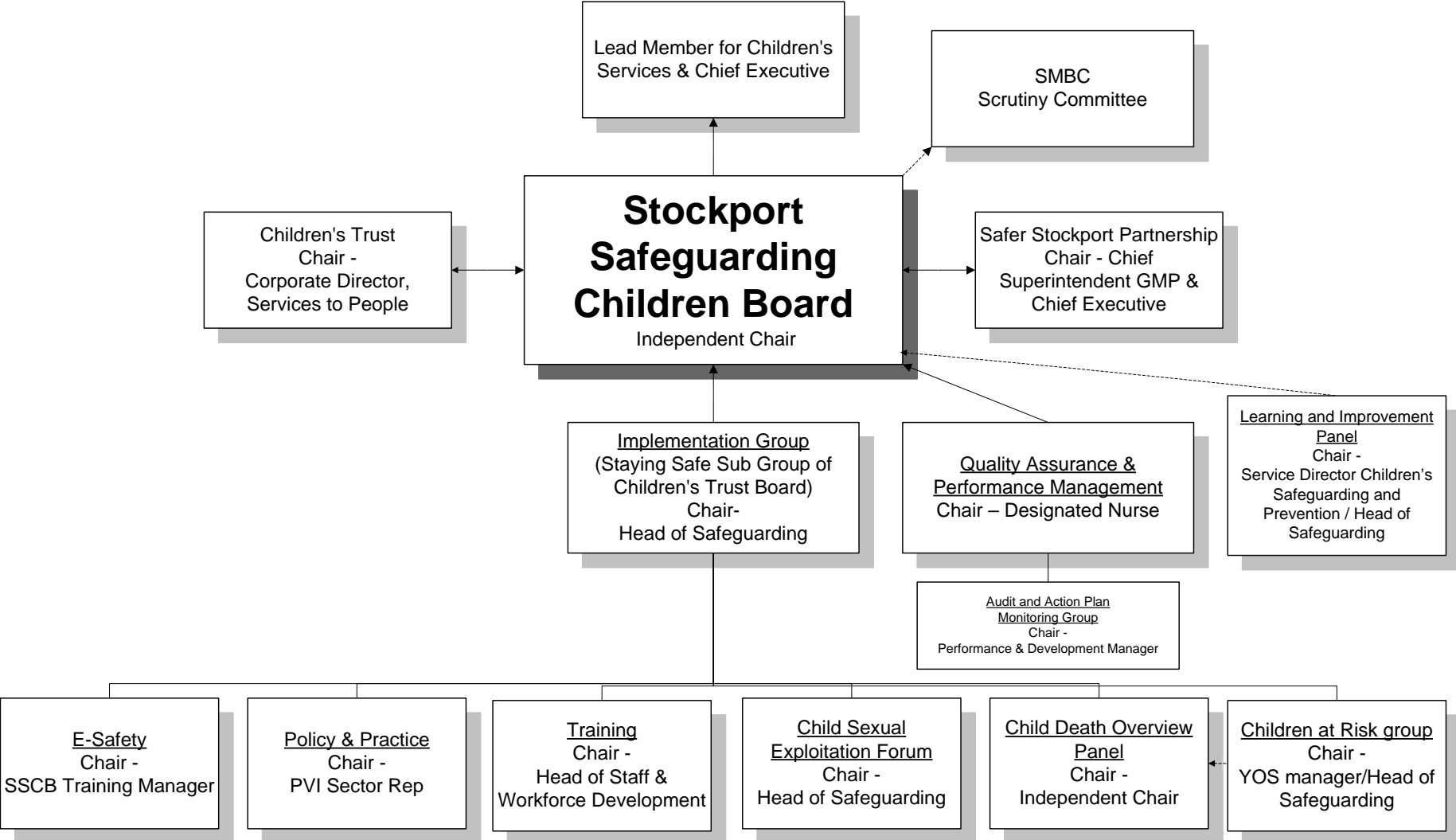
- Communication and engagement sub --TOR Awaited

- Domestic abuse Steering Group



03. DA Terms of Reference.docx

Appendix A
SSCB Structure Chart Sept 2017



Appendix

Matrix of Governance and Accountability Arrangements in relation to Complex Safeguarding

Domains/ Issues	Accountable Partnership	Working with...	Sub Group	GM Governance
Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding Children Board (CSE Strategic Sub Group) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSP Children's Trust 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSE and Vulnerable Groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Phoenix Greater Manchester Safeguarding Partnership
Organised Crime Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding Children Board Safeguarding Adults Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stockport Challenger 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operation Challenger
Domestic Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding Children Board Safeguarding Adults Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic Abuse Steering Group Supporting Families Executive Steering Group Operation Strive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GM Domestic Abuse Partnership Board GM Domestic Abuse Co-ordinators Group GM Complex Dependency Executive GM Operation Strive
Harmful Practice - i.e. Honour Based Violence, FGM, Forced Marriage,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding Children Board Safeguarding Adults Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting Vulnerable People CSE and Vulnerable Groups Multi Agency Prevention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GM Domestic Abuse Partnership Board GM FGM Working Group
Modern Slavery and Trafficking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding Children Board Safeguarding Adults Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting Vulnerable People CSE and Vulnerable Groups Multi Agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sits with Operation Challenger

Domains/ Issues	Accountable Partnership	Working with...	Sub Group	GM Governance
			Prevention	
Hate Crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding Children Board • Safeguarding Adults Board 	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GM Hate Crime meeting – bi monthly • GM Hate Crime Working Group
Prevent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding Children Board • Safeguarding Adults Board 	Channel Panel?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GM Prevent Leads • GM Community Resilience Group
Self Neglect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSAB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSP 	Multi Agency Prevention	

Declaration

I have read the SSCB statement of Commitment and agree to sign up to the requirements included within;

SIGNED _____

PRINT NAME _____

ON BEHALF OF (INSERT AGENCY) _____

DATE _____