



## **Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (WSCP) - Accountability Group**

### **Terms of Reference**

#### **1. Purpose**

The Accountability Group is to hold the Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs) to account for setting and delivering the strategic plan and priorities for the multi-agency arrangements and to ensure the LSPs act as a team, as opposed to a voice for their agency alone.

The role of the Accountability Group is to:

- Ensure that this joint and equal responsibility for safeguarding children in Warwickshire is recognised as a key priority for each of the LSPs organization.
- Ensure that LSPs show strong leadership in understanding the multi-agency arrangements to help and protect children including support and challenge from the Independent Scrutineer.
- Ensure that the LSPs commit their organisation to the agreed actions of the WSCP and work together to unblock any issues/ concerns that are escalated.
- Hold the Lead Safeguarding Partners to account for setting and delivering the strategic plan and priorities for the multi-agency arrangements.
- Ensure the LSPs act as a team, as opposed to a voice for their agency alone.

#### **2. Charing and Quoracy**

The Accountability Group will be chaired by on a yearly rotational basis with each representative taking on chairing responsibilities. To be quorate all three statutory delegated safeguarding partners must be in attendance (Warwickshire County Council Children's Social Care, Coventry & Warwickshire ICB and Warwickshire Police).

##### **The Chair will:**

- Call meetings and ensure that suitable arrangements are made to host the meeting including the provision of administrative support.

- Ensure an agenda is drafted and circulated along with any other relevant documents including actions.
- Ensure notes and actions are taken at each meeting.

**Political/ Board Leaders have committed to:**

- Attend meetings and come prepared to offer support, direction and challenge.
- Have joint and consistent arrangements in place for the communication of multi- agency activity and progress against our improvement journey.

### **3. Frequency of Meetings and minutes**

Meetings will be held on an annual basis. All meetings will be supported by the WSCP Business Unit Team.

Political/ Board Leaders may request an additional special meeting or series of meetings.

Officers from other areas of the businesses may be invited to attend meetings, as required. Each meeting will be pre-arranged to an agenda which will be circulated in advance of the meeting along with any papers including actions. Separate discussions should take place for urgent matters that require an immediate response.

Each meeting will be pre-arranged to an agenda which will be circulated 5 working days in advance of the meeting along with any papers including actions. Separate discussions should take place for urgent matters that require an immediate response.

Minutes of the meeting will be taken by the WSCP Business Unit Team and at the discretion of the Chair having exercised due caution in relation to data protection considerations, be published on the website. The minutes of the meeting will be used to evidence task-oriented activity and effective delivery of agreed actions agreed by the LSPs and DSPs.

The minutes of the meeting will be circulated within two weeks of the meetings.

### **4. Membership:**

The membership of the WSCP Accountability Group includes representation from the following organisations:

- Leader of the Council, Izzi Secombe.
- Police and Crime Commissioner/Representative from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Philip Seccombe.
- ICB Chair of Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board (ICB), Danielle Oum.
- Political Leaders- Sue Markham.
- Lead Safeguarding Partners.

- Monica Fogerty, the Chief Executive of Warwickshire County Council.
- Philip Johns, the Chief Executive of NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board.
- Alex Franklin-Smith, the Chief Constable of Warwickshire Police.
- Education will be represented by the below Lead Safeguarding Partners:
  - Sharon Hillyard - Headteacher, Exhall Cedar infants Nuneaton & Bedworth
  - Matt Smith- Assistant Head/DSL, Nicholas Chamberlain School in Nuneaton & Bedworth
  - Samantha Godfrey - Director of Safeguarding, Stowe Valley MAT in Warwick District
  - Peter Hawkins - Assistant Head, St Paul's CofE Primary in Warwick District
- Designated Safeguarding Partners
  - Police, Detective Superintendent, Jill Fowler.
  - WCC, Executive Director for CYP, Nigel Minns (Chair of WSCP).
  - ICB, Chief Nurse, Ellie Monkhouse.
  - Education, Director of Education, Johnny Kyriacou.
- Independent Scrutineer- Derek Benson.
- Service Manager- Ramandeep Sandhu- WSCP.

## **5. Governance**

LSPs will report to the Accountability Group, providing an overview of strategic vision and how this has been delivered by the DSPs, providing updates of impact and outcomes and escalating any issues at the earliest opportunity.

An annual assurance report will be produced by the LSPs on the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding for children in Warwickshire.

## **6. Terms of Reference Review**

The Terms of Reference for the Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Accountability Group will be subject to a minimum of an annual review.

Last Review date: November 2024.