

# Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements for the Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Partnership



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## Introduction from the Lead Safeguarding Partners

Welcome to the new Warwickshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership multi-agency arrangements. We want Warwickshire to be the best place for children and young people to grow up in and to support this we have our 'Child Friendly Warwickshire' initiative.

Child Friendly Warwickshire is a campaign to ensure that Warwickshire is a child friendly county - a place where children and young people feel happy, healthy, heard, skilled and safe.

In this document we outline our statutory duty for joint and equal responsibility for the multi-agency safeguarding of children and young people in Warwickshire. Together we refer to our multi-agency arrangements as the 'Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (WSCP).

We recognise the importance of all relevant agencies across the system in supporting children, young people, and their families. As lead safeguarding partners we commit to:

- Working together as a team to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area.
- Include and develop the role of wider local organisations and agencies in the process.

We would like to express our thanks to the staff in the many statutory and non-statutory services across Warwickshire, for the work that they do every day in providing support and protection for our children, young people, and their families.



Monica Fogarty  
Chief Executive of  
Warwickshire County  
Council.



Alex Franklin-Smith  
Chief Constable of  
Warwickshire Police



Phillip Johns  
Coventry and Warwickshire  
Integrated Care Board (ICB)  
Chief Executive

# 1. Introduction and Purpose

This document describes how the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in Warwickshire are organised and sets out how the three statutory lead safeguarding partners work together in Warwickshire to co-ordinate local safeguarding services to ensure that they are effective.

'Working Together to Safeguarding Children - A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children' (December 23) sets out the requirements for multi-agency safeguarding children's arrangements. Working Together 2023 specifies that protecting children from abuse, neglect and exploitation requires multi agency join up and co-operation at all levels. Local organisations and agencies that work with children and families play a significant and often statutory role when it comes to safeguarding children. The way in which these organisations and agencies work together is known as Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASAs).

The purpose of multi-agency arrangements is to ensure that:

- There is a clear, shared vision for how to improve outcomes for children locally across all levels of need and all types of harm.
- When a child is identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm there is a prompt, appropriate and effective response to ensure the protection and support of the child.
- Organisations and agencies are challenged appropriately, effectively holding one another to account.
- Agencies seek the voice of children and families combined with the knowledge of experienced practitioners and insights from data, to provide a greater understanding of the areas of strength and/or improvement within arrangements and practice.
- Information is sought, analysed, shared, and broken down by protected characteristics to facilitate more accurate and timely decision-making for children and families, and to understand outcomes for different communities of children.
- Effective collection, sharing and analysis of data, to enable early identification of new safeguarding risks, issues, emerging threats, and joined-up responses across relevant agencies.
- Senior leaders promote and embed a learning culture which supports local services to become more reflective and implement changes to practice.

## **2. Multi-agency arrangements in Warwickshire**

### **2.1 Legal basis**

The Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (WSCP) was formed in response to the statutory requirements of the Children Act 2004, which mandates the establishment of a Local Safeguarding Children Board by all local authorities. This mandate is underscored by the guidance provided in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 (Working Together), a key government document that emphasises the importance of a unified approach to safeguarding children, outlining the roles and responsibilities of agencies at the local level to ensure effective collaboration.

In compliance with Working Together, the WSCP formally recognises three statutory safeguarding partners, Health, Police, and the Local Authority, as the primary bodies responsible for leading child safeguarding efforts. The guidance further acknowledges Education as a fourth safeguarding partner, enhancing the framework for ensuring that all key agencies are aligned in their objectives to protect children and young people across Warwickshire. The partnership also operates under the legal frameworks set out in the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel: Practice Guidance (April 2019), as amended from time to time.

### **2.2 Lead Safeguarding Partners**

A statutory safeguarding partner in relation to a local authority area in England is defined under Section 16E of the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act, 2017) as:

- a) The local authority.
- b) The integrated care board for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area.
- c) The police force for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area.

In Warwickshire the organisations providing these functions are:

- a) Warwickshire County Council.
- b) Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board.
- c) Warwickshire Police.

In addition to this, in line with Working Together 2023 changes, WSCP have established Education (Local Authority, Education providers) as the fourth safeguarding partner.

In partnership, these entities work together for these purposes, under the title of the 'Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Partnership' (WSCP).

The Safeguarding Partners have equal and joint responsibility for making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and young people in Warwickshire and together they are called the Safeguarding Partners. The Partnership has an Independent Scrutineer.

The three statutory Lead Safeguarding Partners are:

- Warwickshire County Council Chief Executive.
- Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board Chief Executive.
- Warwickshire Police Chief Constable.

## 2.3 Purpose of the Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs)

The three safeguarding partners, together with other local relevant agencies are committed to:

- Co-ordinating their safeguarding services for maximum impact.
- Acting as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others.
- Implementing local and national learning including from serious child safeguarding incidents.
- Learning from independent scrutiny that judges the effectiveness of multiagency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Warwickshire.
- Developing processes that facilitate and drive action beyond usual institutional and agency constraints and boundaries - ensure the effective protection of children is founded on practitioners developing lasting and trusting relationships with children and their families.
- Ensuring that relevant agencies have appropriate, robust safeguarding policies and procedures in place.
- Publishing a report at least once in every 12-month period, which sets out what they have achieved because of these arrangements, including on child safeguarding practice reviews, and how effective these arrangements have been in practice.

**The Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs) are:**



### ➤ **Warwickshire Education Lead Safeguarding Partner Representatives**

Education will be represented by the below Lead Safeguarding Partners on a two-yearly basis.

**2025/27**



**2027/29**



The lead representatives may at any time change their nominated representative or attend the partnership in their place.

The nominated representatives may, if they are unable to attend a meeting, nominate another officer of suitable seniority, skills, and experience to attend on their behalf.

**The Lead Safeguarding Partners role is to:**

- Set the strategic direction, vision, and culture of WSCP, including agreeing and reviewing shared priorities and the resource required to deliver services effectively.
- Lead their organisation's individual contribution to the shared priorities, ensuring strong governance, accountability, and reporting mechanisms to hold their delegates to account for the delivery of agency commitments.
- Review and sign off key partnership documents: published multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, including plans for independent scrutiny, shared annual budget, yearly report, and local threshold document.
- Ensure multi-agency arrangements have the necessary level of business support, including intelligence and analytical functions, such as an agreed data set providing oversight and a robust understanding of practice.

- Ensure all relevant agencies, including education settings, are clear on their role and contribution to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.
- Commit their agency to the agreed actions of the WSCP.
- Hold their agency and each other to account for the effective delivery of the arrangements.
- Act as a team, as opposed to a voice for their agency alone.
- Have arrangements in place to delegate functions to the Delegated Safeguarding Partners including support and challenge from the Independent Scrutineer.
- Provide shared oversight of learning from independent scrutiny, serious incidents, local child safeguarding practice reviews, and national reviews, ensuring recommendations are implemented and have a demonstrable impact on practice.
- As outlined in Working Together, promote and embed a learning culture.
- Ensure all relevant agencies, including education settings, are clear on their role and contribution to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

The Lead Safeguarding Partners will meet twice times a year. The Lead Safeguarding Partners will agree on ways to co-ordinate their safeguarding services, will act as a strategic group in supporting and engaging others and will oversee the implementation of local and national learning, including from serious child safeguarding incident.

## 2.4 Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs)

The Delegated Safeguarding Partners are:



### **The Delegated Safeguarding Partners are responsible for:**

- Delivery and monitoring of WSCP's priorities and procedures to protect and safeguard children in Warwickshire, in compliance with published arrangements and thresholds.
- Close partnership working and engagement with education (at strategic and operational level) and other relevant agencies, allowing better identification of and response to harm.
- The implementation of effective information sharing arrangements between agencies, including data sharing that facilitates joint analysis between partner agencies.
- Delivery of high-quality and timely rapid reviews and local child safeguarding practice reviews, with the impact of learning from local and national reviews and independent scrutiny clearly evidenced in yearly reports.
- The provision of appropriate multi-agency safeguarding professional development and training.
- Seeking of, and responding to, feedback from children and families about their experiences of services and co-designing services to ensure children from different communities and groups can access the help and protection they need.

The nominated representatives may, if they are unable to attend a meeting, nominate another officer of suitable seniority, skills, and experience to attend on their behalf.

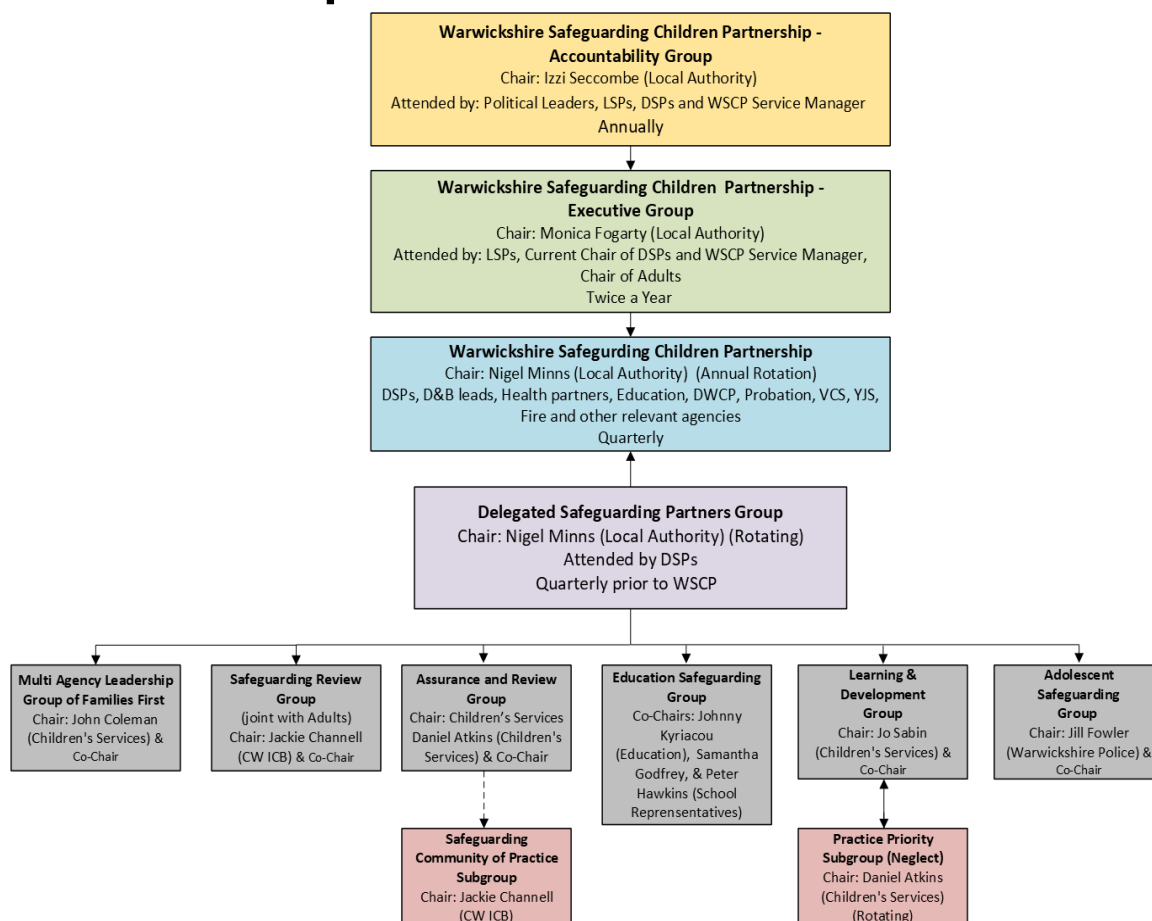
The Safeguarding Partners' nominated representatives must be able to:

- Speak with authority and take decisions on behalf of the partner they represent, commit them on policy, resourcing, and practice matters.
- Hold their own organisation to account on how effectively they participate in and implement local safeguarding arrangements.

All Safeguarding Partners have equal and joint responsibility for the local safeguarding arrangements.

The Delegated Safeguarding Partner Groups are chaired by one of the Delegated Safeguarding Partners on a rotating basis. For 2024-2025 the Partnership Chair will be Nigel Minns from the Local Authority.

### 3 Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Structure



### 4 Vision and Values for the Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

#### 4.1 Vision

Our vision is to work together to support, safeguard and listen to the voices of children, young people, and families and to learn from each other to improve outcomes for families across Warwickshire.

#### 4.2 Values

The Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Partnership works together to support children, young people, and families. We will do through:



## 5 Objectives and Functions of the Partnership

The Partnership's objective is to co-ordinate the local work carried out to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and to ensure the effectiveness of what the Safeguarding Partners do individually and together.

Whilst the Partnership is responsible for co-ordinating the local work undertaken by organisations and groups; it is not accountable for their operational work. The Partnership does not have the power to direct other organisations.

The Partnership is responsible for ensuring the effectiveness of what the Safeguarding Partners do, both individually and collectively, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

To protect and support children and young people across Warwickshire, the Partnership carries out the following functions:

- Agree on ways to align the Safeguarding Partners' safeguarding services.
- Act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others.
- Identify Child Safeguarding Practice Review cases which raise issues of importance in relation to the area, arrange and supervise reviews of such cases, identify improvements, and ensure that the outcomes are reported.
- Promote the learning from local and national reviews including from serious child safeguarding cases.

- Agree and communicate the Warwickshire priorities and commissioning intentions for safeguarding children and young people through the publication of a Strategic Plan every 3 years.
- Agree and publish an Annual Report detailing what the Partnership has done during the year to achieve its objectives and implement its Strategic Plan.

To Safeguard children and young people across Warwickshire, the Partners will work together to:

- Fulfil their statutory and legislative duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people who have needs for care and support who live in or are placed outside our local authority area.
- Establish such partnership groups as they consider appropriate after consultation with Relevant Agencies and receive and consider reports from such groups.
- Ensure that there is effective independent scrutiny of the work of the Partnership and any groups or subgroups which it sets up.
- Consider what training is needed locally and how this will be delivered, commissioned, monitored, and evaluated.

## 6 Independent Scrutiny

The WSCP will have an Independent Scrutineer to hold the Safeguarding Partners to account. The Independent Scrutineer will be accountable to the Chief Executive of the Council and report to the WSCP Service Manager. The Lead Safeguarding Partners will hold the Independent Scrutineer to account for the effective scrutinising of the WSCP.

The initial tenure of the Independent Scrutineer will be 3 years, with an annual review to ensure that they are providing effective scrutiny and challenge.

The purpose of Independent Scrutiny will be to drive continuous improvement in safeguarding Warwickshire children. In Warwickshire the delivery of independent scrutiny is partly filled by the Independent Scrutineer role. Scrutiny also exists within all levels of the partnership and practitioners at all levels have a desire to ensure that safeguarding practice is constantly improving, to protect children and young people across Warwickshire. Warwickshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership has a Quality Assurance Framework and activity undertaken under this framework will also support an understanding of the effectiveness of the partnership. An additional lens is provided by external inspections including Joint Targeted Area Inspections and ILACS.

The role of the Independent Scrutineer is to:

- Provide assurance to the whole system in judging the effectiveness of the multiagency safeguarding arrangements through a range of scrutiny methods.
- Ensure that statutory duties are being fulfilled, quality assurance mechanisms are in place, and that local child safeguarding practice reviews and national reviews are analysed, with key learning areas identified and effectively implemented across the WSCP.
- Ensure that the voice of children and families is considered as part of scrutiny and that this is at the heart of arrangements through direct feedback, informing policy and practice.

- Be regarded as a 'critical friend' and provide opportunities for two-way discussion and reflection between frontline practitioners and leaders. This will encourage and enable strong, clear, strategic leadership.
- Provide independent advice when there are disagreements between agencies and safeguarding partners and facilitate escalation procedures.
- Evaluate and contribute to multi-agency safeguarding published arrangements and the annual report, alongside feeding into the wider accountability systems such as inspections.

A range of mechanisms will support the Independent Scrutineer to carry out the role including but not limited to:

- Performance data.
- Multi-agency audits.
- Rapid reviews and Safeguarding Practice Reviews.
- Quality assurance visits to key areas.
- Feedback from young people's group and through seeking the views of parents/carers.
- Attendance at key partnership meetings.
- Focus groups on areas highlighted by Independent Scrutiny will be monitored via an action plan that is overseen by the Delegated Safeguarding Partnership Group.

## **7 Working together – between Safeguarding Partners and Relevant agencies**

Relevant agencies are named in the 'Relevant Agencies Regulations' and are under a statutory duty to co-operate and collaborate with the Lead Safeguarding Partners. Relevant agencies are those organisations and agencies whose involvement in the safeguarding arrangements is required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Those that Warwickshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership has nominated as relevant agencies are listed in Appendix 1).

Relevant agencies:

- Co-operate with safeguarding partners to improve, implement, and monitor effectiveness of the local safeguarding arrangements.
- Share information and data about safeguarding issues and concerns affecting the children involved in their organisation to contribute to local priorities.
- Ensure local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements are fully understood and rigorously applied within their organisation.

Relevant agencies may be asked to sit on WSCP subgroups and where this occurs representatives should:

- Prioritise meeting attendance or identify a suitable representative to attend.
- Have the seniority to make decisions.
- Have access to the necessary information to inform discussions and decisions.
- Act as a conduit to other individuals or departments within their agencies.
- Be critically reflective, strengths based, child centred and impact focussed to shape and influence practice.
- Lead specific workstreams including Chairing subgroups and specific Task and Finish Groups.

- Take responsibility for identified actions and oversee these until completion.

Relevant agencies may also be asked to contribute to the creation of workforce development materials, training, audits and other quality assurance activities, Rapid Reviews and Safeguarding Practice Reviews.

[Section 11 of the Children Act 2004](#) places a statutory duty on key organisations to self-assess the extent to which they meet safeguarding requirements. This means they have a duty to ensure their functions, and any services that they contract out to others, are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Relevant agencies will be required to undertake a Section 11 self-assessment every two years to provide assurances in relation to their duties.

The Safeguarding Partners will work together in a spirit of openness and transparency.

The WSCP recognises that other partnerships and bodies have responsibility for issues which may be relevant to safeguarding children and young people in Warwickshire.

To ensure effective communication and accountability, the WSCP will develop working relationships and, where appropriate, protocols with:

- Health and Wellbeing Board.
- Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board.
- Community Safety Partnership.
- Coventry & Warwickshire Integrated Care Partnership.
- Warwickshire Education Partnership Board.
- Warwickshire Youth Forums.
  - Warwickshire Youth Council.
  - Children in Care Council.
  - Care Leavers Forum.
  - IMPACT (SEND Forum).
- Channel Panel Warwickshire.
- Any other relevant partner organisations.

The Partnership will play a strong role in supporting information-sharing between and within organisations and addressing any barriers to information-sharing, ensuring that a culture of information-sharing is developed and supported as necessary by agreed protocols.

## **8 Engagement with Education**

Warwickshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership recognises the pivotal role that schools, colleges, early years providers and childcare settings, and other educational providers (including alternative provision) play in safeguarding children and promoting their welfare.

As such the WSCP has strong mechanisms for engaging education in the safeguarding arrangements:

- The Lead Safeguarding Partners regard all schools (including independent schools, academies, alternative provision, and free schools), further education

colleges, early years providers, and other educational establishments in Warwickshire as relevant agencies.

- The Executive Director of Children and Young People and Director of Education sits on the Delegated Safeguarding Partners Group and is one of the delegated safeguarding partners.
- The Education subgroup is a mechanism for educational settings to feedback about their responsibilities under Working Together 2023 and keeping Children Safe in Education, ensuring good engagement with the WSCP, identifying emerging issues and disseminating local and national learning.
- All frontline practitioners from educational settings will have access to the newsletter to receive the latest update from the WSCP and encourage two-way information sharing.

## 9 Links to other Boards

Warwickshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership will work closely with other strategic boards including the Health and Well-Being Board, Safe in Warwickshire Partnership Board, Violence Against Women and Girls Board, Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Board to facilitate information sharing and identify areas of cross over or opportunities for joint working. To support this goal the officers of these strategic Boards meet once a quarter.

## 10 Regional Networks

The Business Manager attends the West Midlands Multi-agency safeguarding arrangements meeting to share best practice and identify areas for collaborative working. Warwickshire is part of a consortium of safeguarding children's partnerships who share regional safeguarding children's procedures which can be accessed [here](#).

## 11 Responding to serious incidents

Serious child safeguarding cases are those in which:

- Abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected.
- The child has died or been seriously harmed.

The Delegated Safeguarding Partners are responsible for the delivery of high-quality and timely rapid reviews and safeguarding practice reviews following notification of a serious child safeguarding incident.

Warwickshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership is committed to ensuring that agencies understand the events leading up to a serious incident and the ways in which they can better work together to protect children in the future.

The duty to make a notification of a serious incident to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel lies with the local authority. However, in Warwickshire the process to agree notification is agreed between the statutory safeguarding partners and recommendation is made to the Delegated Safeguarding Partners.

Warwickshire is signed up to the West Midlands framework for undertaking rapid reviews, following notification of a child safeguarding incident, and local safeguarding practice reviews. [Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews guidance can be accessed here.](#)

Warwickshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership has established the Safeguarding Practice Review subgroup which has delegated responsibility for conducting the rapid review following notification of a serious incident and for commissioning and overseeing safeguarding practice reviews when required as well as establishing and overseeing implementation activity.

Following a Rapid Review, the Safeguarding Review Group will make a recommendation to the Delegated Safeguarding Partners on the learning from the review and whether a Child Safeguarding Practice Review should be commissioned. It is a joint responsibility of the Delegated Safeguarding Partners to agree the decision which is then shared with the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel.

The Safeguarding Review Group will:

- Promptly undertake a Rapid Review in relation to Serious incident Notifications in line with regional and national published guidance to make a recommendation to the Executive Group about whether a Safeguarding Review Group should be commissioned.
- Seek assurance that any necessary immediate action has been taken to safeguard children and young people.
- Identify any immediate single or multi agency learning to improve practice and monitor the implementation.
- Have clear processes in place for working in parallel with other types of reviews and work collaboratively with those responsible for alternative types of review.
- Identify the terms of reference for a Child Safeguarding Practice Review.
- Agree the methodology for the Child Safeguarding Practice Review with the Lead Reviewer.
- Monitor the progress and quality of the review.
- Facilitate the involvement of practitioners, families, and siblings/ other children in Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.
- Ensure the final report of a local Child Safeguarding Practice Review includes a summary of recommended improvements and an analysis of any systemic or underlying reasons why actions were taken or not.
- Act as a liaison for their agency in relation to single agency comms teams and the multi-agency plan for publication of Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.
- Develop and monitor the actions to implement learning arising from the findings of the review.
- Consider learning arising from the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel's reviews.

A communication strategy is in place for all aspects of Rapid Reviews and Safeguarding Practice Reviews.

For Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, panel members will consider the impact of publication on the child, family members, practitioners and others affected by the case as part of the review process. The Panel will make a recommendation to the Delegated Safeguarding Partners Group for endorsement about how best to

proceed with publication that mitigates any risk of adverse impact on those involved in the case.

The Delegated Safeguarding Partners will make arrangements to inform the National Panel and the Secretary of State of the reason for a delay of a Child Safeguarding Practice Review, or the decision and justification not to publish a Child Safeguarding Practice Review.

A copy of the full Child Safeguarding Practice Review will be sent to the National Panel and Secretary of State. The Lead Safeguarding Partners have responsibility for ensuring that learning from National reviews and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews has been implemented and this will form part of the independent scrutiny function.

## **12 Quality Assurance**

The WSCP scrutinises and challenges local safeguarding arrangements and practice to ensure the quality of the multiagency work being undertaken with children and families in Warwickshire is effective, and to improve services to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in the county.

The Quality Assurance and Performance Learning Programme sets out the approach to utilising data and intelligence via a wide range of key quality and performance indicators, aligned to the WSCP priorities that are scrutinised and challenged through a robust, systematic process to assess the effectiveness of safeguarding services.

The framework is based on a four lenses approach to ensuring the WSCP has in place a continuous cycle of quality assurance and improvement. The diagram below shows the types:



## 13 Learning and improvement

Warwickshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership recognises the importance of developing a learning culture across agencies and wider partners to better protect Warwickshire children.

Learning is identified through a range of activities as described in the previous section. The Implementation subgroup then takes this identified learning and identifies the best way to take this forward to make improvements to the safeguarding system with a view to improving outcomes for children and young people.

The Delegated Safeguarding Partners are responsible for ensuring the provision of appropriate multi-agency safeguarding professional development and training. Locally this function is delegated to the Learning and Development Subgroup.

## 14 Multi-agency training

An annual training needs analysis is undertaken to inform decisions about the range of multi-agency training required by the partnership.

Evaluations of training are completed by the WSCP, and these are shared with the L&D subgroup. Details of evaluations are also published in the WSCP annual report.

## **15 Embedding learning across the system**

The Lead Safeguarding Partners have responsibility for overseeing the effective implementation of learning from national and local reviews. Following the publication of a national or local review, the Safeguarding Review Group will formulate an action plan to deliver the learning, this may involve allocating key tasks to other subgroups and will track the progress of these action plans. Any areas that are not progressed will be escalated to the Delegated Safeguarding Partners for consideration.

## **16 Workforce Development resources**

WSCP will develop a range of workforce development materials including podcasts, webinars, 7-minute briefings, e-learning, and toolkits. These resources will be shared with strategic leads from relevant agencies and a request will be made for them to promote these within their agencies. The resources will also be shared via the WSCP newsletter and published on the website.

## **17 Evaluating impact**

The following processes will monitor the effectiveness of implementing learning:

- Training evaluation.
- Performance data.
- Multi agency audits.
- Quality assurance visits'
- Feedback from children, young people, and their families.
- Feedback from practitioners

## **18 Participation and engagement**

WSCP is committed to engaging with children, young people, and families at a strategic, operational, and individual level. The Scrutineer has a responsibility to report on the effectiveness of the WSCP's engagement with children and families.

## **19 Voice of children and young people**

Safeguarding Children's Partnership Business Unit will seek views from different group of children and young people once a quarter, to seek their views in relation to a range of safeguarding issues.

A report will be prepared in relation to the findings and shared with delegated safeguarding partners and an overview of what has been done in relation to these findings will be included in the annual report.

These forums will also be used to disseminate key information materials aimed at children and young people.

## 20 Parents and Carers

WSCP agencies have a range of meetings for engaging with parents and carers. These forums will be utilised to engage with parents and carers along key questions in relation to safeguarding.

A report will be prepared in relation to the findings and shared with delegated safeguarding partners and an overview of what has been done in relation to these findings will be included in the annual report.

## 21 Website

The WSCP maintains a website hosting a range of materials for professionals, children and young people, and parents and carers. The WSCP website can be accessed here: <https://www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk/safeguarding-children/safeguarding-children-partnership>

## 22 Newsletters

Practitioners from relevant agencies across the partnership can sign up to receive the WSCP newsletter.

The newsletter is sent out on a quarterly basis and holds a breadth of useful and timely information, ranging from the most recent 7-minute briefings, one-minute guides, highlighting local services, promoting practice tools and referral pathways and signposting to upcoming training and events.

## 23 Information Sharing

Information sharing is essential to safeguard children and promote their welfare and as such the WSCP has an information agreement in place which outlines how relevant agencies share information with the Partnership. This agreement can be found here: <https://www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk/safeguarding-children/safeguarding-children-partnership/information-sharing-agreement>

In engaging with relevant agencies, the lead safeguarding partners will be aware of their own responsibilities under the relevant information law and have regard to guidance provided by the Information Commissioner's Office when issuing and responding to request for information.

## 24 Thresholds for intervention – Spectrum of Support

The WSCP will be implementing and communicated the Spectrum of Support guidance. Work will continue under the partnership to embed this document with practitioners across Warwickshire. This is the threshold document against which practitioners are expected to base their decisions.

This guidance also helps practitioners to understand and assess risk consistently and appropriately so that children and families can receive the Right Help at the Right Time.

There is a focus on providing early support for children and young people and families that require support to prevent them moving towards higher levels of need, and to reduce the levels of need once these have been identified. The full guidance is available on the partnership website.

## 25 Disputes and whistleblowing

Warwickshire's Practitioner Escalation Protocol is available on the website: [Warwickshire's Practitioner Escalation Protocol](#)

## 26 Operation of the Partnership

The WSCP will decide how it will operate, but in doing so, must ensure that its arrangements will deliver the duties and functions described in Children Act 2004 and meet the requirements of the Statutory Guidance.

The WSCP will:

- Adopt the financial year 1st April to 31st March.
- Hold its meetings at least quarterly.
- Keep a written record of attendance at Partnership meetings.
- Require a quorum of 3, comprising 1 representative of the Council (Children's Services or Education) 1 representative of the ICB and 1 representative of the Police, for decision-making.
- It is not possible to reach a consensus, undertake a formal vote on a simple majority basis which will be recorded, with the representatives of the Council, the ICB, the Police and Education each having a single vote.
- Review the arrangement document on an annual basis at its first meeting of each financial year.
- Establish and maintain a business unit team to support its activities.
- Establish the Partnership meetings, groups, and subgroups:
  - Warwickshire Safeguarding Accountability Partnership.
  - Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Executive Partnership will be chaired by Monica Fogarty.
  - WSCP will be chaired by the rotational Delegated Safeguarding Partner on a yearly basis.
  - Delegated Safeguarding Partners Group
  - Safeguarding Review Group.
  - Assurance and Review Group.
  - Education Safeguarding Group.
  - Learning & Development Group.
  - Adolescent Safeguarding Group.
  - Families First Steering Subgroup.
  - Practice Priority Subgroup.
- Review and adopt terms of reference for each of the groups established by the Partnership on an annual basis at their first meeting in each financial year, following formal consultation with such groups.
- Ensure that a written record of all Partnership meetings, and meetings of any group established by the Partnership is kept.

Any Safeguarding Partner may submit items to be included on the agenda of Partnership meetings to the WSCP Service Manager at least 10 working days before the meeting.

Agendas and reports will generally be circulated at least 5 working days before the meeting.

The Partnership is committed to transparency and will, at the discretion of the Chair having exercised due caution in relation to data protection considerations to publish meeting minutes for the WSCP Accountability Group, the WSCP Executive Group meeting on its website.

## **27 Funding of the Partnership arrangements**

The Lead Safeguarding Partners should agree on the level of funding needed to deliver its multi-agency arrangements. This includes consideration of business and analytical support, independent scrutiny, infrastructure, and core functions including local children safeguarding practice reviews, multi-agency training and learning events.

It is the responsibility of the Lead Safeguarding Partners to ensure that adequate funding is allocated and spent in line with agreed priorities. Funding contributions from the statutory safeguarding partners should be equitable and agreed by the Lead Safeguarding Partners.

The Safeguarding Partners will provide equitable and proportionate funding to cover all elements of the safeguarding arrangements, including the cost of the business support infrastructure and safeguarding reviews.

The partnership is being funded through a pooled budget which will enable any underspends to be carried forward to fund expenditure in future years.

The budget for 2025-26 is £504,628. This is funded by income from the Council, ICB, the Police, District and Borough Councils, and others. Funding will be equally split between the Children Safeguarding Partnership and Safeguarding Adult's Board. The budget for future years will be subject to careful consideration in the light of the level of contributions from the Safeguarding Partners and any remaining accumulated surplus, or shortfalls.

## **28 Business Management**

The Partnership will be supported by a Business Unit Team, led by a Service (Business) Manager, which will:

- Manage the agreed budget.
- produce an annual report detailing activities, performance evaluations, data sets, and recommendations for improving safeguarding practices across Warwickshire.
- Provide administrative support for Partnership meetings and any groups/subgroups and established by the Partnership.
- Develop robust quality assurance framework for safeguarding partners.

- Ensure the effectiveness of key multi-agency training and any other specific training.
- Review and update of policies and procedures at a local and regional level.
- Lead on the co-ordination and commissioning of Children's Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs) ensuring compliance with local, regional, and national procedural guidance.

## 29 Signatories and Commitment Statements

Representatives of each Safeguarding Partner has reviewed and endorsed this arrangement document, demonstrating their commitment to upholding its principles and fulfilling the shared responsibilities of the WSCP.

### **Signatories:**

- **Warwickshire County Council**
- **Warwickshire Police**
- **Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board Warwickshire County Council**
- **Warwickshire County Council- Education**

WSCP also maintains the option to request representatives from other agencies/organisations to assist with areas of partnership work.

## 30 Appendix 1 – Relevant agencies

A wider group of relevant safeguarding partner agencies across Warwickshire are directly engaged with the work of the WSCP through membership of its subgroups. The following agencies are 'relevant agencies' as defined in the Schedule to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Relevant Agency (England) Regulations:

- a) Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service.
- b) NHS England.
- c) West Midlands Ambulance Service.
- d) Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust.
- e) George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust.
- f) University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust.
- g) South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust.
- h) North Warwickshire Borough Council.
- i) Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council.
- j) Rugby Borough Council.
- k) Stratford-on-Avon District Council.
- l) Warwick District Council.
- m) National Probation Service.
- n) Barnardo's.
- o) Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS).
- p) Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire ("OPCC").
- q) Equip (Equality & Inclusion Partnership).
- r) Third Sector.
- s) Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action (WCAVA).
- t) Healthwatch.
- u) Other strategic partnerships and organisations that have responsibilities to address issues relevant to safeguarding children.