



NEL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP

Safeguarding Children Partnership Board Terms of Reference

Mandate

The 'Working Together 2018' government guidance (resulting from the Children and Social Work Act 2017) identifies the Local Authority (LA), identifies Chief Officers of Police and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) as the three safeguarding partners responsible for making arrangements to work together with named Relevant Agencies to safeguard and protect the welfare of children in the area.

Function

The function of the North East Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Board (NEL SCP) is to coordinate and oversee the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements. The NEL SCP will utilise data and intelligence to make decisions, review progress, assess strengths, identify areas for development and evaluate the impact of safeguarding arrangements.

Chair

The NEL SCP Board will be chaired on a rolling basis by the three statutory safeguarding leads with the Chief Superintendent for Humberside Police chairing initially and the Director of Quality and Nursing for the NELCCG acting as vice chair. The board meetings will be facilitated by the Safeguarding Children Partnership Manager and Business Specialist

Membership

- Director of Children and Family Services, North East Lincolnshire Council
- Director of Nursing and Quality, NHS North East Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group
- Chief Superintendent, Humberside Police
- Assistant Director Safer NEL
- SCP Manager
- Director of Public Health
- Named GP for Safeguarding
- Designated Doctor
- Designated Nurse Safeguarding
- Designated Nurse for Looked After Children
- Assistant Director- Early Help, Assessment & Safeguarding, NELC
- Portfolio Holder for Children, Education & Young People, NELC
- Primary, Secondary Heads and Further Education representatives
- Chairs of three strategic delivery groups (safeguarding Review Group, Intelligence and Performance Group and Safeguarding Assurance and Improvement Group)
- Three professional Scrutiny Officers
- SCP Business Support Specialist

Board members are responsible for:

- Speaking with authority for the safeguarding partner they represent.
- Taking decisions on behalf of their organisation or agency and commit them on policy, resourcing and practice matters.
- Holding their own organisation or agency to account on how effectively they participate and implement the local arrangements.

Lead officers for specific areas of safeguarding shall be required to attend to present reports as and when required.

Meeting Arrangements

The NEL SCP Board will meet on a quarterly basis, additional meetings will be called between meetings by mutual consent as required.

The SCP Executive board will also meet on a quarterly basis and will inform the work of the SCP Board by focussing on specific areas of work where development or assurance are required.

Quoracy

All three core members (safeguarding partners) should attend each NEL SCP Board. In exceptional circumstances, a delegate may attend to ensure all three safeguarding partners are represented.

Reporting

The NEL SCPE reports to the NEL SCP on activity undertaken including findings, proposals, recommendations and actions. – See Governance Arrangements on page five.

Responsibilities

Partnership Arrangements

The three safeguarding partners should agree on ways to coordinate safeguarding services and act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging relevant agencies in achieving this. The purpose of local arrangements is to support and enable local organisations and agencies to work together in a system where.

- Children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted.
- Partner organisations and agencies collaborate, share and co-own the vision for how to achieve shared outcomes for children.
- Children and families receive targeted services that meets their needs in a coordinated way in order to achieve the best possible outcome.
- There is early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues and threats.
- Learning is promoted and embedded in a way that local services for children become more reflective and implement changes to practice.
- Organisations and agencies challenge appropriately and hold each other to account effectively.
- The effective protection of children is founded on practitioners developing lasting and trusting relationships with children and families.

The NEL SCP Board will drive forward the work of the partnership, ensuring the two outcomes are delivered.

- The safeguarding partnership is robust and effective
- Children are and feel safe

This will be achieved through the delivery of the local arrangement plan which includes:

- How safeguarding partners will work jointly to identify/ respond to the needs of children in NEL.

- The strategy for information and data sharing, including identification of vulnerable children in need of early help.
- Mechanisms to assess outcomes of multi-agency practice, including intervention where performance falters, and how 'independent' external assurance/scrutiny will be utilised.
- The authorising vision for multi-agency arrangements and partnership commitment.
- Process for responding to safeguarding incidents including child safeguarding practice reviews.
- Implementing the multi- agency Safeguarding Children Communication Strategy.
- Ensuring arrangements engage with children and young people.
- Risk strategy, identifying/ adapting to challenges and establishing a core intelligence capacity.
- High-level oversight of workforce planning, e.g., gaps in skilled areas.
- Child death review arrangements (Lead partners are NELC Chief Executive and North East Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group Chief Clinical Officer)

The NEL SCP Board is responsible for overseeing the effectiveness of the underpinning strategic partnership groups in the delivery of the Local Arrangement Plan and the achievement of the two outcomes through the implementation of the:

- Strategic Delivery plan
- Scrutiny and Assurance Framework
- Core Data Set
- Safeguarding Communication Plan
- Voice and Influence Strategy
- Risk Register

The remit/ function of the strategic delivery groups is outlined within the SCP Governance Structure on page five.

The agreed Relevant Agencies are represented on the partnership groups, the safeguarding partners will ensure the relevant agencies are aware of the expectations placed on them within the agreed safeguarding arrangements.

The NEL SCP Board is responsible for overseeing and co-ordinating what is done by safeguarding partner organisations, selected relevant organisations and agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and families. However, it is not responsible for their operational work. Each safeguarding partner and other leads from organisations and agencies retain accountability for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and families and for fulfilling other statutory duties as set out in associated legislation and guidance.

Relationships with wider strategic partnerships and governance forums

The NEL SCP Board will ensure the North East Lincolnshire Council Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel have oversight of all activity to enable effective challenge. The Safeguarding Children Partnership Board will also provide briefings as and when required to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Education.

The NEL SCP Board will develop robust relationships with other key partnerships including the Corporate Parenting Board, the Place Board, the Safeguarding Adult Board (SAB) and the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The NEL SCP is a core member of the Tri Board alongside the SAB and CSP.

Scrutiny and Assurance

The NEL SCP Scrutiny and Assurance Framework (SAF) for 2020/2021 sets out the arrangements for independent scrutiny alongside the partnership scrutiny and assurance arrangements. This includes the core

data set, audit and benchmarking, section 11 activity, assurance events, deep dives, line of sight events and voice of the child assurance process.

Diversity and Equality

The Safeguarding Children Partnership Board recognises that individuals have their own unique needs, skills, qualities and abilities and believe this diversity must be valued. The Board wants to make sure services meet the needs of everyone. It will therefore treat everyone as an individual. It will not unfairly discriminate on any grounds, such as: ability and disability, age, appearance, background, caring responsibilities, criminal convictions, cultural behaviour, religious belief, gender, geographic location, health status, marital status, personality, political affiliation, sexual orientation or socio-economic status.

Conflicts of Interest

Where there is a potential conflict of interest for individual members, attendees or officers to the board about any specific item under consideration by the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board, they should be openly and explicitly declared. At the discretion of the board chair, the level of interest expressed could result in the exclusion of the partner from either the discussion or decision making element of the meeting for that particular agenda item. The conflict of interest must be declared before the topic is discussed in the meeting and the board facilitator may be required to seek advice as to how best to progress. If one of the safeguarding partners is unable to contribute to the discussion or decision making due to a conflict of interest, a delegate may be invited to engage in the board on their behalf, either for that agenda item or the whole meeting as required.

Funding

The funding for the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board arrangements, including the board's business, is agreed by safeguarding partners and monitored by the Safeguarding Partnership team.

Complaints/Dispute Resolution

Any complaints regarding the work of the Partnership or the implementation of the safeguarding arrangements will be processed in accordance with the SCP Multi-Agency Dispute Resolution Agreement. This will ensure that complaints are dealt with seamlessly, promptly and through a clearly co-ordinated process. **Multi Agency Dispute Resolution Agreement**

Review

The Safeguarding Children Executive Board Terms of Reference shall be approved on a bi-annual basis or sooner if required.

NEL SCP Governance Arrangements

