



**SAFEGUARDING  
CHILDREN  
PARTNERSHIP**



# **North East Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership**

# **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**29<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

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# 1 Introduction and Context

Helping and protecting children through a co-ordinated approach to safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility. The ambition of the North East Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NELSCP) arrangements is that everyone is able to recognise, respond and fulfil their responsibilities to children, young people and families in order to build their resilience and ensure that they are safeguarded.

The North East Lincolnshire Local Safeguarding Arrangements Plan for Children and Young People 2019/2020 sets out the arrangements for helping and protecting children, facilitating joint working and receiving and providing assurance. Safeguarding children and building their resilience is achieved by putting children at the centre of the system and by every individual and agency playing their full part. Organisations, agencies and practitioners should be aware of, and comply with, the plan set out by the safeguarding partners.

Partnership working is at the centre of our NELSCP arrangements; we are committed to work together to improve outcomes for children, young people and families in the area. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlines the commitment of local safeguarding partners and their organisations to fulfil their statutory duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to work under the requirements of the Local Safeguarding Arrangements Plan.

This MOU provides clarity regarding:

- The three safeguarding partners
- Local vision and principles
- The legal framework and the underpinning policies and procedures
- Safeguarding partners' roles and responsibilities
- Responsibilities around information sharing and information governance
- Funding responsibilities
- Dispute resolution and escalation processes
- Partnership and governance arrangements

This MOU will be reviewed on an annual basis, or sooner if required, and will be subject to regular scrutiny.

## 2 Safeguarding Children Partnership Arrangements

From June 2019 new arrangements came into force regarding the safeguarding of children and young people, with this being a shared responsibility between three safeguarding partners in a defined area. (Refer to the Children Act 2004, the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and the government guidance 'Working Together' 2018). The three safeguarding partners are:

- The local authority
- A clinical commissioning group for an area, any part of which falls within the local authority area
- The chief officer of police for an area, any part of which falls within the local authority area

In the North East Lincolnshire area the safeguarding partner organisations and the lead representatives are:

- 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

The three safeguarding partners should agree on ways to co-ordinate their safeguarding services, act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others, and implement local and national learning including from serious child safeguarding incidents.

To fulfil this role, the three safeguarding partners must set out how they will work together and with any relevant agencies. Relevant agencies are those organisations and agencies whose involvement the safeguarding partners consider may be required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children with regard to local need.

The purpose of these 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 improved outcomes for vulnerable children
- Organisations and agencies challenge appropriately and hold one another to account effectively
- There is early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues and emerging threats
- Learning is promoted and embedded in a way that local services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice
- Information is shared effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and families.

In order to work together effectively, the safeguarding partners with other local organisations and agencies should develop 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.

To be effective these arrangements should link to other strategic partnership work happening locally to support children and families. This will include other public boards such as Health and Wellbeing boards, Adult Safeguarding Boards, Channel Panels, Improvement Boards, Community Safety Partnerships, the Local Family Justice Board and Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements.

The safeguarding partners have the responsibility and authority for ensuring full participation with the NELSCP arrangements, though the lead representatives remain accountable for any actions or decisions taken on behalf of their respective agency.

The Local Safeguarding Arrangements Plan gives detail in accordance with the requirements of Working Together 2018 (pp 79-80) which are that we have made arrangements for:

- Safeguarding partners to work together to identify and respond to the needs of children in the area
- Commissioning and publishing local child safeguarding practice reviews
- Independent scrutiny of the effectiveness of the above

and which should also include:

- Who the three local safeguarding partners are, especially if the arrangements cover more than one local authority area
- Geographical boundaries
- The relevant agencies the safeguarding partners will work with; why these organisations and agencies have been chosen; and how they will collaborate and work together to improve outcomes for children and families
- How all early years settings, schools (including independent schools, academies and free schools) and other educational establishments will be included in the safeguarding arrangements

- How any youth custody and residential homes for children will be included in the safeguarding arrangements
- How the safeguarding partners will use data and intelligence to assess the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families, including early help
- How inter-agency training will be commissioned, delivered and monitored for impact, and how they will undertake any multi-agency and inter-agency audits
- How the arrangements will be funded
- The process for undertaking local child safeguarding practice reviews, setting out the arrangements for embedding learning across organisations and agencies
- How the arrangements will include the voice of children and families
- How the threshold document, setting out the local criteria for action, aligns with the arrangements dispute resolution
- Reporting annually.

### 3 Vision and Principles

Our new Partnership is called the **North East Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NELSCP)**. It will cover the geographical area of North East Lincolnshire as defined by the local authority boundary. The geographical footprint corresponds with that of the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group for North East Lincolnshire and is part of the area covered by Humberside Police.

The safeguarding partners and other organisations and agencies included in these arrangements will fulfil their statutory duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. This includes those who live in the area, those who are placed in the area from other authorities and those who are from our area but placed outside of it.

Our Partnership’s vision is to work together to ensure safeguarding arrangements within our place are proactive, robust, effective and clear. We will also offer help and support at the earliest point and to enable children, young people and families to have positive outcomes, where they reach their full potential.

**Focused - Listening - Accountable – Improving - Brave**

We are committed to delivering our vision by applying these principles – they will govern our work

1. Keeping children and young people safe and well is the focus of everything that we do
2. We ensure that everyone has a voice, is listened to and respected
3. We all take ownership and responsibility for safeguarding and we challenge and support each other, inviting scrutiny from others too
4. We all share information and knowledge, learning from each other and so improve our work continuously
5. We spot issues early and face them together, with bravery and courage.

## 4 Responsibilities and Expectations

All three safeguarding partners have equal and joint responsibility for children's local safeguarding arrangements.

The lead representatives and those they have delegated their authority to, are able to:

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

The role and functions of the Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive Board is outlined in the terms of reference, which will be reviewed at each meeting.

The three statutory safeguarding partners will lead in the following areas

### Humberside Police

- Analysis and Intelligence
- Data and Performance
- Finance and Resources

### North East Lincolnshire Council

- Workforce development and Learning
- Voice and Influence
- Child Death Reviews

### Clinical Commissioning Group

- Quality assurance and Scrutiny
- Partnerships
- Governance

The three statutory safeguarding partners will each present a proposal outlining the plan in respect of their respective responsibilities to the other safeguarding partners. Underpinning action plans will be developed and monitored by the Executive Board.

Safeguarding partners will agree on ways to co-ordinate their safeguarding services, act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others and implement local and national learning including from serious child safeguarding incidents. To fulfil this role, the safeguarding partners must set out how they will work together with any relevant agencies.

Safeguarding partners' general responsibilities are detailed below.

### 4.1 LEADERSHIP

In the event that an issue arises which requires a clear, single point of leadership, decide on who would take the lead on issues that arise (this would be agreed at the Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive Board or virtually by all three safeguarding partners, depending on the urgency and circumstances involved)

### 4.2 RELATIONSHIPS AND RESOLUTION

- Build positive relationships with other local areas to ensure that relevant information is shared in a timely and proportionate way

- Have in place a quick and straightforward means of resolving differences of opinion. This relates to when perspectives differ and conflicts of opinion or views give rise to challenge and or disagreement in safeguarding children, when assessing need and risk and making decisions about the best ways forward to achieve the best or safest outcome for children. This is outlined in the Safeguarding Escalation procedure.

#### 4.3 RELEVANT AGENCIES

Safeguarding partners must agree on ways to co-ordinate their safeguarding services and act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others. To fulfil this role, the safeguarding partners must set out how they will work together with any relevant agencies.

A systematic review of the previous Board's structure has sought to reduce duplication and improve integration with other local partnerships. The number of subgroups has reduced, with the new ones having a strong focus on improving practice and ensuring an emphasis on learning.

Membership of the Partnership is defined in the Terms of Reference for the NELSCP. Safeguarding Partners will:

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

Anyone entrusted with attending in-place of a lead representative would need to have similar delegated authority.

The Safeguarding Partners also agree that it is vital to maintain the full engagement of other partners in the business of safeguarding children, even if those partners are not attending face-to-face meetings on a regular basis. This enables the new Partnership to reach more agencies and organisations and to engage them in the safeguarding children agenda.

The NELSCP relevant agencies are defined below.

### EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE

#### **Local authority maintained schools (under section 342 of the Education Act 1996)**

##### **Nursery**

- Great Coates Village Nursery
- Scartho Village Nursery

##### **Primary**

- Coombs Briggs Primary School
- Grange Primary School
- Humberston Church of England Primary School
- Queen Mary Infant and Nursery School
- Scartho Infants Primary School
- Stallingborough Church of England Primary School
- Stanford Junior and Infant School
- Western Primary School

## **Secondary**

No local authority maintained schools

## **Academies**

### **Primary**

- Bursar Primary Academy
- Canon Peter Hall Church of England Primary Academy
- East Ravendale Primary Academy
- Edward Heneage Primary Academy
- Eastfield Primary Academy
- Elliston Primary Academy
- Enfield New Waltham Primary Academy
- Fairfield Primary Academy
- Great Coates Primary Academy
- Healing Primary Academy
- Humberston Cloverfields Primary Academy
- Laceby Acres Primary Academy
- Lisle Marsden Primary Academy
- Little Coates Primary Academy
- Macaulay Primary Academy
- Middlethorpe Primary Academy
- Oasis Academy Nunsthorpe
- Old Clee Primary Academy
- Ormiston South Parade Primary Academy
- Pilgrim Primary Academy
- Reynolds Primary Academy
- Scartho Juniors Academy
- Signhills Infants Academy
- Signills Junior Academy
- South Parade Primary Academy
- Springfield Primary Academy
- St Josephs Voluntary Aided Catholic Academy
- St Marys Voluntary Aided Catholic Academy
- St Peters Church of England Primary Academy
- Thrunscoe Primary Academy
- Waltham Leas Primary Academy
- Welholme Primary Academy
- William Barcroft Junior Academy
- Woodlands Primary Academy
- Wybers Wood Primary Academy
- Yarborough Primary Academy

### **Secondary**

- Beacon Academy
- Cleethorpes Academy
- The Academy Grimsby (TAG) (key stage 4 only)
- Havelock Academy
- Healing Science Academy
- Humberston Academy

- John Whitgift Academy
- Oasis Academy Immingham
- Oasis Academy Wintringham
- Ormiston Maritime Academy
- Toll Bar Academy

#### **Special School Academies**

- Cambridge Park Special School Academy
- Humberston Park Special School Academy

#### **Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) Academies**

- Sevenhills Academy
- Phoenix Park Academy

#### **Governing bodies (of local authority maintained nursery, primary, secondary, special and pupil referral unit schools and academies, further education and higher education providers)**

- All governing bodies

#### **Any providers of further and higher education or training**

- Franklin College
- Grimsby Institute
- Linkage (special post-16 provision)

#### **Independent Schools**

- Best Futures
- Orchard Education
- St James School
- St Martins School

#### **Childcare providers**

- All childcare providers

#### **Children's Centres**

- Reynolds
- Highgate
- East Marsh
- Central
- Immingham
- Queensway
- Broadway
- Nunsthorpe and Bradley Park
- Riverside
- Scartho
- West Marsh

## **NHS England**

- NHS England North (Yorkshire and Humber)

## **NHS Trust**

- East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust

## **NHS Foundation Trusts**

- Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust
- Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

## **Health providers**

- Navigo
- Care Plus Group
- Primary Care

## **Adoption Support Agency**

- North East Lincolnshire Council Adoption Service

## **Registered adoption society (also known as voluntary adoption agency)**

- No local provision

## **Fostering Agency**

- North East Lincolnshire Council Fostering Service
- Treehouse

## **Children's Homes**

### **Eight locations in North East Lincolnshire**

## **Residential holiday schemes for disabled children**

- No local provision

## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

## **Child and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)**

- CAFCASS South Yorkshire and Humberside

## **Probation Services**

- National Probation Service (North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire)
- Community Rehabilitation Company (Humberside, Lincolnshire and North Yorkshire)

## **Youth Offending Hubs**

- North East Lincolnshire Youth Offending Service

## **POLICE AND IMMIGRATION**

## **British Transport Police**

- British Transport Police Midlands

### **Port Police Forces**

- Port Police Force

### **Border Police**

- Border Police

## **OTHER**

- Salvation Army
- Blue Door
- NSPCC
- Others charities commissioned by safeguarding partners
- Religious Organisations (as set out in the school admissions regulations 2012)
- All sport and leisure providers

## **OTHER AGENCIES INCLUDED IN THE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN ARRANGEMENTS**

### **Voluntary Community Social Enterprise**

- Voluntary Action North East Lincolnshire
- North Bank Forum
- Carers Support Centre
- Others significant to the area

### **Faith-based organisations**

- All faith based organisations

### **Private sector organisations**

- Private sector organisations who provide activities, support and services to children, young people and families

### **Fire and rescue service**

- Humberside Fire and Rescue Service

### **Health providers**

- Virgin Care
- Addaction

### **Others**

- Health watch
- Office of Police and Crime Commissioner
- Elected Members

This list is the selected relevant agencies and other named organisations and agencies. Other organisations and agencies with responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children who are not listed will still have a responsibility for working under the auspices of the NELSCP arrangements.

The three safeguarding partners will:

- Ensure the relevant agencies are aware of the expectations placed on them by the Safeguarding Children Partnership arrangements
- Consult with relevant agencies in developing the safeguarding arrangements to make sure the expectations take account of an agency's structure and statutory obligations
- Assure ourselves that relevant agencies have appropriate, robust safeguarding policies and procedures in place and how information will be shared amongst all relevant agencies and safeguarding partners
- Determine how regularly our list of relevant agencies will be reviewed
- Be clear on how agencies with a national remit should collaborate and take account of that agency's individual responsibilities and potential contributions towards a number of safeguarding arrangements

Once designated as a relevant agency, agencies are under a duty to cooperate with the published safeguarding arrangements.

The strength of local partnership working is predicated on safeguarding partners working collaboratively with relevant agencies, whose involvement the safeguarding partners consider is required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The NELSCP arrangements will engage local organisations and agencies to collaborate and provide targeted support to children, young people and families. The local approach also enables joint identification of, and response to, existing and emerging needs, and to agreeing priorities to improve outcomes for them.

#### 4.4 EARLY YEARS

Early years providers play a crucial role in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, as defined by their duties under Section 40 of the Childcare Act 2006. There are robust arrangements in place at a strategic and operational level to engage with early years providers to ensure they are fulfilling their safeguarding responsibilities, for example through annual safeguarding audits and the Nursery and childminders safeguarding forums.

There are established, collaborative relationships with schools and colleges, which are built on open and transparent partnership and governance arrangements. These include the school child protection coordinators forum, the safeguarding education sub group and primary and secondary heads forum and associated safeguarding audit frameworks.

Through the Multi Agency Innovation Hub (see section 7 below) there will be opportunities to build on existing mechanisms and develop an even more unique, innovative approach to engaging with early year's providers, schools, colleges and other educational providers in the new arrangements.

#### 4.5 YOUTH CUSTODY AND CHILDREN'S HOMES

The Youth Offending Service will report to NELSCP and will continue to support to the Partnership through the Local Authority Children's Services representative on the Partnership. The Youth Offending Service is directly represented on the NELSCP Improving Practice Group and on wider sub-groups.

There are no Youth Custody homes within the local authority but those which are in the region will be required to report on arrangements as and when necessary.

There is representation from the residential homes, which are in the area of the local authority, on the NELSCP Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Panel (MACE)

All residential homes for children within North East Lincolnshire, including those provided by North East Lincolnshire Council and private sector organisations, are selected by the safeguarding partners as relevant agencies. There are mechanisms in place to engage residential homes in local arrangements which will include the section 11 process and the local provider forum.

#### 4.6 INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

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 requests for information. They will communicate regularly with their relevant agencies and others they expect to work for them.

#### 4.7 INDIVIDUAL AGENCIES AND ROLES

- Secure the clinical expertise of designated health professionals for safeguarding children within their arrangements
- Make arrangements to allow all schools, colleges and other educational providers in the local area to be fully engaged, involved and included in the safeguarding arrangements
- Name schools, colleges and other educational providers as relevant agencies and will reach their own conclusions on how best locally to achieve the active engagement of individual institutions in a meaningful way.

#### 4.8 ASSESSMENT AND SERVICES

- Agree with their relevant agencies the levels for the different types of assessment and services to be commissioned and delivered
- Publish a threshold document, which sets out the local criteria for action in a way that is transparent, accessible and easily understood.

#### 4.9 DATA AND INTELLIGENCE

- Use data and intelligence to assess the effectiveness of help being provided to children and families including early help
- Use the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment to help them understand the prevalence and contexts of need, including specific needs relating to disabled children and those relating to abuse and neglect, which in turn should help shape services.

#### 4.10 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT/ TRAINING

The Safeguarding Partners will consider what training is needed locally and how they will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of any training they commission. There is an intention to build a workforce development strategy that underpins the partnership arrangements and priorities.

#### 4.11 SCRUTINY AND ASSURANCE

- Monitor the effectiveness of the arrangements for child protection conferences
- Ensure scrutiny is objective, acts as a critical friend and promotes reflection to drive continuous improvement

- Publish a report at least annually to set out what they have done as a result of the arrangements, including child safeguarding practice reviews, and how effective these arrangements have been in practice
- Agree arrangements for independent scrutiny of the report
- Make sure the report is widely available - the safeguarding arrangements should set out where the reports will be published
- Report any updates to the published arrangements in the annual report and include the proposed timescale for implementation.

#### 4.12 FUNDING

- Agree the level of funding secured from each partner including any contributions from relevant agencies to support the local arrangements. These should be equitable and proportionate, ,
- Make payments towards expenditure incurred in conjunction with local multi -agency arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children

#### 4.13 SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE REVIEWS

- Have regard to any guidance the National Panel publishes
- Make arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases and commission and oversee the review of those cases, where they consider it appropriate for a review to be undertaken
- Promptly undertake a rapid review of the case, in line with any guidance published by the National Panel. As soon as the rapid review is complete, they should send a copy to the National Panel
- Have clear processes for how they will work with other investigations and work collaboratively with those responsible for carrying out those reviews
- Agree with the reviewer(s) of local child safeguarding practice reviews, the method by which the review should be conducted
- Seek to ensure that practitioners are fully involved in local child safeguarding practice reviews, and that families, including children, are invited to contribute to review
- 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 in respect of matters covered in the report
- Consider carefully how best to manage the impact of the publication of local child safeguarding practice reviews on children, family members, practitioners and other closely affected by the case
- Inform the National Panel and the Secretary of State of the reasons for a delay of a local child safeguarding practice review, set out any justification for any decision not to publish either the full report of information relating to improvements and have regard to any comments from the National Panel and Secretary of State in respect of the publication
- Send a copy of the full report of the local child safeguarding practice reviews to the National Panel and Secretary of State and Ofsted
- Take account of the findings from their own local reviews and from all national reviews, highlight findings from reviews with relevant parties and regularly audit progress on the implementation of recommended improvements

## 5 Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.

The responsibility for how the system learns the lessons from serious child safeguarding incidents lies at a national level with the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (the Panel) and at a local level with the safeguarding partners. Serious child safeguarding cases are those in which:

- abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected and
- the child has died or been seriously injured.

The three safeguarding partners must make arrangements to:

- identify serious child safeguarding cases which raise issues of importance in relation to the area
- commission and oversee the review of those cases, where they consider it appropriate for a review to be undertaken.

On being informed of a notifiable incident, the NELSCP will undertake a Rapid Review, in line with published guidance in Working Together 2018, in order to make decisions and to inform the initial recommendation of the NELSCP to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (the Panel) about whether a local practice review is required.

The responsibility for considering cases for Child Safeguarding Practice Review and for informing the Panel lies with the Safeguarding Review Group (SRG). Decision-making will be scrutinised by an independent advisor. Terms of Reference for the SRG have been written in detail to cover all requirements and timescales in Chapter 4 of Working Together 2018 (including notifications of serious incidents.) A process map has been created with procedures, Safeguarding Practice Reviews will be commissioned using regional and national information on known reviewers and their expertise. These reviewers will be assessed and selected by representatives of NELSCP and the SRG, based on previous work and experience, recommendations and via personal interview. Reviews will be published as outlined in Chapter 4 of Working Together 2018 on the Safer NEL website. Exceptions to publication will be discussed and agreed with the Panel. The Local Safeguarding Review arrangements are aligned to the local child death review arrangements.

## 6 Child Death Reviews

Locally the local Child Death Review (CDR) Partners responsible for ensuring child death reviews are undertaken is the North East Lincolnshire Council Chief Executive and North East Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group Chief Clinical Officer. As NEL have a joint child death review arrangement with North Lincolnshire this will be undertaken jointly through the Northern Lincolnshire child death arrangements. Locally, the lead representatives have delegated their functions to the Director of Public Health, North East Lincolnshire Council and Director of Quality and Nursing, North East Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group

The CDR partners have the responsibility and authority for ensuring full participation with Northern Lincolnshire Child Death Review arrangements, though the lead representatives remain accountable for any actions or decisions taken on behalf of their respective agency.

The lead representatives and those they have delegated their authority to, are able to:

- Speak with authority for the child death partner they represent
- Take decisions on behalf of their organisation or agency and commit them on policy, resourcing and practice matters

- Hold their own organisation or agency to account on how effectively they participate and implement the local arrangements.

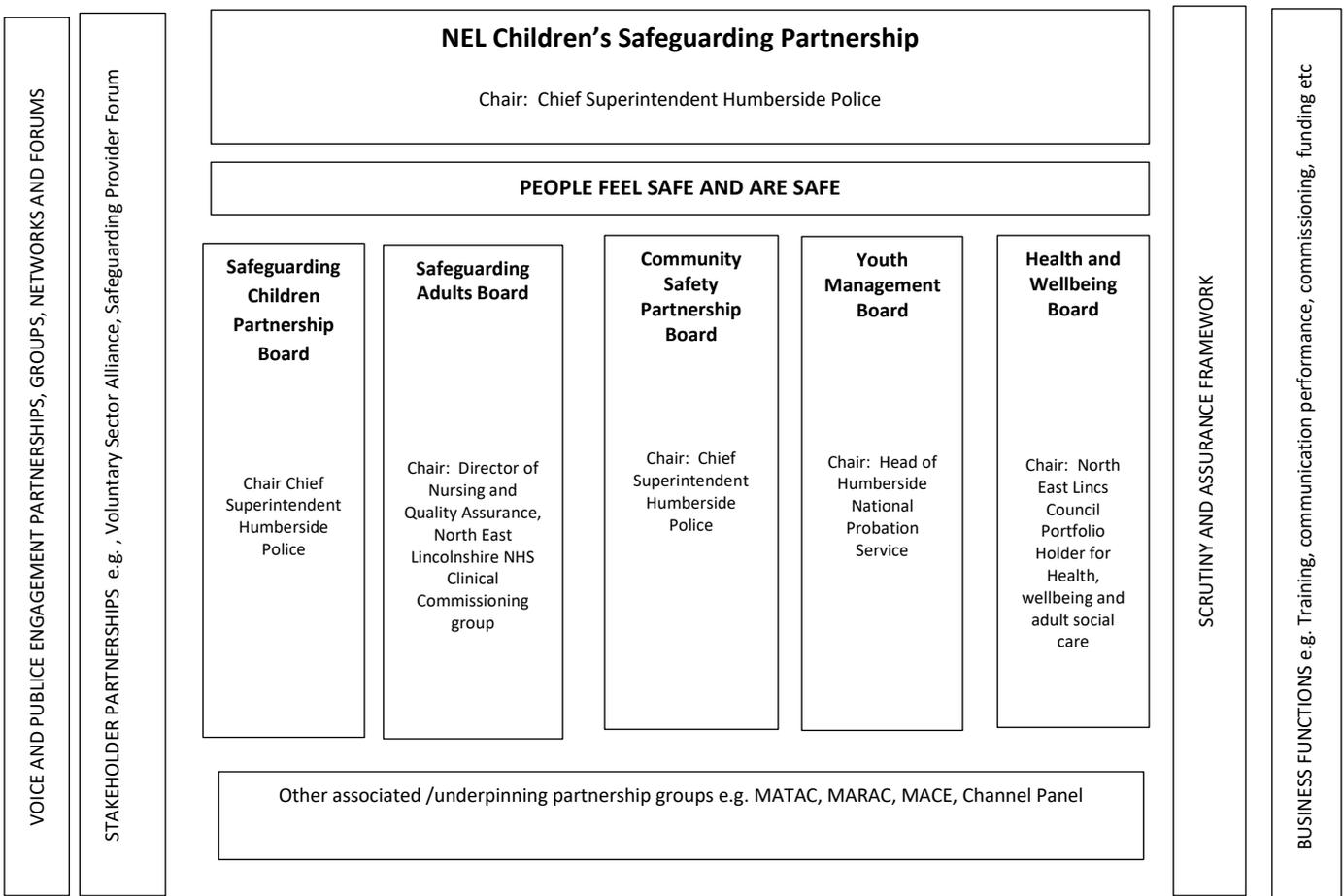
More detail regarding child death partners’ roles and responsibilities will be articulated in the Northern Lincolnshire Child Death Review arrangements Memorandum of Understanding.

A report of the activity of the Northern Lincolnshire Child Death Arrangements will be presented to the NEL SCP on an annual basis. The Local child death review arrangements are aligned to the local Child Safeguarding Review arrangements.

## 7 Partnership structure and Governance Arrangements

The NELSCP arrangements have been established in the context of wider partnership and governance arrangements across the ‘Place’ of North East Lincolnshire. The NELSCP arrangements link into other strategic partnership work streams that support children, young people and families, including the Health and Wellbeing Partnership, Local Safeguarding Adult Partnership, Community Safety Partnership, The Channel Panel and the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements as well as the Local Family Justice Partnership.

An overview of our partnership and governance structure is detailed below:



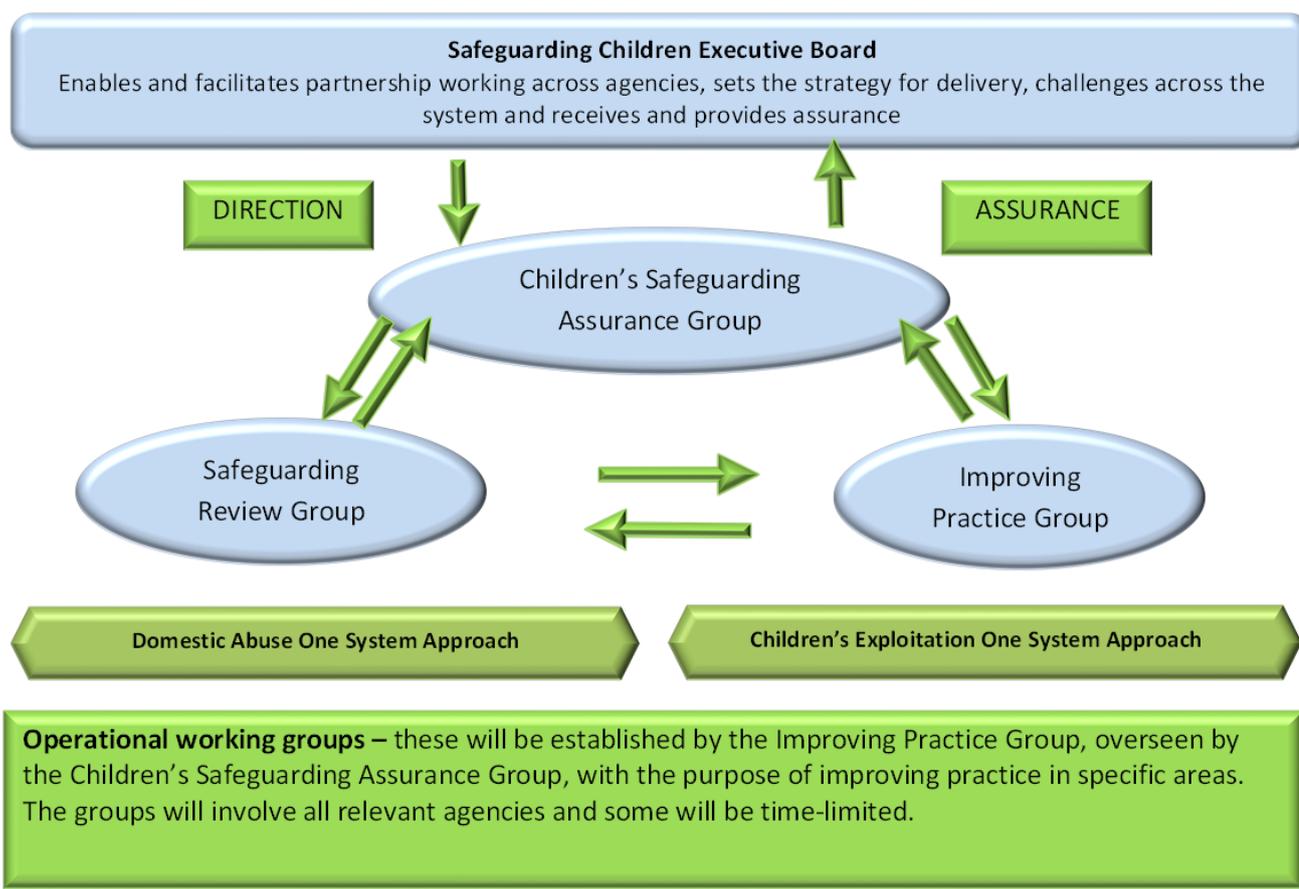
A systematic review of the previous Board’s structure aims to reduce duplication and improve integration with other local partnerships. The number of subgroups has reduced with the new ones having a strong focus on improving practice and ensuring an emphasis on learning.

Priorities

The Partnership priorities and key safeguarding themes will be identified through data and performance analysis, audit of children’s cases and analysis of need. The partnership will adopt the previous LSCB priorities which are neglect (continues to be the highest stated issue at Child Protection), domestic abuse (due to prevalence within the community) and sexual harm (assurance is needed that processes are effective). Priorities will develop and change over time dependent on presenting issues and analysis of local need.

Structure

The NELSCP arrangements are underpinned by a robust partnership and governance structure, as detailed below:



A concise description of the purpose of each group, the responsibility of each group and how it interlinks with the whole structure of the Board is as follows:

**Safeguarding Children Partnership (Executive Board)**

The NELSCP is the key statutory mechanism for coordinating, monitoring and supporting relevant agencies in North East Lincolnshire to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people, and for ensuring public service system effectiveness. The three statutory partners will equally lead the NELSCP and will be held to account by each other for the successful delivery of children’s safeguarding arrangements.

The Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive Board brings together the three safeguarding partners.

The key role and functions are:

- assessment of need
- strategy
- planning and delivery
- performance outcomes
- quality and performance monitoring
- compliance and oversight of child practice reviews

The Executive Board will be in two parts; part one will include the three safeguarding partners., part two will include the wider safeguarding partners who will agree the local strategy and system indicators and report on exceptions to enable the board to obtain assurance through high challenge / high support. The NELSCP will provide strategic direction to a single sub-group, the Children's Safeguarding Assurance Group (CSAG), and will receive assurance from the CSAG on:

- The effectiveness of the local whole system safeguarding arrangements – from Early Help through to Children Looked After
- Delivery of the NELSCP priorities and the improvement activity of the NELSCP.

Note: When specific / new safeguarding issues arise that are assessed as an emerging or high risk they will report directly into the Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive Board.

### **Children's Safeguarding Assurance Group (CSAG), chaired by North East Lincolnshire Council with Humberside Police as the Vice Chair**

The purpose of the CSAG is to monitor, scrutinise and interpret local system performance and quality in terms of the safeguarding system indicators agreed by the NELSCP. The group also interprets the current position and direction of travel in terms of the system practice improvement activity and the business of the Safeguarding Learning and Review Group. The CSAG will:

- Assess the local position on the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local system
- Prepare a position statement on the current system status, the progress of the Improving Practice Group and the learning from the Safeguarding Review Group for the NELSCP
- Identify emerging safeguarding issues or threats, tasking the IPG with specific areas to initiate improvement activity through agreeing and setting practice standards
- Put in place mechanisms to measure system outcomes against the NELSCPs key strategic areas of focus (Mental Health, Substance Misuse and Exploitation)
- Set and manage an annual audit schedule against the NELCSP priorities, key areas of focus and the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements
- Commission audits of cases identified by the IPG where there are learning opportunities in respect of interagency working but where the Safeguarding Review Criteria is not met
- Receive learning from the Safeguarding Review Group and position statements from the IPG on the progress of improvement activity

The CSAG will link with Multiagency Strategic Partnership Delivery Groups to receive information on their activity to inform quality assurance and practice development.

### **Improving Practice Group (IPG) chaired by Humberside Police with the North East Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group as the Vice Chair**

The purpose of the IPG is to focus on facilitating, innovating and developing local practice to drive improvements in outcomes for children and young people in specific areas of practice identified by the CSAG. The IPG receives Place-based data (including the voice of children, families and staff), which

enables it to identify need and develop its strategy to be agreed with the NELSCP Executive Board. The IPG will:

- Formalise the objective(s) for delivery and establishes working groups to focus on improving practice in specific areas
- Ensure working parties are time limited and remain in place until the objectives of the party are met or until the IPG disbands the party with the formal agreement of the NELSCP
- Receive learning from the SRG on active improvement activity
- Share a concise report with the CSAG to provide an overview on the position of the improvement activity supported by the group
- Co-ordinate the completion of the annual audit schedule
- Identify cases that would benefit from audit in respect of interagency learning where the safeguarding review criteria is not met.

### **Safeguarding Review Group (SRG) chaired by the North East Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning group with North East Lincolnshire Council as the Vice Chair**

In the event of a Serious Child Safeguarding case, a rapid review meeting is undertaken, overseen by the Safeguarding Review Group (SRG), which is made up of safeguarding partner representatives and facilitated by a member of the Safeguarding Partners Multi Agency Innovation Hub. The safeguarding partner representatives make a recommendation to the safeguarding partners about whether a local, national or no review should be undertaken. This group will also facilitate communication with the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, Ofsted and the Secretary of State, Department for Education. In the event of a serious child safeguarding practice review, the SRG would be responsible for overseeing the process, development and monitoring of the action plan. The action plan will be signed off by the safeguarding partners at the Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive Board.

### **Strategic Delivery Groups**

#### **Domestic Abuse One System Approach (DAOSA)**

The Domestic Abuse One System Approach is a multiagency strategic partnership delivery group. Using an Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) scorecard, this group reports progress to the three Safer NEL boards – the Community Safety Partnership, the Safeguarding Adults Board and the Safeguarding Children Executive Board. The interface with the CSAG will enable the NELSCP to seek assurance and offer direction and challenge to the progress of the Domestic Abuse strategy. In addition to holistically addressing issues relating to perpetrators, victims and wider family, it will implement a programme of workforce development to ensure skills and experience gaps are identified and addressed, identify what is working well and identify current gaps in provision.

#### **Children’s Exploitation One System Approach (CEOSA)**

The Children’s Exploitation One System Approach will be a multiagency strategic partnership delivery group. This group will broaden the current scope of exploitation to encompass the work of the former “Keeping Children Safe” Group (which looked specifically at Missing, , Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Criminal Exploitation, Harmful Sexualised Behaviour) as well as wider issues such as radicalisation and the activity of the Channel Panel. Like the Domestic Abuse One System Approach, this group will use an OBA scorecard to report into the CSAG. It will agree multi-agency actions to address and reduce the identified risk and deploy additional resources in respect of young people at significant or complex risk of one or any of the vulnerabilities. It will identify system-wide themes and issues in respect of the vulnerabilities that will contribute to multi-agency awareness and promote effective partnership working. It informs strategic planning, workforce development and problem profile.

## **Operational Working Groups**

There are a number of inter-agency operational working groups which support the structure and are overseen by the IPG-and CSAG, with the purpose of improving practice in specific areas. Some of the groups are time limited, working groups that include:

### **Managing and Improving Practice Group (MIPP)**

The function of the Managing and Improving Practice group is to quality assure practice at both a multi and single agency level. Audit themes will be aligned to the Partnership priorities, identified and emerging themes from performance exceptions and audit themes through single agency audit findings.

### **Operational Vulnerability group**

The purpose of this operational group is to identify any cases where any of the three vulnerabilities (Child Sexual Exploitation [CCE], Child Criminal Exploitation [CSE], Missing) is a current feature. It will ensure that there has been an appropriate and timely response with a robust safety plan in place with the family. It will ensure that the case is held at the appropriate level, interventions are driving progress and any actions relating to CCE/CSE/missing form part of the child's main plan.

### **Channel Panel**

This brings together multi-agency partners to consider referrals to the police regarding PREVENT and the radicalisation of children and young people and adults with care and support needs. (PREVENT is part of the Government's strategy to prevent terrorism by reducing the possibility of radicalisation). The aim is to identify opportunities for partnership action and reduce the impact on children and young people. Exceptions reporting regarding the business of the Channel Panel will be through the Multi Agency Innovation Hub Business Report.

### **Voice and Public Engagement Partnerships, Groups, Networks and Forums**

There are established mechanisms in place where children, young people and families can have their say. They share their views and experiences, challenge and support local decision makers, shaping and influencing strategic planning, commissioning and service provision at an individual, service and strategic level. Key examples include Young Reporters, Children in Care Council, Youth Parliament, and Youth Action.

## **Supporting Mechanisms**

### **Multi-Agency Innovation Hub**

This will offer dedicated support to the effective operation of the Safer NELSCP and safeguarding system. This includes development policies, procedures, measuring impact, performance/ data management, learning and improving practice, communication and awareness-raising.

### **Scrutiny and Assurance Framework**

The framework will inform all elements of the system and will feed into the Targeted Services Pathway Lead Officer group, Innovation Hub and the Executive Board. It will enable safeguarding partners to:

- Have a direct line of sight to practice
- Take account of independent scrutiny which helps determine the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements
- Inform practice through audit
- Receive challenge from Youth Action
- Have assurance whether inter agency practice is joined up and effectively safeguards and promotes the welfare of children.

## **Process Functions**

The functions support the underpinning work streams which support and enable local safeguarding arrangements e.g. in relation to training and communications. There are also a range of reports that are required to be fed into the NELSCP Executive Board and governance arrangements or associated strategic partnerships and boards. This ensures compliance and provides opportunities to share information and learning, challenge and support as required and impact on improved practice across partners. Reporting through to the NELSCP Executive Board will be on an exceptions basis and the Board will seek assurance regarding children and area specific issues.

## **Wider safeguarding partners**

Whilst wider safeguarding partner organisations are not named in the relevant agency regulations, their involvement is crucial within the safeguarding arrangements. These include for example Humberside Fire and Rescue Service, Lincolnshire Housing Partnership, voluntary, charity, social enterprise who provide activities, support and services for children and families, private sector organisations, faith-based organisations and other health providers. Organisations and agencies who are not named in the relevant agency regulations, whilst not under a statutory duty, should nevertheless cooperate and collaborate with the safeguarding partners particularly as they may have duties under section 10 and/or section 11 of the Children Act 2004.

Where a relevant agency has a national remit, such as the British Transport Police and Children and Families Court advisory and Support Services, the safeguarding partners will collaborate and take account of that agency's individual responsibilities. The safeguarding partners have secured the clinical expertise of designated health professionals for safeguarding and children looked after within their arrangements.

# **8 Data and Intelligence**

The NELSCP uses data and intelligence to assess the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families across the safeguarding system, from Early Help to children looked after and care leavers. It is focussed around the journey of the child. There are opportunities to further develop our performance data and intelligence across the Partnership and bring together one multi-agency dataset, so that we can better understand our collective impact.

We will develop our approach to the principles of OBA, which identifies five key questions inform our monitoring, evaluation and next steps planning:

- What is the outcome we want for our children, young people and families?
- What is the curve we want to turn – what does success look like?
- What is the story behind the baseline – where have we been and where are we headed?
- How much did we do, how well did we do it and is anyone better off (performance measures)?
- Are we making a difference (indicators)?

A wide range of performance, activity and compliance data is regularly used across the workforce to aid ongoing management oversight and ensure best practice. This is a key feature of the NELSCP Scrutiny and Assurance Framework, which also incorporates case audit, quality assurance and practice observations and service user feedback and views. Performance data and intelligence is routinely collated and fed into key partnership and governance arrangements.

This is not exhaustive of all the opportunities for oversight, but does take account of the performance and intelligence monitoring across the key NELSCP partnership and governance structure.

There will be a flexible approach to monitoring performance and intelligence to ensure that the information collated relates to current need and any new and emerging threats, to inform decision-making and strategic direction leading to better outcomes.

The multi-agency dataset includes data on all aspects from Early Help through to statutory intervention. Contributions to the core data set are received quarterly from partners who also provide the story behind the figures. The dataset is scrutinised and analysed by the relevant sub-groups and by the NELSCP Improving Practice Group and the Children's Safeguarding Assurance Group.

Each sub-group produces a highlight report, on activity, actions and performance, including on how the 'voice of the child' has been included in the work of the sub-group and the safeguarding needs of disabled children. A composite report is presented to the Partnership, highlighting performance, issues, exceptions, actions and recommendations for further action. The Partnership, and each sub-group, keeps an action log which is reviewed and completion of each action recorded. Actions and outcomes from all case audits and reviews are reviewed and re-reviewed to ensure that they are embedded in practice. The NELSCP Delivery Plan records and reviews actions and outcomes for each Partnership priority.

## 9. Scrutiny and Assurance

Working Together 2018 defines independent scrutiny of safeguarding arrangements as:

- providing assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area
- part of a wider system which includes the independent inspectorates' single assessment of the individual safeguarding partners and the Joint Targeted Area Inspections
- objective, acts as a constructive critical friend and promotes reflection to drive continuous improvement
- considering how effectively the arrangements are working for children and families as well as for practitioners, and how well the safeguarding partners are providing strong leadership and agree with the safeguarding partners how this will be reported

The published arrangements should set out the plans for independent scrutiny, how the arrangements will be reviewed and how any recommendations will be taken.

The NELSCP arrangements have been developed to create an environment that is conducive to robust scrutiny and constructive challenge, where there are opportunities to proactively ensure that they identify gaps in practice and arrangements and to ensure a partnership approach to learning and improvement across the safeguarding system.

The NELSCP Scrutiny and Assurance Framework provides clarity regarding who will conduct the assurance function, how arrangements will be reviewed and how any recommendations will be taken forward. This includes the process and timescales for ongoing review of the arrangements to ensure they remain fit for purpose. The Framework also clarifies mechanisms for scrutinising our Safeguarding Children Partnership arrangements through individual partner's scrutiny functions, the outcomes of which can contribute to learning across the wider partnership as well as the individual organisations themselves.

The Framework informs all elements of the system and will feed into both the Improving Practice Group and the Children's Safeguarding Assurance Group, Innovation Hub and NELSCP. It will enable safeguarding partners to:

- Have a direct line of sight to practice
- Take account of independent scrutiny which helps determine the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements
- Inform practice through audit
- Receive challenge from Youth Action
- Have assurance whether inter agency practice is joined up and effectively safeguards and promotes the welfare of children

The Managing Improving Practice Group will quality assure practice at both a multi and single agency level. Audit themes will be aligned to Partnership priorities, identified and emerging themes from performance exceptions and single agency audit findings. Assurance activity will include

- Audit against Section 11 of the Children Act 2004
- Agency Specific Assurance event(s)
- Thematic Assurance event(s)
- Practice learning line of sight event(s)
- Peer Review.

In the event of any dispute between the safeguarding partners and/or relevant agencies or any local disputes relating to multi-agency practice, the Independent Scrutiny Officers (ISOs) may also assist with the dispute resolution process. See Dispute resolution section 13 below.

The Lead Member for Children's Services in local authorities hold key political accountability for ensuring that the needs of all children and young people, including the most disadvantaged and vulnerable, and their families and carers, are addressed. In doing so, they work closely with other local partners to improve the outcomes and well-being of children and young people. Therefore, the North East Lincolnshire Council Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People will have a key role in NELSCP arrangements. The 'voice' of children and young people runs through all NELSCP business and CYSCP.

The NELSCP challenges other strategic Boards regarding their response to the views and wishes of children and young people and the impact of safeguarding issues upon their lives.

### **Independent Scrutiny**

The role of independent scrutiny is critical to provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of the NELSCP arrangements, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases.

Independent scrutiny is part of a wide system which includes the independent inspectorate's single assessment of the individual safeguarding partners and the Joint Targeted Area Inspections.

Safeguarding partners will be jointly responsible for identifying Independent Scrutiny Officers (ISOs) who should have suitable attributes, skills, knowledge and understanding of the children's safeguarding system. It is anticipated that there will be a small pool of ISOs from a range of backgrounds, which will ensure different perspectives and provide a degree of flexibility and capacity to contribute to the scrutiny and assurance arrangements as required. External independent scrutiny will be commissioned where independent scrutiny is required in respect of specific areas of focus.

ISOs will play a significant role in the Children's Safeguarding Partnership Scrutiny and Assurance Framework and there are also opportunities for safeguarding partners and representatives from relevant agencies to engage in peer review at a local, regional and national level.

Through leading and contributing to the following elements of the NELSCP Scrutiny and Assurance Framework, the ISOs will ensure an independent scrutiny perspective of the safeguarding system at all levels, including front line practice and with a direct interface with children, young people and families.

The ISOs will also be required to:

- Scrutinise the arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases
- Scrutinise how well the safeguarding partners are providing strong leadership
- Contribute to reciprocal peer review arrangements where arranged
- Prepare reports pertaining their scrutiny activities
- Attend Safeguarding Children Partnership meetings to present their findings
- Prepare their own annual report that will outline their scrutiny activity and any impacts and outcomes arising from it, a summary of which will be referenced in the NELSCP Executive Board arrangements annual report
- Scrutinise the Partnership arrangements and annual report prior to publication
- Attend to represent an independent scrutiny perspective within individual safeguarding partner's scrutiny arrangements, if required.

In all meetings and representations, ISOs will communicate ownership of their independent and objective perspective.

### **Safeguarding Partners Multi Agency Innovation Hub**

The Safeguarding Partners Multi Agency Innovation Hub will be responsible for the development and implementation of the NELSCP arrangements. The team will consist of posts that are multi-disciplinary and will operate under the ethos of agile working. Posts will be filled through secondment or via a recruitment process led by a safeguarding partner as required. Posts seconded into the team from safeguarding partner organisations (or other agencies) will retain employee status with their substantive post and will work under the auspices of their terms and conditions. Day to day accountability is through the Multi Agency Innovation Hub lead officer and governance is via the Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive Board.

The Hub Lead Officer will:

- Facilitate the NELSCP
- Facilitate, develop and implement Children's safeguarding arrangements
- Work with safeguarding partners to develop one overarching strategic approach
- Bring strategic leads together to drive forward these arrangements
- Support the development and promote best and innovative multi-agency practice to improve outcomes
- Work with partners to develop and implement new ways of working and to identify opportunities to co-locate services that reduces duplication, improves practice and outcomes for children
- Lead on local and national learning including from serious child safeguarding incidents
- Develop an independent scrutiny framework to provide high levels of assurance across the safeguarding pathway
- Lead on system change that allows partners to work together differently and more effectively across the safeguarding pathway
- Lead on engaging with relevant agencies on safeguarding arrangements
- Lead and develop statutory guidance (including child death review guidance), policies, procedures, strategy and other key documents
- Work with others to develop a workforce that is fit for the future

- Lead specific work streams.

Safeguarding Development Officer(s) will:

- Contribute to the development and implementation of the Partnership arrangements
- Link with a safeguarding partner organisation and will contribute to practice and new ways of working
- Act as strategic link to other Partnership arrangements and underpinning planning regimes
- Review and develop statutory guidance (including child death review guidance), policies, procedures, strategy and other key documents
- Co-ordinate the Child Death Review process including support for the child death review panel
- Develop and facilitate the training programme
- Be responsible for communication and engagement activity
- Facilitate performance, data and needs analysis to inform the arrangements and measure impact
- Contribute to the scrutiny and assurance process including through case audits
- Meet expectations of other funding partners and the delivery of expectations in terms of training, support and guidance.

The Hub will:

- Support and develop the Children's Safeguarding structure and underpinning functions and work streams (including co-ordination of Partnerships, groups, training, communications (including social media and website management), engagement and scrutiny and assurance framework
- Be responsive to need and demand and therefore take responsibility to ensure a collective delivery of the arrangements and prioritise developments agreed via the Partnership and be linked to wider ambitions, for example, co-location and partnership approach to early effective intervention and demand management.
- Be funded through and/or have direct posts from across the safeguarding partners. Moving forward, it is our intention to identify further opportunities for key officers in other agencies to be co-located in the Hub to build on the principles as identified above.

## 10. Voice and Engagement: children and families

The voice of children, young people and their families is at the heart of our Partnership. Partners are committed to engaging at an individual, service and strategic level. We will make use of the various systems, processes, groups and forums to gather the views, either directly through services, through independent voice representatives or through established groups and networks.

Building on this strong foundation of voice and engagement the safeguarding partners will forge the new approach to working with young people into a more enduring model that focuses on understanding strengths and assets, as well as contextual safeguarding issues whilst acknowledging individuals as the experts in their own lives and managing risk facing behaviours in a positive way.

The ambition is to engage with all children and young people who experience services, particularly those who are harder to engage. Agencies and organisations will make sure that the information, help, protection and services are available at the right time and the right place leading to better outcomes where children and young people are resilient and safe.

We will work with established groups and forums where children and young people can have their say, share their views and experiences, challenge and support local decision makers and shape and influence strategic planning, commissioning and service provision at all levels.

These include:

- Routine feedback from children and young people involved with services
- Primary, adolescent and college lifestyle surveys
- Involvement of young people in the scrutiny and assurance framework
- Involvement of young people in commissioning and recruitment
- Involvement in 'Make Your Mark' annual youth ballot where young people get to vote on issues that matter to them
- Attendance at key boards and partnerships
- Opportunities that come from established groups such as Young Reporters, Youth Action, Children in Care Council, Youth Parliament.

## 11 Information Sharing and Information Governance

All sharing of personal information by NELSCP will be in accordance with data protection legislation such as the Data Protection Act 2018. Data protection legislation is not a barrier to justified information sharing, but provides a framework to ensure that personal information about individuals is shared appropriately.

The members of the NELSCP are all registered as data controllers with the Information Commissioner's Office and act as joint data controllers for the purpose of the Partnership's activities. These activities include:

- Processes underpinning partnerships and groups (agenda, minutes, papers)
- Business functions (training, communications, performance)
- Funding
- Safeguarding practice reviews and local learning reviews
- Child death reviews (where appropriate)

### Information sharing

To effectively share information:

- All practitioners should be confident of the processing conditions, which allow them to store, and share, the information they need to carry out their safeguarding role. Information which is relevant to safeguarding will often be data which is considered 'special category personal data' meaning it is sensitive and personal.
- Where practitioners need to share special category personal data, they should be aware that the Data Protection Act 2018 includes 'safeguarding of children and individuals at risk' as a condition that allows practitioners to share information without consent
- Information can be shared legally without consent, if a practitioner is unable to, cannot be reasonably expected to gain consent from the individual, or if to gain consent could place a child at risk
- Relevant personal information can be shared lawfully if it is to keep a child or individual at risk, safe from neglect or physical, emotional or mental harm, or if it is protecting their physical, mental or emotional wellbeing.

Practitioners must have due regard to these data protection principles which allows them to share information. There is also greater significance on organisations being transparent and accountable in relation to their use of data. All organisations handling personal data need to have comprehensive and proportionate arrangements for collecting, storing and sharing information.

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 do not prevent, or limit, the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children and young people safe.

Safeguarding partners (as defined in Section 16E of the Children Act 2004) will play a strong role in supporting information sharing between and within organisations and addressing any barriers to information sharing. This will include ensuring a culture of appropriate information sharing is developed and support as necessary by multi-agency training.

Safeguarding partners can require a person or body to comply with a request for information, as outlined in section 16H and 14B of the Children Act 2004, respectively. This can only take place when the information requested is for the purpose of enabling or assisting the safeguarding partners to perform their functions. Any request for information to a person or body should be necessary and proportionate to the reason for the request. Safeguarding partners should be mindful of the burden of requests and should explain why the information is needed.

The organisations identified as having a duty under Section 11 of the Children Act, as detailed in section 4.3 above, must have arrangements in place to safeguard and protect the welfare of children.

There are also a number of other similar duties, which apply to other organisations. For example Section 175 of the Education Act 2002, which applies to local authority education functions and to governing bodies of maintained schools and further education institutions and Section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 which applies to the immigration, asylum, nationality and customs functions of the Secretary of State (in practice discharged by UK Visas and Immigration, Immigration Enforcement and the Border Force, which are part of the Home Office).

### **Information Storage**

The records relating to safeguarding practice reviews are inventoried and stored by North East Lincolnshire Council on behalf of the safeguarding partners. Historical information relating to child death reviews is inventoried and stored by North East Lincolnshire Council on behalf of the child death review partners. It is proposed that paper copies are scanned and stored electronically in due course. Electronic copies of documents are held on a North East Lincolnshire Council secure server on behalf of the safeguarding partners and are the responsibility of the Multi Agency Innovation Hub as the data controllers.

### **Information requests**

Information should be shared effectively, amongst and between, organisations and agencies, to improve outcomes for children and families. Safeguarding partners may require any person or organisation or agency to provide them, any relevant agency in the area, a reviewer or another person or organisation or agency, with specified information. This must be information that enables and assists the safeguarding partners to perform their functions to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area, including as related to local and national child safeguarding practice reviews.

The person or organisation to whom a request is made must comply with such a request and if they do not do so, the safeguarding partners can take legal action against them. Safeguarding partners should be aware of their own responsibilities under the relevant information law and have regard to guidance provided by the Information Commissioners Office when issuing and responding to requests for information.

### **Subject Access Requests**

The GDPR gives a right of access to an individual's personal information by the individual making a Subject Access Request (SAR). Individual safeguarding partner organisations have a statutory responsibility to reply

to SARs regarding the information they hold. However, if any SARs are made that relate specifically to the Partnership arrangements they will be processed in accordance with legal and statutory obligations and where a request spans more than one safeguarding partner a joint response will be issued by those partners.

### **Freedom of Information**

The Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000 gives a right of access to the information public authorities hold, any request in relation to the NELSCP will be considered by the partner who receives it and responded to with appropriate consultation with other partners.

### **Information Governance**

Each safeguarding partner will have in place appropriate information security policies and procedures in place to ensure personal, sensitive and confidential data is appropriately protected in accordance with Data Protection legislation. The information security policies and procedures of partners will be informed and where necessary comply with the standards and guidance.

If an information complaint arising from the partnership arrangements is received, it will be processed in accordance with legal and statutory obligations following the established procedures of the partners.

## **12 Funding**

Working in partnership means organisations and agencies should collaborate on how they will fund their arrangements. The three safeguarding partners will make payments towards expenditure incurred in conjunction with the local arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Funding allocations are agreed by safeguarding partners through the NELSCP Executive Board.

Safeguarding partners have agreed their funding contributions for 2019/20. This funding will contribute to the costs associated with the implementation and ongoing development of the Partnership arrangements (and the child death review arrangements), including the Multi Agency Innovation Hub and Independent Scrutiny.

Safeguarding partners contributions will be direct funding and/or direct posts as deemed appropriate. In addition, individual safeguarding partners will contribute to the development and delivery of the training programme, communications, marketing, events and child safeguarding practice reviews.

Funding arrangements will be subject to an annual review and there will be further consideration and discussion regarding future funding rounds. If any safeguarding partners do not fulfil their funding responsibilities as identified in the Partnership arrangements, the Dispute Resolution Process, as outlined in section 13 will be deployed.

Moving forward, the Safeguarding Children Partnership partners have made a commitment to open dialogue with the local Safeguarding Adults Board and Community Safety Partnership to determine how collaborative use of funding can better commission provision that impacts and tackles priority issues faced by all three partnerships across the system.

# 13 Complaints and Dispute Resolution

## **Complaints**

Any complaints regarding the work of the Partnership or the implementation of the safeguarding arrangements will be processed in accordance with the Multi-Agency Protocol for Complaints that the three main partners have agreed. This will ensure that complaints are dealt with seamlessly, promptly and through a clearly co-ordinated process. One of the partners will lead each complaint investigation.

## **Dispute resolution**

Working collaboratively to safeguarding and promote the welfare of children and families leading to better outcomes is at the heart of our local arrangements. Through effective leadership, openness, transparency and effective professional challenge, there is a commitment to resolving any disputes locally between the safeguarding partners, selected relevant agencies and other organisations and agencies in a timely fashion.

If a clear, single point of leadership is required, safeguarding partners will agree the most appropriate partner, who will act on behalf of and in the interest of all three safeguarding partners. This will be done through a discussion at the NELSCP Executive Board or if done outside of the Partnership arena, it shall be referenced and recorded at the NELSCP Executive Board as required.

The first point of resolution of issues would be through the three safeguarding partners. Any issues which cannot be resolved directly between the three safeguarding partners will be escalated to the lead representatives of the three safeguarding partners 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

In the event that a resolution cannot be reached, the issue would be escalated to an Independent Scrutiny Officer in the first instance for consideration, mediation (if required) and resolution. If a meeting is required, the meeting will be chaired by an Independent Scrutiny Officer with an agenda agreed prior to the meeting by all parties involved.

It is acknowledged that any safeguarding partner that fails to comply with their obligations under law are held to account through a variety of regulatory and inspection activity, for example Ofsted, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and the Care Quality Commission. If no resolution can be reached, consideration should be given by the three safeguarding partners to seek formal independent arbitration via a professional body such as the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators to reach an acceptable conclusion. Where necessary, legislation allows the Secretary of State to take enforcement action against any agency that is not meeting its statutory obligations as part of local safeguarding arrangements.

## **Multi- Agency practice escalation processes**

All agencies work within different structures and from a variety of professional backgrounds and perspectives, though they should work co-operatively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. This is reliant of all agencies complying with Working Together 2018 and the underpinning NELSCP arrangements, policies and procedures. In the event of any disagreement between practitioners involved in the NELSCP arrangements relating to multi- agency practice it is necessary to have in place a quick and straightforward means of ensuring safeguarding arrangements and resolving professional differences of opinion, as detailed in the Partnership Escalation procedure.

## 14 Endorsement

We endorse the content of this Memorandum of Understanding and accept responsibility for working under the auspices of the conditions outlined above.



Joanne Hewson  
Chief Operating Officer  
(Director of Children's Services)  
North East Lincolnshire Council



Jan Haxby  
Director of Nursing and Quality  
Assurance  
North East Lincolnshire Clinical  
Commissioning Group



Darren Wildbore  
Chief Superintendent  
  
Humberside Police