

**Safeguarding Partnership Arrangements for Telford and Wrekin**

**2023 - 2024** (Updated May 2023)

**For review May 2024**

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**Foreword**

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the borough’s most vulnerable children and adults is at the heart of what our organisations do. This document sets out the updated partnership arrangements to ensure that we work effectively together to do this.

We recognise for children to grow up safe, happy and healthy they must be nurtured within their community. Adults that need our support thrive best when they are supported in their community. These principles underpin our work. Equally, it is essential that our work is informed and challenged by the voice of children, adults and their families.

These arrangements will enable us to develop strong and effective partnerships while also recognising the different legislation and requirements for adults and children’s safeguarding. We will continue to challenge each other to do better, to learn and to aspire for the best outcomes for children and adults who need our support and protection.

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| **Executive Director, Children’s & Family Service, Telford & Wrekin Council** | **Accountable Officer****NHS Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Integrated Care Systems (ICS)** | **Telford & Wrekin****Local Policing Area Commander****West Mercia Police** |

**Introduction**

Protecting and supporting vulnerable children and adults is a core priority of how Telford & Wrekin Council, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Integrated Care Systems (ICS) and West Mercia Police work together. Following the introduction of Working Together in 2018 the role of the 3 equal statutory partners, the Council, Police and NHS Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Integrated Care Systems (ICS) were brought together with the statutory duties under the Care Act to discharge these safeguarding duties through the joint arrangements of the Telford and Wrekin Safeguarding Partnership.

The requirements of these two pieces of legislation and statutory guidance are set out below.

**Safeguarding Children Statutory Guidance**

In 2018 “Working Together” statutory guidance for multi-agency safeguarding children set out the following objectives

* Three safeguarding partners (Police, Council, ICS) must make arrangements to work together to safeguard and protect the welfare of children. The arrangements must enable local agencies and partners to work together in a system where:
	+ Children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted
	+ Partner organisations and their agencies collaborate, share and co-own the vision on how to achieve improved outcomes for 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 timely decision making for children and families.

These arrangements link with other strategic partnership work locally e.g. Health & Wellbeing

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

Where a child suffers a serious injury or death as a result of child abuse or neglect 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 local level with the safeguarding partners. The Panel is responsible for identifying and overseeing the review of serious child safeguarding cases which, in its view, raise issues that are complex or of national importance. The Panel should also maintain oversight of the system of national and local reviews and how effectively it is operating. Locally, safeguarding partners must make arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases which, in their view, raise issues of importance in relation to their area. They must commission and oversee the review of those cases, where they consider it appropriate for a review to be undertaken

**Adult Safeguarding Legislation**

The Care Act 2014 sets out:

The Care Act 2014 requires local authorities to set up a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) in their area. The Care Act 2014 Guidance provides further detail on how this should be achieved. The objective of a SAB is to help and protect adults who have needs for care and support, who are experiencing or are at risk of abuse or neglect, and as a result of their needs are unable to protect themselves from abuse or neglect. This is whether or not the adult is having their needs met or they meet the local authority’s eligibility criteria for care and support services.

The Act says that the SAB must:

 *include the local authority, the NHS and the police, who should meet regularly to discuss and act upon local safeguarding issues;*

 *develop shared plans for safeguarding, working with local people to decide how best to protect adults in vulnerable situations;*

 *Publish a safeguarding plan and report to the public annually on its progress, so that different organisations can make sure they are working together in the best way.*

SABs must arrange a **safeguarding adults review** in some circumstances – for instance, if an adult with care and support needs dies as a result of abuse or neglect and there is concern about how one of the members of the SAB acted.

The reviews are about learning lessons for the future. They will make sure SABs get the full picture of what went wrong, so that all organisations involved can improve as a result.

# **Telford & Wrekin: The Community**

The borough is a place of contrasts. The New Town of Telford has grown around existing, historic communities such as Wellington, Oakengates, Dawley and Madeley. Along the banks of the River Severn is Ironbridge, the birthplace of the industrial revolution and now a World Heritage site. Surrounding Telford is a rural hinterland – accounting for two thirds of the borough’s area.

Telford & Wrekin has a thriving economy. With a GVA[[1]](#footnote-1) per capita rate higher than the West Midlands. The borough has retained its historic links to manufacturing and industry with 17.2% of local jobs in manufacturing.

The 2021 Census gave a population estimate of 185,600 - an increase of 11.4% from 2011 making it the fastest growing area in the West Midlands. This growth is supported by 1000+ net new builds each year which has seen the borough ranked by the annual Centre for Cities report in the top five for housing growth for the past 5 years.

As the population growth it is becoming more diverse and ageing:

* + In 2011, 13% of the school children were from an ethnic minority and by 2021, the rate was 26%
	+ Between 2011 and 2021, the number of people aged 65+ grew by 36%. Twice the regional rate of 18%.

The population of the Borough is forecast to continue to grow to 200,000 by 2034.

The borough is a place of contrasts. Some of the most deprived neighbourhoods in England are a stone’s throw from some England’s least deprived. Across Telford, there are 18 neighbourhoods (from 108) ranked amongst the 10% most deprived in England. More than a quarter of the borough’s population are living in neighbourhoods ranked amongst the 20% most deprived in England – some 53,800 people.

The impact of deprivation can be seen in health inequalities that exist in the borough. The difference in life expectancy between the most and least deprived neighbourhoods of the borough is 8.8 years for men and 6.4 years for women. Factors that drive such a difference include, for example, childhood and adult obesity.

**Safeguarding Partnership**

The purpose of the Safeguarding Partnership is toenable partners with relevant safeguarding responsibilities to engage with the work driven by the Safeguarding Partnership.

This will include:

* Developing understanding of local safeguarding arrangements and the expectations that this places on to partners;
	+ Influencing the Safeguarding Partnership priorities
	+ Share learning on practice and policies – both local and national
	+ Hear the voices of children, adults and families to ensure that the work of the Partnership understands and responds to their views.
	+ identifying new and emerging safeguarding challenges and influence the work of the Partnership

**Membership:**

* Membership will be from “relevant agencies” as set out in Working Together and will include:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Organisation/Sector** | **Role** |
| Independent Chair | Independent Chair / Scrutineer |
| Telford & Wrekin Council | Director of Children and Adult Services |
| Assistant Director: Adult Social Care  |
| Assistant Director Children Safeguarding and Early Help |
| Assistant Director: Health, Wellbeing and Public Protection |
| Assistant Director: Education and Corporate Parenting |
| Service Delivery Manager Community Social Work and Safeguarding |
| Local Authority Legal Representative |
| Lead Member for Children & Adults, Early Help & Support |
| West Mercia Police | Local Policing Commander Representative |
| Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust | Safeguarding Lead for Telford and Wrekin |
| Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Hospital Trust | Director of Nursing and Quality |
| Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust | Head of Strategic Safeguarding |
| Telford and Wrekin Integrated Care System | Executive Nurse, Lead for Quality & Safety |
| GP  | GP Safeguarding Lead |
| Shropshire Partners In Care | Chief Officer |
| The Probation Service | Head of Service |
| West Mercia & Warwickshire Community Rehabilitation Company  | Head of Service |
| Telford College  | Further Education Representative |
| Healthwatch  | Chair of Healthwatch |
| Wrekin Housing Group | General Manager |
| Chief Officer Group | CEO Taking Part |
| Care Quality Commission | Inspection Manager |
| Education Reference Group | Private Early Years representative |
| Primary School and Team Safeguarding Voice© representative |
| Secondary School representative |
| Special School representative  |
| Academy School representative |
| Further Education representative |
| Lead Governor representative |
| YJT | West Mercia Youth Justice Team (YJT) |
| CAFCASS | Children & Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) |
| Voluntary | Chief Officer Group Representative |
| Education Reference Group | Representatives of Early Years, Primary and Secondary Schools  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Virtual Members** |  |
| West Midlands Ambulance Service | Head of Clinical Practice |

**Principles and Values of the TWSP**

The principles and values set out below apply to the safeguarding of adults and children in Telford & Wrekin:

*Empowerment*

* presumption of person led decisions and informed consent;

*Prevention*

* it’s better to take action before harm occurs;

*Proportionality*

* proportionate and least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented;

*Protection*

* support and representation for those in greatest need;

*Partnership*

* local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting abuse and neglect; and

*Accountability*

* accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

The strong partnership working in Telford & Wrekin to safeguarding adults with care and support needs and children has been recognised in inspection reports:

The 2020 OFSTED inspection report of Telford & Wrekin Council’s Children’s Social Care found:

“Strong and effective multi-agency partnerships mean that children in need of help and protection are identified quickly and get the support they need.”

The Adult Social Care Peer Review carried out in March 2021 found:

“Telford has exceptional adult social care operational delivery and partnership relationship during an incredibly difficult time and is in a strong position to position itself as the leader of population health, economic restoration and maximising the digital inclusion offer at the local place”

“The ‘Making it Real’ Board is central to the co-production and developing strengths-based practice”

The Telford and Wrekin Integrated Place Based Partnership will receive annual updates from the Safeguarding Adult Board.

**Structure Diagram of Telford and Wrekin Safeguarding Partnership Arrangements**

**Telford and Wrekin Safeguarding Partnership Executive**

**Safeguarding Children Board**

Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel

**Safeguarding Adults Board**

Children’s Partnership Development

Quality, Performance and Operations

Thematic: Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board\*

Child Death Overview Panel

Adult Review, Learning and Training

Safeguarding Adult Review Panel

Thematic:

Neglect

Thematic: Child Exploitation\*

Corporate Parenting Strategic Group

Family Connect Strategic Board

\*Also reports to the Community Safety Partnership

**The TWSP Executive Terms of Reference**

The purpose of the Executive is to provide strategic oversight of safeguarding arrangements across Telford & Wrekin by holding partners to account.

The Executive is chaired by an Independent Chair and the members are the three statutory partners: The local authority (Children and Adult Services), Police and ICS. The Executive reserve the right to invite other relevant agencies to join in response to emerging need and new priorities.

The Independent Chair also undertakes the function of Independent Scrutineer, as set out in Working Together to act as a constructive critical friend and promotes reflection to drive continuous improvement.

The Executive will ensure effective safeguarding partnership arrangements by:

* Publishing a strategic plan setting out the strategic objectives and priorities for the TWSP
* Publishing the TWSP annual reports
* Appoint Sub Group chairs and vice chairs
* Review and agree the TWSP Information Sharing Agreement
* Setting and monitoring the budget for the TWSP
* Ensuring effective communication across the TWSP
* Holding statutory partners to account for their responsibilities to the TWSP and their roles and responsibilities within the children safeguarding arrangements and the adult safeguarding arrangements
* Holding partners to account for their responsibilities to safeguard adults with care and support needs and children.
* Providing independent scrutiny through the role of the Independent Chair

The TWSP Executive will delegate the partnership development, performance management, quality assurance functions and statutory reviews as set out below.

**Frequency of Meetings**

 The Executive will meet twice a year.

**Quorum**

Representatives of the 3 statutory agencies are required for the meeting to be quorate.

**Accountability**

The TWSP Executive will provide reports to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The TWSP Annual report will be presented to the relevant Scrutiny Committee.

The TWSP will work with the CSP on relevant joint priorities.

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**Safeguarding Adult Board Terms of Reference**

The purpose of the Safeguarding Adults Board is to help and protect adults who have needs for care and support, who are experiencing or are at risk of abuse or neglect, and as a result of their needs are unable to protect themselves from abuse or neglect.

The Adult Safeguarding Board will:

* Develop and monitor the adult safeguarding partnership work programme setting out the priorities and outcomes for the SAB and relevant sub groups.
* Review and monitor the Adult Safeguarding Partnership element of the TWSP Risk Register
* Consider new and emerging adult safeguarding risks and consider risks identified by sub groups
* Consider national policy, guidance and statute that has strategic implications for adult safeguarding
* Monitor the referrals and outcomes of Safeguarding Adult Reviews.
* Provide a forum for the voice of service users and carers to ensure they inform the work of the safeguarding partnership
* Each SAB meeting will include a case study to highlight the lived experience of service users
* Promote community awareness and engagement with adult safeguarding within Telford and Wrekin
* Receive reports from relevant TWSP Sub Groups and on issues that have been escalated by sub groups
* Approval of SAR reports prior to submission to publication.
* Receive annual updates from the Telford and Wrekin Integrated Place Partnership
* Appoint Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Sub Groups that report to the SAB

All group members will identify a nominated substitute to attend the group when they are not available. Substitutes will receive all group papers. It is expected that the lead member will keep them briefed on group activities in order that they can make a positive contribution if called on to attend meetings. It is the lead member’s responsibility to ensure that the representative is available in the event that they are unable to attend.

Attendance will be reported to the Executive

**Accountability**

The Adult Safeguarding Board will be accountable to the TWSP Executive

**Chair**

The chair and a vice of the Board will be appointed by the Safeguarding Executive.

**Frequency**

The Safeguarding Adult Board will meet quarterly. The Chair may call an extra–ordinary meeting at any time, and members can make a written request for such a meeting to the Chair.

**Quorum**

The meeting will only be quorate if at least two thirds of partners/organisations are represented, including one representative from the 3 statutory partners.

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**Safeguarding Children Board Terms of Reference**

The Purpose of the Safeguarding Children Board is to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and protect the welfare of children.

The Safeguarding Children Board will:

* Develop and monitor the work programme setting out the priorities and outcomes for the SCB and relevant sub groups.
* Review and monitor the Safeguarding Children Partnership element of the TWSP Risk Register
* Consider new and emerging children’s safeguarding risks and consider risks identified by sub groups
* Consider national policy, guidance and statute that has strategic implications for children’s safeguarding
* Monitor the referrals and outcomes of Local Safeguarding Practice Reviews.
* Provide a forum for the voice of children and young people to ensure they inform the work of the safeguarding partnership
* Each SCB meeting will include a case study to highlight the lived experience of service users
* Promote community awareness and engagement with children’s safeguarding within Telford and Wrekin
* Receive reports from relevant TWSP Sub Groups and on issues that have been escalated by sub groups
* Approval of LCSPR reports prior to submission to the National Panel and Publication.
* Appoint Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Sub Groups that report to the SCB

All group members will identify a nominated substitute to attend the group when they are not available. Substitutes will receive all group papers. It is expected that the lead member will keep them briefed on group activities in order that they can make a positive contribution if called on to attend meetings. It is the lead member’s responsibility to ensure that the representative is available in the event that they are unable to attend.

Attendance will be reported to the Executive

**Accountability**

The Safeguarding Children’s Board will be accountable to the TWSP Executive.

**Chair**

The chair and a vice of the Board will be appointed by the Safeguarding Executive.

**Frequency**

The Safeguarding Children’s Board will meet quarterly. The Chair may call an extra–ordinary meeting at any time, and members can make a written request for such a meeting to the Chair.

**Quorum**

The meeting will only be quorate if at least two thirds of partners/organisations are represented, including one representative from the 3 statutory partners.

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**Adult Review, Learning & Training Sub-Group (ARLT) Terms of Reference**

The purpose of the ARLT is to promote a culture of continuous multi-agency learning and improvement The ARLT Sub Group will promote a culture of continuous multi-agency learning and improvement through:

* The development, commissioning and communication of training, guidance, resources and tools;
* Support the delivery of regional and single agency policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of adults;
* Develop and monitor a performance framework to ensure effective partnership work to safeguard adults with care and support needs.
* Evaluate the effectiveness and impact of the findings and recommendations from practice reviews, audit and multi-agency learning.
* Undertake multi-agency case file audits
* Undertake the Care Act compliance audit.
* Develop appropriate learning, training and practice guidance
* Develop policy and procedures locally and regionally with the West Midlands Regional Adult Safeguarding Groups
* Report progress against these objective and work plan to the Safeguarding Adults Board
* Escalate issues identified through the work above to the Safeguarding Adults Board as appropriate.

The agenda of the ARLT meeting will ensure that there is specific focus on both the quality / performance and the partnership development.

All sub group members will identify a nominated substitute to attend the group when they are not available. Substitutes will receive all group papers. It is expected that the lead member will keep them briefed on group activities in order that they can make a positive contribution if called on to attend meetings. It is the lead member’s responsibility to ensure that the representative is available in the event that they are unable to attend.

Attendance will be reported to the Executive

**Accountability**

The Adult Review, Learning and Training Sub Group will be accountable to the SAB

**Chair**

The chair and a vice chair of the Board will be appointed by the Safeguarding Adult Board.

**Frequency**

The ARLT Sub Group will meet quarterly. The Chair may call an extra–ordinary meeting at any time, and members can make a written request for such a meeting to the Chair.

**Quorum**

The meeting will only be quorate if at least two thirds of partners/organisations are represented, including one representative from each of the 3 statutory partners.

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**Childrens Safeguarding Partnership Quality Performance and Operations (QPO) Terms of Reference**

The key objective of this sub-group will be to ensure that the Board’s Business Plan is delivered by quality assurance and audit frameworks, ensuring development priorities and objectives are achieved and that targets and performance data, including audit findings, are available to the Safeguarding Children’s Board within agreed timescales.

This sub-group also has responsibility for monitoring the TWSCB thematic sub-groups and each of the thematic sub-group chairs will sit on the QPO Sub-group and provide a report on its progress.

The QPO Sub Group will:

* Develop and monitor a performance framework to ensure effective partnership work to safeguard children and young people.
* Undertake multi-agency case file audits
* Undertake the Section 11 audit and peer review.
* Receive reports from the CDOP
* Receive the LADO and IRO Annual Reports
* Report progress against these objectives and work plan to the Safeguarding Children Board
* Escalate issues identified through the work above to the Safeguarding Children’s Board as appropriate.

Representatives from other organisations will be invited for relevant agenda items.

All group members will identify a nominated substitute to attend the group when they are not available. Substitutes will receive all group papers. It is expected that the lead member will keep them briefed on group activities in order that they can make a positive contribution if called on to attend meetings. It is the lead member’s responsibility to ensure that the representative is available in the event that they are unable to attend.

Attendance will be reported to the Executive.

**Accountability**

The Children’s Quality Performance and Operations will be accountable to the Safeguarding Children’s Board

**Chair**

The chair and a vice of the Board will be appointed by the Safeguarding Children Board.

**Frequency**

The Children’s Quality, Performance and Operations Sub Group will meet quarterly. The Chair may call an extra–ordinary meeting at any time, and members can make a written request for such a meeting to the Chair.

**Quorum**

The meeting will only be quorate if at least two thirds of partners/organisations are represented.

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**Safeguarding Children Partnership Development Sub Group Terms of Reference**

This sub-group will take responsibility for this complete partnership development process, which will include training and policy and procedures but will also be responsible for overseeing multiagency development initiatives and ensuring a coordinated approach.

The Performance Development Sub Group will:

* Promote a culture of continuous multi-agency learning and improvement through coordination of the learning from Rapid Review and Local / National Safeguarding Practice Reviews
* The development, commissioning and communication of training, guidance, resources and tools;
* Evaluate the effectiveness and impact of the findings and recommendations from practice reviews, audit and multi-agency learning.
* Develop appropriate learning, training and practice guidance
* Develop policy and procedures locally and regionally with the West Midlands Regional Safeguarding Procedures Group
* To maintain liaison with the CSPR Panel, Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP), Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs), Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) and Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) in respect of progressing any shared learning and improvement.
* To receive reports of serious incidents (safeguarding) from the Youth Offending Service which have been reported to the Youth Justice Board in respect of progressing any shared learning and improvement.
* The group will consider learning from the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) to identify and embed necessary learning and practice development. The duty to review child deaths sits with the child death review partners (Telford & Wrekin ICS and Telford & Wrekin Council). Our [CDOP arrangements](http://www.telfordsafeguardingboard.org.uk/lscb/download/downloads/id/414/child_death_reviews.pdf) have been reviewed to ensure that they meet new statutory guidance and are effective.

Representatives from other organisations will be invited for relevant agenda items.

All group members will identify a nominated substitute to attend the group when they are not available. Substitutes will receive all group papers. It is expected that the lead member will keep them briefed on group activities in order that they can make a positive contribution if called on to attend meetings. It is the lead member’s responsibility to ensure that the representative is available in the event that they are unable to attend.

Attendance will be reported to the Safeguarding Children Board.

**Accountability**

The Children’s Partnership Development will be accountable to the Safeguarding Children’s Board.

**Chair**

The chair and a vice of the Sub Group will be appointed by the Safeguarding Children Board.

**Frequency**

The Safeguarding Children Partnership Development Sub Group will meet quarterly. The Chair may call an extra–ordinary meeting at any time, and members can make a written request for such a meeting to the Chair.

**Quorum**

The meeting will only be quorate if at least two thirds of partners/organisations are represented.

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**Thematic Sub-groups**

Thematic sub-groups will be commissioned by the Executive to focus on specific priorities and should be time limited. Groups will be kept under review by the Executive to ensure that they reflect local safeguarding priorities.

The current thematic groups and their focus are:

* + - ***Neglect*** - is one of the most frequent causes for a child to be placed on a Child Protection Plan are domestic abuse and neglect.
		- ***Domestic Abuse*** - domestic abuse is a significant risk factor in the harm of vulnerable adults and children.
		- ***Child Exploitation***– criminal exploitation of vulnerable children is a significant cause of harm.

Each group will ensure improvement in identification, investigation and support for those at risk within Telford and Wrekin and reduce the numbers of those at risk and where appropriate the prosecution of perpetrators.

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**Child Exploitation Sub Group Terms of Reference**

To ensure, that as a partnership, we are fit for purpose to respond to all existing and new forms of child exploitation[[2]](#footnote-2) and to address any strategic barriers to achieving this purpose whilst recognising that children and young people are vulnerable to exploitation in a range of social contexts by applying the principle of contextual safeguarding[[3]](#footnote-3) to help respond to and prevent child exploitation.

The sub-group will

* Ensure that the child exploitation pathway is embedded across Telford and Wrekin and that all partner agencies are confident in recognising child exploitation and applying the pathway and review the pathway as appropriate.
* Recognise the continued support needed for children transitioning into adulthood and adults with care and support needs, linking with the work of the Adult Exploitation Subgroup.
* Revisit the recommendations of both internal and external reviews to ensure they are completed and reflected in both single agency and multi-agency practice
* Examine multi-agency data and reports from CE Risk Panel / Missing Core Group, Serious Violence Strategic Group to identify patterns, trends and unmet need.

The development work of the subgroup will be informed by local, regional, national practice and the subgroup will receive regular reports on local trends and patterns, and updates on policy to maintain an understanding of the profile of Child Exploitation in Telford and Wrekin. This will allow for the identification of any barriers that may need to be escalated to the Safeguarding Partnership Executive for resolution.

 **Accountability**

The Child Exploitation is accountable to the Safeguarding Children Board.

**Chair**

The chair and a vice of the Sub Group will be appointed by the Safeguarding Children Board.

**Frequency**

The Child Exploitation Sub Group will meet quarterly. The Chair may call an extra–ordinary meeting at any time, and members can make a written request for such a meeting to the Chair.

**Quorum**

The meeting will only be quorate if at least two thirds of partners/organisations are represented.

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**Neglect Sub Group Terms of Reference**

The purpose of the Neglect Sub Group is to ensure improvement in identification, investigation, support and intervention for children subject to abuse and neglect within Telford and Wrekin and reduce the numbers of those at risk.

The Neglect Sub Group will ensure partners work together to:

* Encourage children and young people who display marked changes in behaviour or emotional state to talk about their wellbeing.
* Provide support from a consistent group of practitioners to children and young people who have experienced abuse or neglect
* Children and young people who have experienced abuse or neglect have their words accurately represented in notes summarising their conversations with practitioners.
* Children and young people who have experienced abuse or neglect agree with practitioners how they will communicate with each other.
* Children and young people who have experienced abuse or neglect are offered therapeutic interventions based on a detailed assessment of therapeutic needs.

**Accountability**

The Neglect Sub Group is accountable to the Safeguarding Children Board.

**Chair**

The chair and a vice of the Sub Group will be appointed by the Safeguarding Children’s Board.

**Frequency**

The Adverse Child Lived Experience Sub Group will meet quarterly. The Chair may call an extra–ordinary meeting at any time, and members can make a written request for such a meeting to the Chair.

**Quorum**

The meeting will only be quorate if at least two thirds of partners/organisations are represented.

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**Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board Terms of Reference**

**Purpose**

To develop and deliver a Telford and Wrekin Domestic Abuse Strategy, which is intelligence-led and based on local needs gathered through a needs assessment. In doing this, the Board will have due regard to the 2021 Domestic Abuse Act which requires the strategy to make arrangements for the assessment of, and the need for accommodation-based support.

The strategy should outline the commitment from partners to address the issues identified.

In addition the Board will:

* Oversee the development of “needs analysis” and performance framework to inform the development of the Domestic Abuse Strategy and to understand the impact of its delivery.
* The Board will make recommendations on practice, policy and training.
* Review and develop multi-agency pathways for both victims and perpetrators, and ensuring the policies and procedures are fit for purpose and link to other pathways and strategies where appropriate (e.g. mental health and substance misuse).
* Review the multi-agency support available for children, adults, victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse and identify areas for development.
* Develop practitioner’s knowledge on the dynamics of domestic abuse on the whole family and provide them with the appropriate training and resources to support the family.
* Increase awareness in the community of domestic abuse and how to seek support.
* Use local and national learning to inform sharing of good work and practice.
* The Board will work closely with the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and adults and children’s safeguarding boards to oversee the process and arrangements for identifying, commissioning and reviewing Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs), whilst recognising that the CSP has the statutory responsibility to commission them, and to embed learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR).

In discharging these responsibilities, the Board will work to the [government’s cross-party definition of domestic abuse](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/142701/guide-on-definition-of-dv.pdf) below, to include honour based violence, forced marriage and female genital mutilation ([[4]](#endnote-1)).

Definition:

“*Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family member regardless of gender or sexuality.*

*This can encompass, but is not limited to, psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional”*

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i *Controlling behaviour is: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.*

*Coercive behaviour is: an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.”*

*Domestic abuse can involve a range of behaviours, which are abusive and which would not always be classed as violent. The definition has also been widened to include 16-17 year olds and reflect coercive control ‘honour’ based violence (HBV), female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage (FM).*

*Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is the partial or total removal of external female genitalia for non-medical reasons. It’s also known as female circumcision or cutting.*

*Honour Based Violence (HBV) is a crime or incident, which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community.*

*Forced Marriage (FM) is where one of both people do not (or in cases of people with learning disabilities, cannot) consent to the marriage and pressure or abuse is used.* *It is recognised as a form of violence against women and men, domestic/child abuse and an abuse of human rights.*

**Membership of the Board**

Membership of the board is designed to ensure key strategic partners and their relevant services are engaged and critically, the voices of victims are both heard and inform the development of the Domestic Abuse strategy.

Under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board must include members who represent the following:

1. local authority;
2. the interests of victims of domestic abuse;
3. the interests of children of domestic abuse victims;
4. the interests of charities and other voluntary organisations that work with victims of domestic abuse in its area;
5. the interests of persons who provide, or have functions relating to, health care services in its area;
6. the interests of persons with functions relating to policing or criminal justice in its area.

The Board shall appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair in consultation with the Community Safety Partnership and Safeguarding Partnership Executive. The Board may co-opt members for certain topics if required.

**Accountability & Transparency**

The Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board is accountable to the Safeguarding Executive and the Community Safety Partnership. It will work closely with other key thematic groups including the Adult and Children Safeguarding Boards.

The Domestic Abuse Forum will report to the Domestic Abuse Safeguarding Partnership Board.



In accordance with the 2021 Domestic Abuse Act, the Board will complete an annual report which will be presented to the Community Safety Partnership and Safeguarding Partnership Executive and submitted to the Home Office.

**Frequency**

The Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board will meet 3 times a year. The Chair may call an extra–ordinary meeting at any time, and members can make a written request for such a meeting to the Chair.

**Quorum**

The meeting will be quorate when two thirds of partners/organisations are represented along with either the Chair or Vice Chair.

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**Statutory Review Panel: Safeguarding Adult Review Panel**

The purpose of the SAR Panel is to meet the statutory requirements of the Care Act 2014, the Local Safeguarding Adult Board[[5]](#footnote-4) has a responsibility to conduct Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs). This Sub-group has delegated authority to undertake this activity to promote a culture of continuous learning and improvement across the organisations by using learning from case reviews to drive improvements in practice.

The SAR Panel will:

* + Develop and maintain a learning and improvement framework for the Telford and Wrekin Safeguarding Partnership (TWSP) including the agreed methodology, procedures, guidance and tools to enable the effective commissioning and delivery of safeguarding adult reviews in line with the West Midlands Safeguarding Adult procedure;
	+ Consider any cases which may indicate the necessity for undertaking a Safeguarding Adult Review and to make recommendations to the TWSP Chair about how to proceed;
	+ Convene a Safeguarding Adult Review Panel where needed to oversee the conduct of a SAR or learning review;
	+ Commission and conduct learning reviews regularly, not only in respect of cases which meet the statutory criteria for a Safeguarding Adult Review, but also in other discretionary cases which can provide useful insights into the way organisations are working together in line with the agreed framework;
	+ Ensure, where possible, that families and carers are invited to contribute to learning reviews and are supported through the process by an appropriate professional, as appropriate;
	+ Ensure that any learning is effectively implemented, progress monitored and that learning is appropriately disseminated to TWSP members and to request evidence from member agencies that lessons learned and recommendations for improvements to practice and service delivery have been embedded across member agencies;
	+ Maintain liaison with other forms of reviews across the partnership, including but not limited to, Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, Domestic Homicide Reviews, Learning Disability Mortality Reviews, Single Agency Serious Incident Cases and Learning from others, in respect of progressing any shared learning or improvements;
	+ Ensure involvement in regional work around SARs; and
	+ Ensure that reviews of Regional and National SARs are considered, to identify any local learning that is required.

The SAR Panel will report back to the Safeguarding Adult Board after each meeting highlighting the key areas for consideration and any recommendations

All group members will identify a nominated substitute to attend the group when they are not available. Substitutes will receive all group papers. It is expected that the lead member will keep them briefed on group activities in order that they can make a positive contribution if called on to attend meetings. It is the lead member’s responsibility to ensure that the representative is available in the event that they are unable to attend.

Attendance will be reported to the Safeguarding Adult Board.

**Accountability**

The Safeguarding Adult Review Sub-group will be accountable to the Safeguarding Adult Board.

**Chair**

The chair and a vice of the Sub Group will be appointed by the Safeguarding Adults Board.

**Quorum**

The meeting will only be quorate if at least two thirds of partners/organisations are represented, including one representative from each of the statutory partners.

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**Statutory Review Panel: Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Terms of Reference**

The CSPR Panel will oversee the process and arrangements for identifying, commissioning and reviewing child safeguarding practice reviews and will respond to serious incidents of harm in accordance with the Working Together (2018)

Referrals will be brought to the CSPR Panel’s attention and following consideration, where appropriate a Rapid Review will be undertaken to maximise learning and ascertain if there are national implications or whether a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review should be commissioned to identify and cascade learning to front-line practitioners.

The CSPR Panel will also be responsible for ensuring that agencies are able to demonstrate how the learning has been implemented and what difference it has made to improving partnership practice. This will be reported into the Telford and Wrekin Safeguarding Partnership (TWSP) Child Learning, Review and Training Subgroup.

The CSPR Panel will:

* Conduct Rapid Reviews and make recommendations to the National Panel, where necessary;
* Disseminate the learning from the Rapid Reviews as soon as is practicable;
* To manage and coordinate on behalf of the TWSP Partnership, the LCSPR process and quality assure the final report prior to presentation and ratification by the Safeguarding Children Board
* To oversee, monitor and challenge the effective implementation and impact of learning from the review recommendations; and
* To liaise with the Community Safety Partnership, the TWSP Adults Learning, Review and Training Subgroup and the Strategic MAPPA to determine the most appropriate type of review to identify learning and cascade the learning to Professionals.

Other relevant professionals/agencies will be co-opted onto the CSPR panel for specific learning reviews to provide advice and expertise relevant to the case.

All group members will identify a nominated substitute to attend the group when they are not available. Substitutes will receive all group papers. It is expected that the lead member will keep them briefed on group activities in order that they can make a positive contribution if called on to attend meetings. It is the lead member’s responsibility to ensure that the representative is available in the event that they are unable to attend.

Attendance will be reported to the Safeguarding Children Board

**Accountability**

The CSPR Panel is accountable to the Safeguarding Children Board. Ongoing monitoring of the implementation of the learning from LCSPRs will be undertaken by the Safeguarding Children Partnership Development Sub Group.

**Chair**

The chair and a vice of the CSPR Panel will be appointed by the Safeguarding Children Board.

**Frequency**

Meetings of the CSPR Panel will arrange monthly meetings which may be used to undertake Rapid Reviews or to develop and monitor the implementation of learning action plans. The Chair may call an extra–ordinary meeting at any time, and members can make a written request for such a meeting to the Chair.

**Quorum**

The meeting will only be quorate if at least two thirds of partners/organisations are represented, including one representative from each of the statutory partners.

**Decisions and Disputes**

Decisions will normally be reached by consensus. In the event of a disagreement a vote will be taken of members. In the event of a split the Chair will have the casting vote or discuss with the Partnership Manager for resolution of outstanding issues.

**Conflict of Interest**

Members must declare any conflict of interest as soon as it becomes clear. This will disqualify the member from participation in making the relevant decision on the issue but may not disqualify them from involvement in the discussion on the issue by agreement from other members of the group that are involved.

**Confidentiality**

All information discussed at the CSPR panel meetings with regards individuals and single agencies is STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL, and must not be disclosed to third parties without discussion and agreement of the CSPR panel. The disclosure of information outside the meeting beyond that which is agreed will be considered as a breach of the subject’s confidentiality and a breach of the confidentiality of agencies involved.

**Local CSPR Process**

Where the Local Authority has completed a Notification of a Serious Incident, a Rapid Review must be undertaken.

The referral will be shared securely on SharePoint and the CSPR panel member notified via an email and letter from the Partnership Manager.

Once a decision is made by the CSPR panel for Rapid Review, the Partnership Team will arrange, a rapid review meeting which will be held within 13 working days and the National Panel will be notified within 15 working days of the outcome of the Rapid Review.

Once a decision is made by the Panel that a Rapid Review is **not** required, the referral will become part of the papers for the next **monthly panel meeting**, where the next steps will consider the methodology for identifying and extracting learning.



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**Meetings and Intra-Meeting Working Arrangements for the Executive, Boards and Sub Groups**

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* The Chair will decide whether meetings are held online using Teams or when circumstances permit, held face-to-face. In the longer term, it will be acceptable for Teams meetings to be the default arrangement if most members prefer this way of working.
* The Chair can also nominate a small core group of members, to be approved by the full membership, to take actions between formal meetings on behalf of the full membership. These actions will then be reviewed for approval by the full membership at the following meeting.
* The Chair may also promote the establishment of a wider Forum group of Partnership members who have an interest in the subject but are not formal subgroup members. Such a group would be expected to be facilitated and administered by an external organisation and would not therefore be covered by Safeguarding Partnership governance arrangements, other than that the subgroup would be expected to consider and respond to any submission from the Forum and also to keep the Forum updated on its key strategies, actions and decisions.

The TWSP will embrace the opportunities for collaboration provided by remote working a virtual platforms and will work towards the following arrangements:

* The Executive / Board / Sub Groups will be provided with a dedicated Teams platform and will be able to create Channels for recurring themes and issue such as Decision and Action Logs, Agenda Setting, Performance Management and Strategy Development
* The implementation of Teams across the Safeguarding Partnership presents an opportunity for new ways of working and the Chair will take the lead in making the best use of this facility.
* For example, should a meeting take a decision to investigate a particular issue, a Chat group of interested members could be set up to work on these issues between meetings by using Teams to stimulate forum discussions or by submitting papers for editing and approval.
* Teams should also be used for agenda setting, with all members of the Executive / Boards / Subgroups being encouraged to add proposals for future agenda items to an editable agenda file on Teams.
* Following the first formal meeting of the Board / Sub Group a Decision and Action Log report will be completed which will set out decisions taken, actions required, the individuals or groups responsible for completing the actions and the target date for their completion.
* When actions are completed this will be noted and once the subgroup confirms this, this item will be removed from the log.
* Once this system is established the objective will be to update the log live during the meeting so that an up-to-date document will be available at the end of each meeting
* All documents, including the attendance register and Decision and Action Log will be shared using the TWSP SharePoint.
* The adoption of Teams for meetings provides a facility for members to register agreement, record comments and make suggestions during meetings using the chat facility. These comments will be saved and maintained as an additional record.

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**Other Safeguarding Arrangements Reporting to the TWSP Executive**

In addition to these existing thematic groups, two standing sub-groups will report to the Safeguarding Executive as they are an essential part of our safeguarding arrangements. These are:

* + - ***Early Help*** – our Early Help arrangements provide the threshold and “pathway” to access our safeguarding services built on a holistic “Strengthening Families” model. All partners use and work within these arrangements. It is essential that the Executive understand the effectiveness of these arrangements.
		- ***Corporate Parenting Strategic Group*** – this group focuses on securing the best possible outcomes for our children and young people in care so that as care leavers they are able to achieve independence and in doing so, have the life chances and opportunities that are at least equal to those of their peers.
		- **Family Connect Strategic Group** – As the MASH and front door for adults and children’s services Family Connect is an essential part of the safeguarding arrangements

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**Independent Challenge and Scrutiny**

The partnership will seek independent challenge though:

* ***Multi Agency Case File Audits*** – each Review, Learning and Training group will agree an annual programme of these audits which will be independently chaired.
* ***Case Reviews*** – where appropriate case reviews will be independently chaired.
* ***Independent Chair*** - the TWSP Executive and Boards will be independently chaired and this role will also fulfil the role of Independent Scrutineer.
* ***Annual Report*** - the Safeguarding Partnership will publish and when requested present to Scrutiny an annual report setting out:
	+ the work of the partnership and partner agency is to safeguard vulnerable children and adults;
	+ progress on agreed priorities;
	+ the implementation of recommendations from any national and local practice reviews and their impact;
	+ how feedback from children and families have informed the work of the Partnership and agencies.

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# **Voice of Children, Families and Adults**

The voice of children, families and adults will underpin and inform all that the Partnership does.

There are currently over 40 Children’s Safeguarding Boards across Telford & Wrekin. They are run by children for children. The Boards encourage children to have a voice on their own safety which helps develop resilience and a clear understanding of what constitutes abuse of young people. The safeguarding boards give children the right to speak out about abuse and an opportunity to drive forward the safeguarding agenda.

We will also continue to deliver an annual Children’s Conference for children and their families and carers. This is an important opportunity to hear the voices of children and their families as well as helping them to understand what child abuse is and how and who to report safeguarding concerns. The new arrangements would continue to support this initiative and encourage all schools to the Borough to support these arrangements.

“Making Safeguarding Personal” is our approach to ensuring the views of vulnerable adults inform our processes and the outcomes we are seeking to deliver. The key focus is on developing a real understanding of what people wish to achieve.

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# **Safeguarding Children Arrangements**

In 2019, Telford & Wrekin Children’s Safeguarding Board approved revised multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and thresholds. The purpose of this model is to enable practitioners from all agencies to consistently identify levels of need for children and young people.

Everyone who works with children – including teachers, GPs, nurses, midwives, health visitors, school nurses, family support practitioners, early years’ professionals, youth workers, police, Accident and Emergency staff, paediatricians, voluntary and community workers and social workers – has a responsibility for keeping them safe. No single professional can have a full picture of a child’s needs and circumstances and, if children and families are to receive the right help at the right time, everyone who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action.

The thresholds of need and intervention are;

* **Universal:** children with no identified additionalneeds and children with additional needs that be met by receiving support by a single agency practitioner and family members. Children, young people, parents and carers can access universal services directly.
* **Vulnerable:** children with additional needs that be met by “Early Help” single agency or multi-agency response, and Early Help Assessment would need to be completed.
* **Complex:** children and young people whose needs are not being met and care is comprised. This will require a multiagency response met by both Early Help and target support services. An Early Help Assessment and “Team Around the Family” will be required.
* **Acute**: children with acute and enduring needs at the highest level of vulnerability will be met by children’s social care and a multiagency team of early, target and specialist service.



Information sharing and collaborative working is underpinned by our multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) “Family Connect”. Family Connect is the first point of contact for both children and adult safeguarding concerns –whether identified by a member of the public or a professional.

This model is at the heart of effective safeguarding children in Telford & Wrekin.

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# **Partnership Support and Management**

The work of the partnership will be supported by the Partnership Team. The team supports all statutory boards and partnerships. It is funded from the Safeguarding Partnership budget and additional contributions from Telford & Wrekin Council.

# **Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Partnership Budget**

The Safeguarding Partnership Executive have an agreed budget of composed of contributions from:

West Mercia Police £63,300

Telford & Wrekin Council £63,300

Telford & Wrekin NHS Integrated Care System £63,300

Probation Service £826

Youth Offending Service £500

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# **Dispute Resolution & Whistleblowing**

* When there is a disagreement between two agencies, then they should seek to meet and find a satisfactory resolution.
* When the disagreement cannot be resolved, or involves a more complex set of partner agencies, then it will be for the Safeguarding Partnerships Executive to seek a resolution.
* Where necessary the three statutory safeguarding partners have primacy in determining the resolution to a disagreement.
* Where necessary, the statutory safeguarding partners may escalate to the Leader of the Council, the Chair of the Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Integrated Care Systems (ICS) and the Chief Constable of West Mercia Police.

Whistleblowing procedures provide an additional important route for staff to raise concerns in a safe process that protects their position, if this is a concern.

The Safeguarding Executive will each adhere to their own whistleblowing procedures within the Borough.

1. An alternative measure of Gross Domestic Product or the value of the local economy. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. “an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into any criminal activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or (c) through violence or the threat of violence. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child Criminal Exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology: Home Office Serious Violence Crime Strategy (2018) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. ‘Contextual safeguarding’ is a theory developed by Dr Carlene Firmin of the University of Bedfordshire, which supports an approach to understanding and responding to children’s experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It is recognised that the different relationships children form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
5. This is now known locally as Telford and Wrekin Safeguarding Partnership [↑](#footnote-ref-4)