

Telford and Wrekin
Safeguarding Children Partnership:
Multi-agency Safeguarding
Arrangements

Version 4
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Foreword

In the arrangements laid out in this document we outline our statutory duty for joint and equal responsibility for the multi-agency safeguarding of Telford and Wrekin's children:

- keeping children and young people safe in Telford and Wrekin
- working with our partners to continuously improve our effectiveness in achieving this
- placing learning and improvement at the centre of our shared work
- keeping a focus on understanding the impact of our work on the outcomes for local children and young people

As lead safeguarding partners, we recognise the importance of understanding how our new arrangements relate to the work of other local partnerships and the wider governance framework. This is set out within the document, together with our arrangements for independent scrutiny of our work, which we very much welcome.

Together we refer to our multi-agency arrangements as the 'Telford and Wrekin Safeguarding Children Partnership' ("TWSCP").

We would like to express our gratitude to staff and volunteers working in the many statutory and non-statutory services across the borough, whose individual and joint efforts provide support and protection for our children and young people

Chief Executive
Telford & Wrekin Council

Chief Executive
NHS Shropshire, Telford &
Wrekin ICB

Chief Constable
West Mercia Police

Introduction

The Children Act (2004) placed a duty on local authorities to promote co-operation with partners and other agencies to improve the wellbeing of children in their area it also placed duties on a range of organisations and individuals to ensure that they give sufficient regard to children in need of help and safeguarding.

Amendments made by the Children and Social Work act 2017 to the children Act (2004) strengthened this already important relationship by placing new duties on the police, NHS integrated care boards and local authorities as statutory safeguarding partners.

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 and the National Social Care framework (2023 Enabler 1) further sets out what organisations and agencies who have functions relating to children must and should do to help, protect and promote the welfare of all children and young people under the age of 18 in England.

It places a duty on local authorities, police forces and NHS integrated care boards to agree and put in place 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 raise aspirations as to what high quality support and practice can achieve, fostering challenge, support, collaborative resources and mutual challenge.

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;
- help and support is provided to meet the needs of children as soon as needs emerge and is done with a whole family focus;
- children are protected from maltreatment in and outside of the home;
- partners work together to prevent the impairment of children's mental and physical health or development;
- children, young people and families stay together and get the help they need, promoting the upbringing of children in their birth parents care or wider relational network wherever possible - including the provision of multi-agency support to strengthen these arrangement – and where this cannot be achieved, they are cared for in stable and loving alternative arrangements;
- partners collaborate, share and co-own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children;

- there is a shared approach with shared values and strong relationships across agencies so everyone can engage constructively in delivering effective support to children, young people and families;
- the voices of children, young people and families are embedded in the design and delivery of services and support;
- partners 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;
- there is understanding and sensitivity to factors including economic and social circumstances and ethnicity which can impact on children and families' lives;
- the diverse needs of parents, carers - including fathers and male carers - and the specific challenges being faced including parents/carers of disabled children are responded to; and,
- action is taken to enable children to have the best outcomes in line with the outcomes set out in the Children's Social Care National Framework and the wider landscape of Social Care reforms.

To drive these responsibilities, the TWSCP will link with other key partnerships:

- Health and Wellbeing Boards;
- Adult Safeguarding Boards; and,
- Community Safety Partnerships.

The Borough of Telford and Wrekin

The borough which the TWSCP serves is a place of contrasts. Central to the borough is Telford which, as a new town, grew rapidly from 1968 around existing communities including Wellington, Oakengates, Dawley and Madeley. Along the banks of the River Sever is Ironbridge, the birthplace of the industrial revolution and now a World Heritage site. Surrounding Telford is a rural hinterland – accounting for more than two thirds of the borough’s area.

The population of the borough is growing rapidly and in 2023 was estimated to be some 192,000 with a quarter (47,600) aged 0-19.

Between 2013 and 2023 the borough’s population increased by 22,900 people - an increase of 13.5% - making it the fastest growing area in the West Midlands and one of the fastest In England.

As the population grows it is becoming more diverse and ageing, between 2013 and 2023, the number of people aged 65+ grew by 28.5% which is twice the regional growth rate of 14.3%. Between the 2011 and 2023 Census, the ethnic minority population grew from 10.5% to 17% of the population.

Many people who have come to live in the borough have been attracted by the value for money housing offer, our schools, outstanding natural environment, growing economy and our connectivity into the wider West Midlands and beyond. At face value the borough is prosperous and thriving. However, the Index of Multiple Deprivation shows that there are 18 (17%) neighbour areas in the borough which are ranked amongst the 10% most deprived in England and 17% of children live in income deprived families.

This significantly impacts on the life experience of these residents in terms of poorer outcomes with regards to health, education employment and housing, such challenges have undoubtedly increased because of the cost-of-living crisis.

Principles and Values

As a partnership, we have decided that where a statutory assessment of need is required under S17, Children Act 1989, this will be undertaken by a qualified Social Worker and, at this stage, we have decided that we will not expect differently qualified practitioners to undertake such assessments and where a Child In Need plan is required following assessment, these will be led by a qualified Social Worker until such time that it is appropriate for another professional to take the lead. This decision will remain under review through the TWSCP.

To shape how it works and fulfils its statutory duties. The TWSCP has adopted the following principles and values to inform its approach to safeguarding vulnerable children in the borough:

- **Principle 1: Empowerment**

People should be supported and encouraged to make their own decisions. This should be done by:

- making services more personal;
- giving people choice and control over decisions; and
- asking people what they want the outcome to be.
- Creating a culture of no surprises for families- helping them to understand what the presenting issues are and how these impact on the child, what decisions could be made, what changes need to be made, why and how, timescales and possible outcomes.
- Actively hearing from and listening to the voices of children, young people, their families and carers in terms of their individual support and in addition, the strategic design and delivery of services and ongoing practice development.
- Encouraging young people to provide their wishes and feeling separately from other people in their life if they are at an age or stage to do so
- Respecting the culture of a family, promoting equality and challenging discrimination and unconscious bias.
- Sign posting parents and carers to sources of help and support available locally, within their own communities and also through the local authority.

- **Principle 2: Prevention**

Organisations should work together to stop impairment and harm before it happens by:

- Raising awareness about impairment, harm and neglect, deliver appropriate multi-agency and single agency specific safeguarding professional development and training
- Making sure clear, simple and accessible information is available about abuse where people can get help.
- Ensuring that families can access and receive support at the earliest opportunity- the right help at the right time with a whole family approach.
- Sharing information at the earliest opportunity
- Exploring the support children and young people have outside of their family/relational network.
- Considering support that can be offered to strengthen relationships or repair difficult ones.

- **Principle 3: Proportionality**

When responding to suspected or actual harm/impairment services must ensure that they always think about the needs of the child/young person, the need for support and the need to be protected from harm/impairment. Any response should be appropriate to the level of need, harm or impairment presented. Services must

respect the person, think about what is best for them and only get involved as much as needed respecting their right to family life. It should be responsive to ensure the protection and support of the child, with accurate and timely decisions being made.

- **Principle 4: Providing Help and Support and Protection**

Organisations must ensure that they know what to do when a child is considered at in need of protection by:

- Understanding the threshold guidance and how to identify and respond to children who require help, support and protection.
- Understanding the universal services that are available to families and when an early help assessment may be required.
- Have effective systems in place for identifying when children would benefit from help.
- Local Authorities have statutory duties to support certain groups of children in their area under section 17 and section 47 of the Children Act (1989) - currently these assessments are Social Work led.
- Other safeguarding partners have a critical role in the delivery of services for children and families to work together to provide support.
- Taking seriously a child or young person's emotional wellbeing.
- Supporting care experienced young people to have stable and loving homes.
- Provide support when care experienced young people reach adult hood in terms of support network, educational opportunities and positive housing options.

- **Principle 5: Partnership**

Organisations should work in partnership with each other and local communities. Local people also have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting suspected impairment/harm.

Working collaboratively to ensure the child's voice is at the centre and the right support is provided. Seeking and responding to feedback from children and families about their experiences of services and co-designing services to ensure children from different communities and groups can access the help and protection they need.

- **Principle 6: Accountability**

Safeguarding is everybody's business. Everyone must accept that we are all accountable as individuals, services and as organisations. Roles and responsibilities must be clear so that people understand how to support the child/young person and their family by identifying support needs at the right time.

Partnership Working

To drive forward our multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for children, the following partnership arrangements have been adopted.

Lead Safeguarding Partners

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 defines the Lead Safeguarding Partners (“LSPs”) for Telford and Wrekin as the:

- Chief Executive of Telford & Wrekin Council;
- Chief Executive of NHS Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Integrated Care Board (ICB); and,
- Chief Constable of West Mercia Police

As the boundaries of the West Mercia Police and the Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin extend over multiple local authority areas, the LSPs have chosen to discharge their responsibilities on a Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin ICB footprint. As such, the Chief Executive of Shropshire Council forms part of our LSP arrangements.

As leaders, the role of the LSPs is to assure themselves that our local arrangements are effective and keep children safe. They are jointly responsible for ensuring the proper involvement of and oversight of all relevant agencies. The LSP will oversee the Safeguarding Children Boards for Shropshire and for Telford & Wrekin.

The LSP group will provide leadership to promote a culture of learning and will also ensure that Delegated Safeguarding Partners promote these arrangements.

The terms of reference for the LSP group can be found [here](#).

Designated Safeguarding Partners

In accordance with Working Together 2023, the Delegated Safeguarding Partners (“DSPs”) in Telford and Wrekin are the:

- Director of Children’s Services, Telford & Wrekin Council;
- Local Policing Area Superintendent, West Mercia Police; and,
- Chief Nursing Officer, NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Integrated Care Board.

The DSPs, together with the Independent Scrutineer, will meet regularly as the TWSCP Executive and will assume primary responsibility for implementing the local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and providing leadership to ensure they are effective in bringing together relevant partner agencies. The Executive will have oversight of all Telford and Wrekin Safeguarding Children Board (SCB) activity.

The Executive will ensure that the LSPs are sighted on progress against milestones and receive escalations in respect of any barriers to success (see previous section on LSPs).

The Executive will have responsibility for ensuring that the selected work priorities are delivered in such a way that they make a positive impact on the outcomes for children and young people in Telford and Wrekin. To this end, the Executive will ensure that the Board has an effective assurance framework to understand the impact of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements across the borough's diverse communities.

The Executive will focus on driving improvement in practice and delivering the agreed priorities and ensuring the practice of police, health and local authority children service practitioners is effective to support and safeguarding children and young people.

The terms of reference for the DSP Executive can be found [here](#).

Safeguarding Children Partnership Board

In accordance with Working Together 2023, the Safeguarding Children Board (SCB) will develop multi-agency safeguarding arrangements to ensure that all children and young people in the borough of Telford & Wrekin are safeguarded. This will be achieved by bringing together representatives of relevant agencies to:

- providing evidence about the quality/performance of multi-agency practice and the impact that is having across the borough's diverse communities;
- developing the delivering the TWSCP business plan and its priorities;
- receiving updates on the progress in meeting the TWSCP priorities;
- commissioning work from subgroups;
- providing analyses of trends in practice from intelligent interpretation of data, to assess the effectiveness of help being provided to children and families across the early help and safeguarding systems in Telford and Wrekin;
- reporting on the engagement of schools, and other relevant partners;
- responding to outcomes and recommendations from learning reviews;
- reporting on the performance of the support team and use of allocated budgets;
- receiving progress reports from each of the subgroups;
- determining risk and maintaining the SCB Risk Register;
- identifying areas of success;
- considering the response required locally to national and/or regional developments;
- communicating across the wider Partnership landscape; and,

- Consulting and involving children, young people and their families from across the borough's diverse communities.

The Safeguarding Children Board will focus on driving improvement in practice and delivering the agreed priorities and ensuring practice of police, health and local authority children service practitioners is as effective as it can be to help and protect children.

Members of the Board includes:

- Telford & Wrekin Council - Director of Children's Services;
- NHS Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Integrated Care Board – Director of Nursing;
- West Mercia Police – LPA Superintendent;
- Chair of the Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel;
- Chair of Quality, Performance and Development;
- Chair of thematic sub-groups;
- Chair of the MASH Operational Group;
- Telford & Wrekin - Director Children Safeguarding and Family Support;
- Telford & Wrekin Council - Director of Public Health;
- Telford & Wrekin Council – Director of Education and Skills
- Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (MPFT)
- The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital (SATH)
- Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust (SCHT)
- Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (RJAH)
- West Midlands Ambulance Service University NHS Foundation Trust
- Independent Scrutineer; and,
- TWSCP Manager.

The terms of reference for the Partnership Board can be found [here](#).

Board Sub-Groups

Reporting to the Safeguarding Children Board is a series of sub-groups. These include:

Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel

Oversees the process and arrangements for identifying, commissioning and reviewing rapid reviews, child safeguarding practice reviews, and to respond to serious incidents of harm in accordance with the guidance set out in Working Together.

Child Death Overview Panel

Through a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary review of child deaths, the Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire CDOP aims to better understand how and why children in

Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire die and use these findings to take action to prevent other deaths and improve the health and safety of our children.

Quality, Performance & Development Sub-group

To ensure that delivery of Board's Business Plan is underpinned by quality assurance and audit frameworks, and that targets and performance data, including audit findings, are available to the Safeguarding Children Board. The sub-group will take responsibility for a complete partnership development process, which will include training and policy and procedures but will also be responsible for overseeing multi-agency development initiatives and ensuring a coordinated approach.

Joint Targeted Area Inspection Working group

These inspections are undertaken by the following inspectorates: Ofsted, Care Quality Commission (CQC), Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMICFRS) and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP).

The inspectorates jointly assess how local authorities, the police, health, probation and youth offending services are working together in an area to identify, support and protect vulnerable children and young people.

The JTAI Working Group will ensure that the partnership and partners are prepared for the JTAI and, second, most importantly, to use the JTAI criteria as a self-assessment tool to challenge local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements on the specific themes.

Family Connect Strategic Board

To provide strategic oversight of the Family Connect multi-agency safeguarding hub.

Education Safeguarding Board

As designated relevant agencies, schools, further education colleges, early years providers and other education providers in Telford & Wrekin, are under a statutory duty to co-operate with these multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

Schools, further education colleges, early years providers and other education providers will be engaged as relevant agencies through representation on the Education Safeguarding Group

Corporate Parent Strategic Group

Focuses on securing the best possible outcomes for care experienced young people so that they can have the best opportunities in life regardless of whether they live in Telford and Wrekin or outside the borough. To ensure that our children and young people are happy and healthy, safe and protected, supported successfully into adult life and get the right support and services where they live.

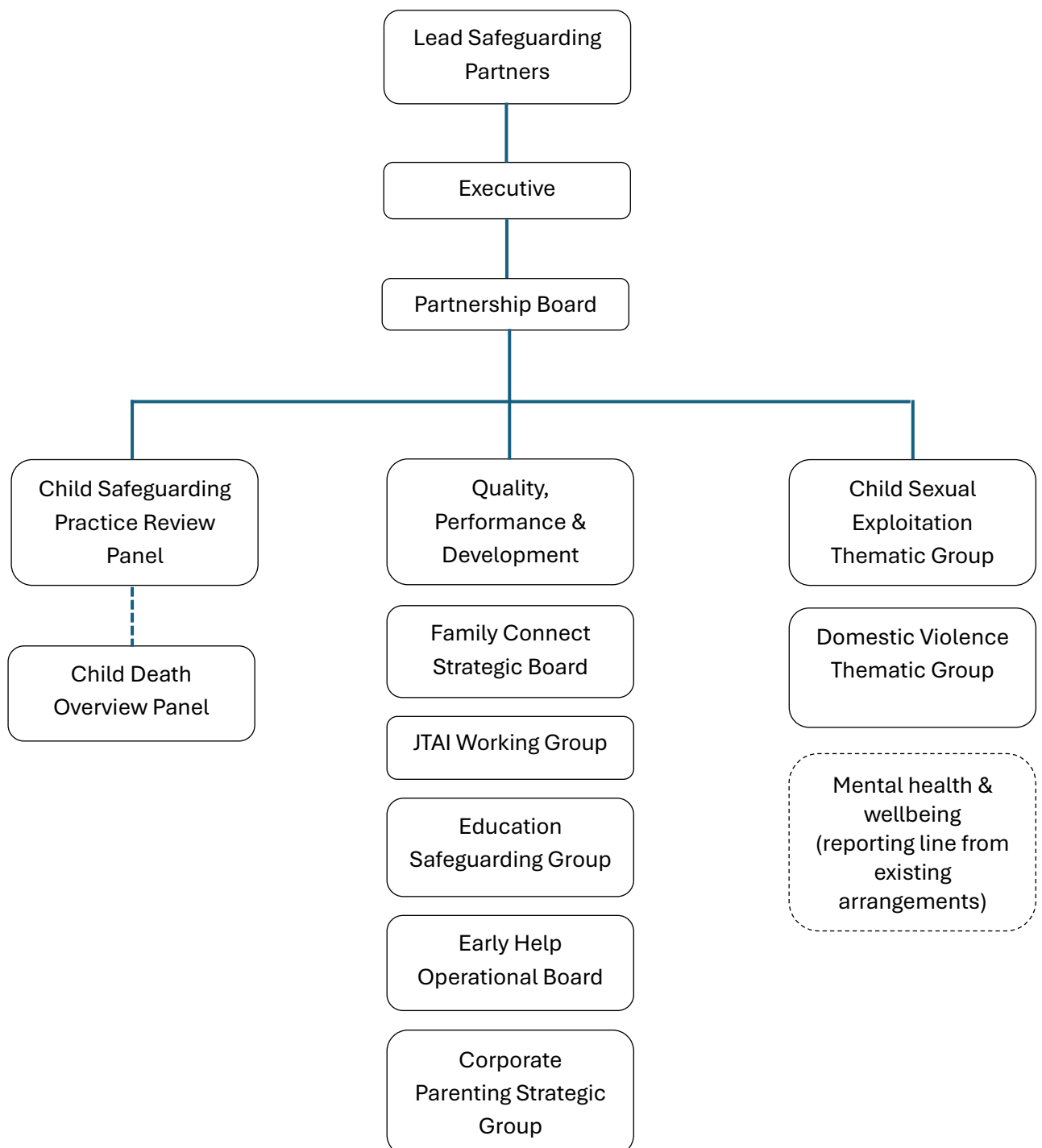
Thematic sub-groups

These groups are commissioned to drive delivery of the Partnership’s thematic priorities identified in the annual business plan. These are identified through a range of drivers including data analysis, the voice of children, national policy developments. The current thematic sub-groups are:

- Child exploitation and child sexual exploitation.
- Domestic violence and abuse

Governance Arrangements

Based on the arrangements described in this document, the Governance structure for the TWSCP is:



Resources to Support Partnership Arrangements

The LSPs are required to agree the level of funding secured from each statutory partner, which should be equitable, and any contributions from each relevant agency to support the local arrangements. The partners make payments towards expenditure incurred in conjunction with local multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

Details of the TWSCP annual budget and how it has been spent can be found in the corresponding Annual Report.

It should be noted that financial contributions are just one way in which the partners provide resources to the TWSCP. For example, LSPs and DSPs representing the three statutory safeguarding partners, contribute their time and expertise to the TWSCP and nominated representatives from the three partners lead on TWSCP sub-groups.

The Partnership Team supports the implementation of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, including:

- facilitate the meetings and support the work of the LSP group, Executive Group, the Partnership Board and the subgroups;
- work with chairs of subgroups to progress areas of focus to help ensure that outputs are delivered in a timely way;
- bring strategic leads from the relevant safeguarding partners together to drive forward these arrangements;
- promote best multi-agency practice to improve outcomes for children and families;
- support partners in the dissemination of local and national learning including from serious child safeguarding incidents;
- support the work of the independent scrutineer and ensure that findings from scrutiny activity are fed into the Quality, Performance & Development subgroup;
- co-ordinate effective data gathering and accurate analysis, interpretation and reporting of information by harnessing the skills and knowledge of data teams from across the TWSCP;
- support the delivery of multi-agency practice audits;
- lead on the development of multi-agency policies, procedures and practice guidance;
- design, deliver or commission and evaluate multi-agency training;
- facilitate the reporting of performance data and analysis by partner agencies to inform the arrangements and measure impact;
- co-ordinate communications (including website management) in connection with the local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements;

- facilitate meeting and consultation activity to inform the work of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements

The Partnership Team are employed by Telford & Wrekin Council as the host employer on behalf of the TWSCP.

Relevant Agencies

Relevant agencies are named in Working Together 2023 and are under a statutory duty to co-operate and collaborate with the LSPs. Relevant agencies are those organisations and agencies whose involvement the LSPs consider is required to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children.

Relevant agencies will receive up to date information at least annually about the expectations of them in engaging with and supporting these multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

When selected by the safeguarding partners to be part of the local safeguarding arrangements, relevant agencies must act in accordance with the arrangements. Representatives from relevant agencies who sit on the TWSCP subgroups are expected to:

- make a commitment and prioritise attendance at meetings and, on the occasion, they are unable to attend, they should identify an appropriate deputy who is authorised to enact the group members' responsibilities;
- have the seniority to make decisions on behalf of their area of responsibility and to ensure the delivery and implementation of the local arrangements;
- be in a position to access and share the information necessary to inform collective action;
- be critically reflective, strengths-based, solution-focussed and child-centred within discussions to shape and influence practice;
- lead specific work streams;
- take responsibility for identified actions and give oversight to these until completion.

The relevant agencies will also be asked to contribute to the work of the Partnership by nominating representation on sub-groups, through attendance at relevant learning and development days.

Relevant agencies are required to participate in multi-agency auditing as part of the Quality Assurance Framework and to provide assurance about single-agency action to embed learning as part of the development and delivery of the Learning and Improvement Framework.

Relevant agencies are required to contribute to the Rapid Review process following a serious incident and, where necessary, to contribute to local child safeguarding practice reviews.

The relevant agencies for the TWSCP are set out below.

Schools, colleges and other education providers (including Early Years provision)

All local education and childcare providers working with children up to the age of 18 are included in these local arrangements. Schools, further education colleges, early years providers and other education providers will be engaged as relevant agencies.

As designated relevant agencies, schools, further education colleges, early years providers and other education providers in Telford & Wrekin, are under a statutory duty to co-operate with these multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

Schools, further education colleges, early years providers and other education providers will be engaged as relevant agencies through representation on the Education Safeguarding Group. This group is chaired by a representative of the sector and includes representation from:

- Education Safeguarding Coordinator – Telford & Wrekin Council
- Education Safeguarding Officer – Telford & Wrekin Council
- Further education
- Independent
- Junior – maintained (North Cluster)
- Primary and Early Years – maintained (Central Cluster)
- Primary and Early Years – maintained (North Cluster)
- Primary and Early Years – maintained (Newport)
- Primary and Early Years, maintained (Wellington Cluster)
- Early Years – private, voluntary and independent sector
- Safeguarding Governor
- Secondary – academy (Central Cluster)
- Secondary – academy LCT trust (Wellington Cluster)
- Secondary and FE – academy (South Cluster)
- Special school
- Virtual School Headteacher – Telford & Wrekin Council

Health service providers

There are several health providers commissioned by the Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin ICB. These include:

- Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (MPFT)
- The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital (SATH)
- Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust (SCHAT)
- Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (RJAHS)

- West Midlands Ambulance Service University NHS Foundation Trust

Telford & Wrekin Council also commissions school health and health visiting services from the Shropshire Community Health Trust (SCHT)

The lead safeguarding partners regard the above health providers as relevant agencies.

Voluntary and Community Sector

Telford & Wrekin CVS represents the community and voluntary sector in these multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

Key safeguarding messages will be communicated to non-commissioned VCSE organisations through Telford & Wrekin Council's communication channels and via Telford & Wrekin CVS.

Other statutory relevant agencies

Representation on TWSCP subgroups is not sought from the following national organisations: UK Visa and Immigration and British Transport Police. However, engagement does take place where necessary, for example when scoping agency involvement following a serious incident and through completion of the S11 self-assessment.

Young Offenders

Telford & Wrekin does not have any Youth Offender institutions within its' boundary, although young people from Telford & Wrekin may be placed in custody elsewhere. Those young people will be subject to these arrangements.

Other agencies and organisations

Organisations and agencies who are not named in the relevant agency regulations, whilst not under a statutory duty, should nevertheless co-operate and collaborate with the lead safeguarding partners, particularly as they may have duties under Section 10 and/or Section 11 of the Children Act 2004.

Provision of information

In engaging with relevant agencies the LSPs 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.

An TWSCP Information Sharing Agreement is in place with all relevant partners.

Independent Scrutiny

The role of independent scrutiny is critical to provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. In Telford and Wrekin the delivery of independent scrutiny is partly fulfilled through the role of an Independent Scrutineer, although scrutiny is wider than any one person's role, sitting at the heart of all audits, review and learning activity.

Local arrangements for independent scrutiny will:

- provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Telford and Wrekin;
- provide assurance that there is effective identification and review of serious child safeguarding cases;
- act as part of a wider system which includes the independent inspectorates' single assessment of the individual safeguarding partners and the Joint Targeted Area Inspections;
- consider 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,
- provide objectivity, act as a constructive critical friend and promote reflection to promote continuous improvement;
- make recommendations to the LSPs.

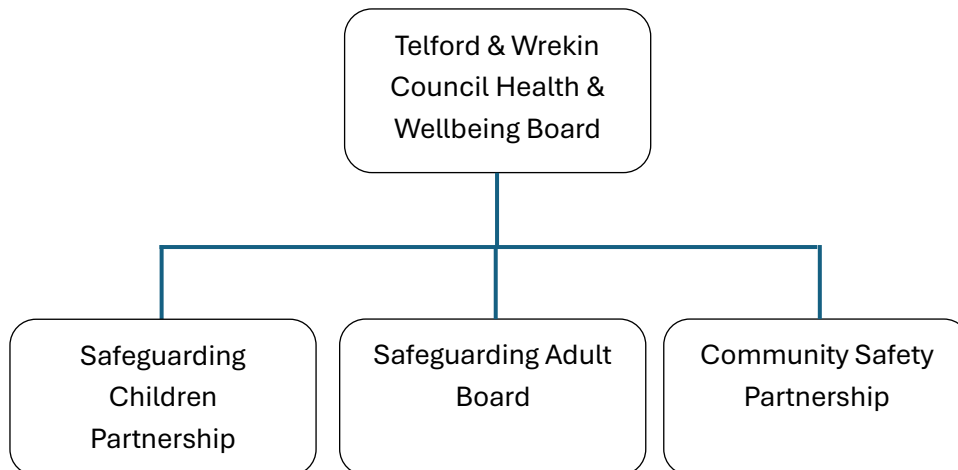
The Independent Scrutineer is a commissioned role contracted by the DSPs and is subject to performance review at agreed intervals by the Chief Executive of Telford & Wrekin Council (LSP). The Independent Scrutineer will deliver an annual scrutiny plan agreed by the Safeguarding Children Board and report to the Board the findings and recommendations from their scrutiny and assurance activities.

Relationship with other Partnerships

The LSPs need to ensure that the TWSCP has positive relationships with other partnership boards and with local areas to ensure that relevant information is shared in a timely and proportionate way.

TWSCP reports to the Telford & Wrekin Council Health and Wellbeing Board on its annual strategic priorities and on its evaluation of the effectiveness of safeguarding children contained within its' yearly report.

Safeguarding is not solely the responsibility of the TWSCP. Other statutory Boards take forward aspects of safeguarding work that is consistent with the aims of the TWSCP:



The Safeguarding Children Partnership Manager and the Independent Scrutineer are both members of the West Midlands regional Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) Network. Quarterly meetings are well attended by the 14 LSCPs across the wider West Midlands where national and regional issues are considered.

TWSCP is part of a consortium of safeguarding children partnerships who share regional safeguarding children procedures.

In the TWSCP's aim for continuous improvement, lead and delegated safeguarding partners will actively seek and accept external guidance, support and scrutiny from good and outstanding partnerships and relevant individuals identified by the Department for Education.

Responding to child deaths and serious incidents

Child Death Reviews

The LSPs are required to respond to notifications from the Child Death Review partners that a child has died, and abuse or neglect is known or suspected, to determine whether the case meets the criteria for a child safeguarding practice review.

The Child Death Review partners are the local authority and the local Integrated Care Board.

The LSPs are required to respond to notifications from the Coroner that a child has died and that the Coroner has decided to investigate the death or commission a post mortem. In these circumstances, where abuse or neglect is known or suspected, the safeguarding partners, through the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel will need to determine whether the case meets the criteria for a child safeguarding practice review.

The LSPs are required to respond to any safeguarding issues that are identified by the child death review process.

Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

The LSPs are responsible for ensuring that there is a defined and clear process in place to conduct a review following serious child safeguarding incident, and for commissioning a subsequent local child safeguarding practice review where necessary.

At the core of this work, is the commitment to ensuring that local agencies understand the events leading to a death or serious child safeguarding incident, and the ways in which those same agencies and others can help to protect children in the future.

TWSCP has developed a framework for undertaking rapid reviews, following a notification of a child safeguarding incident, and local child safeguarding practice reviews.

The TWSCP has established the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (CSPR) which has delegated responsibility for receiving and considering child safeguarding practice review referrals from partner agencies, conducting the rapid review process following a notification of a serious incident, and for commissioning child safeguarding practice reviews when required.

The duty to make a notification of a serious child safeguarding incident to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (which triggers the rapid review process) falls on the local authority. However, whenever possible, the decision for whether this threshold has been met should be a joint agreement made by the DSPs.

If a notification is made, the LSPs must be informed.

Following a Rapid Review, the CSPR Panel will make a recommendation to the DSPs on the suggested outcome of the rapid review, and whether a local Child Safeguarding Practice Review should be commissioned. It is a joint responsibility of the DSPs to agree the decision, which is then shared with the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel.

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel will:

- Promptly undertake a rapid review of the case in line with regional and national published guidance in order to make a recommendation about whether a local child safeguarding practice review should be commissioned;
- Identify immediate learning for individual partner agencies and monitor the implementation of single-agency actions to improve practice;

- Identify any key messages from the rapid review for dissemination across the wider workforce;
- Have clear processes for how it will work in parallel with other investigations and work collaboratively with those responsible for carrying out those investigations;
- Agree with the reviewer of a local child safeguarding practice review 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 surviving children, are invited to contribute to the 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;
- Develop and monitor actions to implement changes arising from the findings of the review.

The DSPs will consider carefully how best to manage the impact of the publication of local child safeguarding practice reviews on children, family members, practitioners and others closely affected by the case.

The DSPs will make arrangements to 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 Panel and Secretary of State in respect of the publication.

A copy of the full report of the local child safeguarding practice reviews will be sent to the National Panel and Secretary of State.

The DSPs will delegate to the Quality, Performance and Development group responsibility for considering key messages from rapid reviews and local child safeguarding practice reviews, and from all national reviews, and for disseminating findings to relevant agencies and the wider workforce.

The DSPs will delegate to the Quality, Performance and Development Group responsibility for auditing progress on the implementation of recommended improvements following local child safeguarding practice reviews.

Evaluating the effectiveness of the local safeguarding response

Reporting on the effectiveness of safeguarding children arrangements in Telford & Wrekin

The LSPs have a responsibility to monitor the effectiveness of the local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and to publish a report at least once in every 12-month period to set out what has been delivered through the arrangements, including child safeguarding practice reviews, and how effective these arrangements have been in practice.

Updates to these multi-agency safeguarding arrangements will be included in the TWSCP Annual Report, as well as via a revision to this document.

The TWSCP Annual Report will be reviewed by the Independent Scrutineer prior to it being signed off by the Executive and the LSPs. This is to provide a critical friend review and provide feedback and comments to the LSP and DSPs for consideration.

The TWSCP Annual Report will be published on the Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Partnership website, presented to the Telford & Wrekin Council Health and Wellbeing Board and circulated to chairs of other relevant partnership boards.

Using data and intelligence to assess effectiveness

The LSPs and DSPs will use data and intelligence to assess the effectiveness of help being provided to children and families across the early help and safeguarding systems in Telford & Wrekin. The data and intelligence will be a combination of single-agency data alongside multi-agency performance indicators agreed by the Executive.

Analysts from each statutory partner will support the local safeguarding partners to effectively and accurately analyse and interpret data and intelligence. This will enable LSPs and DSPs to judge the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements. It is the responsibility of partner agencies to provide a detailed analysis of cross-partnership data.

The LSPs will use the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment produced by Telford & Wrekin Council 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.

The TWSCP Quality Assurance Framework sets out the approach to utilising data and intelligence to assessing the effectiveness of safeguarding services. The components of the Quality Assurance Framework are represented in the following diagram:

The components of the Quality Assurance Framework are represented in the following diagram:



The Chair of the Quality, Performance and Development Group is the lead on behalf of the DSPs for overseeing the use, analysis and interpretation of intelligence and data from the above activities. They will do this by reviewing, seeking clarification and escalating, where appropriate and relevant.

Headline data, supported by analysis and intelligence, provides the safeguarding partners with a line of sight on practice in Family Connect (our multi-agency safeguarding hub) and on aspects of the wider safeguarding system. Oversight and analysis of multi-agency data will assist the LSPs to:

- identify trends in prevalence or demand for services;
- identify pressure points in the Family Connect response to new referrals;
- benchmark Telford & Wrekin against national data; and,
- identify aspects of practice which require further interrogation.

Relevant agencies are asked to identify from their own quality assurance activities, including complaints and compliments processes, any issues which have implications for the safeguarding of children which need to be escalated for consideration by the Executive.

Learning & Development

The DSPs are responsible for considering what multi-agency training is needed locally and how they will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of any training they commission.

A training needs analysis is undertaken at agreed intervals to inform decisions about the range of multi-agency courses required across the partnership.

The TWSCP delivers a programme of multi-agency training facilitated, with support from a pool of trainers from a number of relevant agencies, by the TWSCP Review, Training and Development Officer.

Evaluations completed in respect of the training courses delivered are monitored by the Quality, Performance & Development Group.

The DSPs have a responsibility to ensure that local and national learning is embedded in order to make improvements to practice. The Quality, Performance & Development Group will develop dissemination action plans once key messages have been agreed for target audiences.

Learning resources will be developed and circulated to all strategic leads in relevant agencies with a request that they are embedded into their organisation's operating processes with plans put in place for ensuring that the learning is having an impact on practice.

The Quality, Performance & Development Group will monitor single agency action to embed the learning and will develop an assurance position on behalf of the LSPs.

In order to ensure that local and national learning impacts positively on practice and that changes are embedded, sustainable over time and have the desired effect, monitoring will be undertaken through the following processes:

Performance Analysis:

- Multi-agency dataset
- Single-agency performance measures

Quality assurance and audit activity:

- TWSCP multi-agency audit activity
- Single-agency audit activity

Survey Activity:

- children, young people and their families
- practitioners and line managers

Feedback from:

- practitioners and line managers on the impact on practice of learning and development activity

- children, young people and their families on the impact of intervention

Participation and Engagement

LSPs and relevant partner agencies are responsible for having processes in place for receiving feedback from children and their families about the services received. This feedback should be used to inform the development of services being delivered to improve the experiences of children and parents/carers.

The S11 Audit tool, to be completed every two years, asks partner agencies specific questions about the effectiveness of their single agency processes for seeking feedback on services and utilising feedback to support service development. If the self-assessment identifies areas that require improvement, the S11 audit tool asks for details of the proposed actions to be taken to make the necessary improvement. The Quality, Performance & Development Group, will seek assurance on any areas identified as requiring improvement as a result of the audit.

The TWSCP will provide opportunities for young people and parents/carers to provide feedback on their experiences of services as part of the multi-agency audit process. This is via a survey or the opportunity to speak to the TWSCP Review, Training & Development Officer. Feedback will be used to triangulate findings from the audit process and will inform the recommendations for improvements.

Feedback on services may also be received via single agency complaints procedures or via the TWSCP Complaints Process.

Consultation with children and families

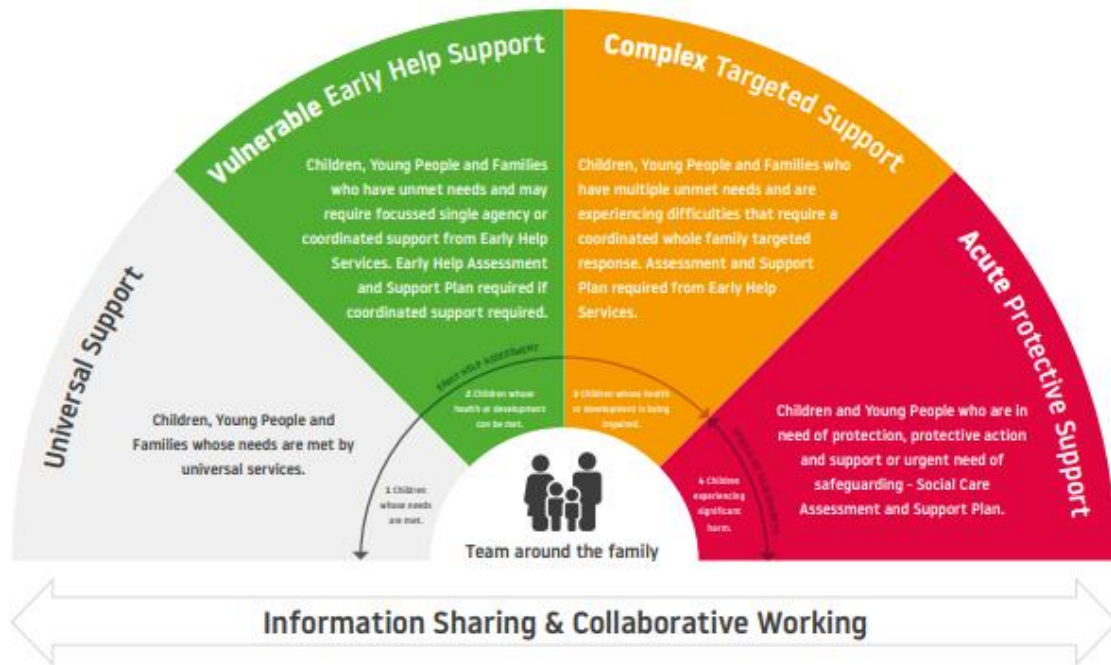
The LSPs will consult with children and young people, parents and carers on specific issues to ensure that its information is relevant and accessible. A keyway this will be done is through the school based Safeguarding Children Boards. Examples of such consultations might include:

- Views about specific safeguarding issues
- Information leaflets aimed at parents/young people
- The development of policies or good practice guidance when appropriate
- Content located on the parent/young people specific TWSCP website pages

Thresholds for Intervention

The LSPs are required to work with relevant agencies to agree the levels for different types of assessment and services to be commissioned and delivered.

The TWSCP has developed revised (February 2023) Thresholds Guidance, which is titled 'Right Help at the Right Time'. It describes the different types of assessment, intervention thresholds, action to be taken and information to be shared.



The Thresholds Guidance is published on the TWSCP website and [here](#).

Multi-agency audits will evaluate whether children receive the right services at the right time, at the earliest opportunity.