

# Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements

2026-2028



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## 1. Foreword

Welcome to the Barnsley multi-agency arrangements, which have been developed in accordance with the Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 principles and the Children and Social Work Act 2017. These arrangements set out how we, as the safeguarding partners, will work together alongside other agencies in Barnsley, to identify and respond to the needs of children and young people in our communities. Our ambition is to develop an equitable and robust partnership, and this plan outlines our new ways of working.

The Barnsley Children Safeguarding Partnership is committed to:

- Keeping children and young people safe in Barnsley
- Working with our partners to continuously improve our effectiveness
- 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 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 ‘Barnsley Children Safeguarding Partnership’ (BCSP). We would like to express our gratitude to staff and volunteers working in the many statutory and non-statutory services across Barnsley, whose individual and joint efforts provide support and protection for our children and young people.



Chris Edwards, Interim, Chief Executive,  
NHS South Yorkshire  
(Sheffield) Integrated Care Board (ICB)



Sarah Norman,  
Chief Executive,  
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council.



Lauren Poultney,  
Chief Constable,  
South Yorkshire Police



## 2. Introduction

The Children Act 2004, as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017, requires that the three Lead Safeguarding Partners make arrangements to work in partnership together along with relevant agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the area. Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023) is the statutory guidance which outlines the responsibilities and shared accountability of the Lead Safeguarding Partners, delivered through the new safeguarding arrangements.

Strong, collaborative leadership and timely decision-making are crucial to multi-agency working effectiveness and identifying and addressing system issues. The three safeguarding partners are responsible and accountable for this in their local areas.

A statutory safeguarding partner in a local authority area in England is defined under the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017) as:

- The Local Authority.
- An Integrated Care Board for an area.
- The chief officer of police for an area.

The Lead Safeguarding Partners have a duty for arrangements across South Yorkshire, and their role is described below. The geographic area in the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership arrangements is the Barnsley Metropolitan Borough. Police and Health have South Yorkshire wide responsibilities. The NHS services in the area consist of NHS South Yorkshire ICB, Barnsley Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and South-West Yorkshire NHS Foundation Trust. The police force for the area is South Yorkshire Police.

The changes have given us an opportunity to review how we work together. We want to build on strengths in existing partnership relationships, with focus on how we can make a real and sustained difference to multiagency frontline practice that improves outcomes for children, young people and their families. We aim to achieve these improvements by developing and embedding good practice, based on what we know works well and is evidenced based.

These arrangements detail how Barnsley Children Safeguarding Partnership operates and adapts to a complex, changing agenda. It is not a static document but a dynamic commitment to the safety and well-being of children and young people in Barnsley. It will be reviewed on every year for accuracy, with key sections on process and membership updated when any changes occur.

## 3. Our Vision, Values & Principles

### Our Vision

Our aim is to build a brighter, safer future for every child and young person in Barnsley. We recognise that we are stronger when we work together in a positive multiagency environment.

### Our Values and Principles

- **Listening:** We put the voices and lived experiences of children and young people at the heart of what we do.
- **Stronger Together:** We are one team of practitioners and communities, working together to build a brighter, safer future for Barnsley children and young people. We drive positive multiagency working, where we support, challenge, and hold each other to account.

- **Curiosity:** We are professionally curious. We are open to new ideas and ways of working, responding flexibly and adapting quickly to current and emerging needs. We use continuous learning to make a positive impact on the lives of children.
- **Inclusivity:** We will deliver the right service, at the right time and place to meet the needs of each child and young person. We respect the diverse skills, strengths and needs of everyone.
- **Honesty & Integrity:** We treat others with decency, fairness, and are honest in what we do. We strive to always deliver on our commitments.

## 4. Structure & Governance Arrangements

### Lead Safeguarding Partners

The safeguarding partner organisations in South Yorkshire are:

- **NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB)**
- **South Yorkshire Local Authorities Chief Executives**
- **South Yorkshire Police (SYP)**

The geographic area for which the lead safeguarding partners have safeguarding responsibilities is South Yorkshire. The local authorities in the area are Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield. The NHS services in the area consist of the NHS South Yorkshire ICB. The Police force for the area is South Yorkshire Police. Place-based arrangements will also be in place to ensure that local arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

All three safeguarding partners have equal and joint responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements, which are discharged through the Barnsley Children Safeguarding Partnership. The LSPs set the strategic plan and priorities for the multi-agency arrangements. They focus on the key issues which promote multi-agency practice, and which allows them a direct line of sight of its effectiveness.

The Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs) across South Yorkshire are:

- Chief Constable SYP – Lauren Poultney
- Chief Executives of Barnsley: Sarah Norman, Doncaster: Damian Allen, Rotherham: John Edwards and Sheffield: Kate Josephs
- Interim Chief Executive ICB – Chris Edwards

The joint functions of the lead safeguarding partners as defined in Working Together 2023 Chapter 2 are:

1. Setting the local safeguarding arrangements' strategic direction, vision, and culture, including agreeing and reviewing shared priorities and the resources required to deliver services effectively.
2. Leading their organisation's contribution to the shared priorities, ensuring strong governance, accountability, and reporting mechanisms to hold their delegates accountable for the delivery of agency commitments.
3. Reviewing and signing off key partnership documents: published multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, including plans for independent scrutiny, shared annual budget, yearly report, and local threshold document.
4. Providing shared oversight of learning from independent scrutiny, serious incidents, local child safeguarding practice reviews, and national reviews, ensuring recommendations are implemented and have a demonstrable impact on practice (as set out in the yearly report).

5. Ensuring multi-agency arrangements have the necessary level of business support, including intelligence and analytical functions, such as an agreed data set providing oversight and a robust understanding of practice.
6. Ensuring all relevant agencies, including education settings, are clear on their role and contribution to the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

The lead safeguarding partners have a responsibility to monitor the effectiveness of the local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and to publish a yearly report that set outs what they have done as a result of the arrangements, including child safeguarding practice reviews, and how effective these arrangements have been in practice.

**They will meet at a regional level twice a year to consider:**

- The effectiveness of local arrangements in each place-based area
- Any overarching themes that could be resolved at a SY level
- The yearly reports of each of the four Partnerships
- Agree the resourcing and funding arrangements for each of the four partnerships

The LSP group will provide strategic oversight and agree the vision and priorities for safeguarding children in South Yorkshire and will ensure that there are strategic links with other partnership boards operating across local authorities in relation to safeguarding children. It will also provide a mechanism for escalation of safeguarding risks from the respective Executive Group.

Each LSP has appointed a delegated safeguarding partner (DSP). Whilst ultimate accountability remains with the LSP as the individual responsible for the delivery of statutory duties, DSPs have delegated authority to carry out these functions and hold their sectors accountable. (Scheme of delegation, appendix B).

**Barnsley Lead and Delegated Safeguarding Partners.**

<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Lead Safeguarding Partners</b>	<b>Delegated Safeguarding Partners</b>
<b>The Local Authority: Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council</b>	Sarah Norman Chief Executive	Carly Speechley Executive Director of Children’s Services
<b>Police: South Yorkshire Police</b>	Lauren Poultney, Chief Constable, South Yorkshire Police	Simon Wanless Chief Superintendent- Barnsley District Commander
<b>Health: South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board</b>	Chris Edwards, Interim Chief Executive, NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB)	Cathy Winfield Chief Nurse ICB, delegates to:
		Alun Windle Deputy Chief Nurse ICB

**Role of DSPs**

DSPs and LSPs are in regular communication to ensure that LSPs have sufficient oversight and detail on key topics to maintain their statutory responsibilities. DSPs escalate risks that cannot be resolved between them, to LSPs for resolution, to ensure that accountability is clear, that strategic decisions are

achievable, and progress driven at all levels. They have oversight of the quality and compliance for the delivery of Partnership priorities and ensure processes are in place that assure multiagency practice is reviewed and operating well.

### **Barnsley's Delegated Safeguarding Partners**

#### **Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council**



Carly Speechley  
Executive Director of  
Children's Services

#### **South Yorkshire Police**



Simon Wanless  
Chief Superintendent- Barnsley  
District Commander

#### **South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board**



Alun Windle  
Deputy Chief Nurse ICB

DSPs will meet with sufficient frequency to undertake the following joint functions:

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

DSPs will meet every 3 months as a minimum, in the BSCP Executive Business Group and Joint Children and Adults Safeguarding Executive Group.

### **Chairing arrangements**

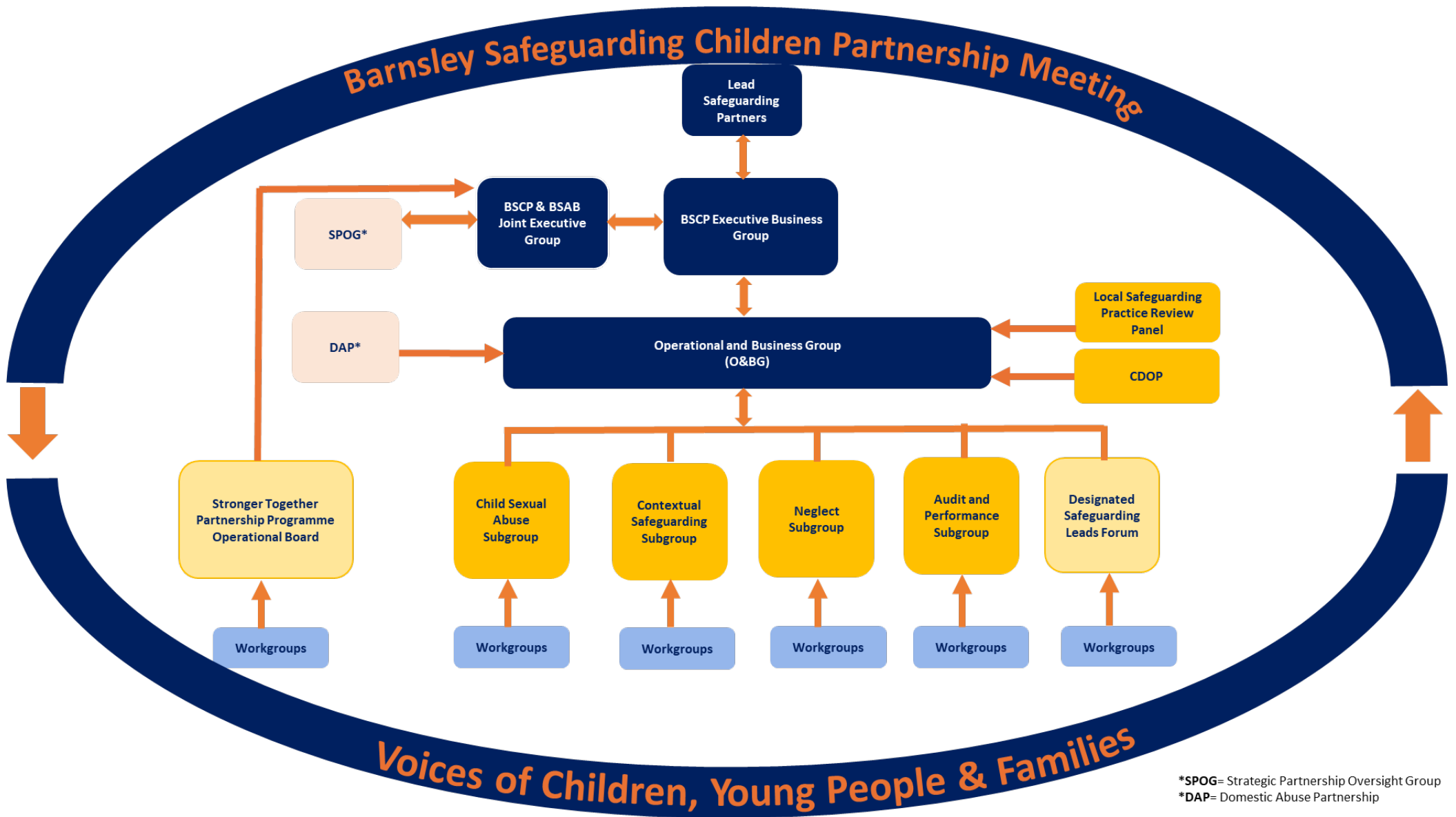
Barnsley SCP has agreed to have a DSP chair, for multiagency arrangements. They will chair both the Executive Business Group and quarterly Partnership meetings. The chair's role will rotate annually. Arrangements for 2025-26 are the Executive Director of Children's Services will take up the role, with the Chief Superintendent for Barnsley as the deputy chair. The rotation reflects the joint and equal responsibility for the arrangements and will provide greater continuity across local areas and act as a conduit between DSPs and LSPs. The functions of the partnership chair are distinct from those for Independent Scrutiny and from the business management functions. The Independent Scrutiny arrangements are at p16.

### **Partnership Chair's role:**

- To develop strategic links, support and hold to account all LSPs in fulfilling their safeguarding duties for children.
- Ensure that local arrangements are designed to work collaboratively and effectively by encouraging and supporting the development of partnership working between the LSPs, DSPs, independent scrutiny role and MASA subgroups.
- Chair the meetings of the DSPs, including any additional meetings convened as a response to specific and exceptional circumstances, with the help of the strategic partnership manager and independent scrutineer.
- Offer appropriate challenge to ensure that partner agencies are accountable, and that the local arrangements operate effectively.

**The Business Plan.** The arrangements are underpinned by Barnsley Children Safeguarding Partnerships Business Plan, which is renewed annually, following an analysis of:

- Areas for improvement identified from the evaluation of the effectiveness of Barnsley's multi-agency safeguarding children response.
- Emerging issues or threats identified by safeguarding partners and relevant agencies.
- Findings from external inspections, national and local reviews



### **The Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive Business Group**

The Executive Business Group is Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership's (BSCP) Delegated Safeguarding Partners' infrastructure and decision-making meeting. It carries out the safeguarding duty and where required, the delegated responsibilities, of the statutory partners (Barnsley Council, Police and Integrated Care Board) required by Working Together 2023 and the Children and Social Work Act 2017, to make arrangements with other partners as locally determined to work together to protect and safeguard children in Barnsley. It leads and reviews progress of BSCP's priorities, data and quality assurance, independent scrutiny reports, child safeguarding practice reviews, inspection recommendations, funding and resourcing of the Partnership.

To ensure close working with Education and Health & Wellbeing agendas, the group membership has been extended to include the Independent Chair of the Education Alliance and the Director of Public Health.

### **The Barnsley Joint Safeguarding Executive Group**

The Joint Safeguarding Executive Group monitors joint children and adults safeguarding priorities, such as Domestic Abuse, Mental Health and Preparing for Adulthood, where safeguarding is a focus in all age groups.

Meetings are quarterly. The membership is the 3 DSPs, the Executive Director of Barnsley Place and Adult Social Care, the chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board, BSCP's Independent Scrutineer, Head of Service, Strategic Lead for Children's Social Care Reforms and partnership managers.

### **Stronger Together Programme (STP)- Operational Board**

The operational board oversees the effective delivery of the Families First Programme. The board has accountability for the implementation of the key elements of the reform and will feed directly into the Barnsley Safeguarding Joint Executive Group to assist in the provision of strategic direction across both partnerships.

### **The Operational & Business Group (O&BG)**

The Operational & Business Group meets quarterly, and its membership comprises all subgroup chairs and relevant subject matter experts. Its purpose is to drive and ensure the delivery of a BSCP Business Plan that embodies a strong and shared culture of learning to secure continuous improvements in safeguarding and promote the wellbeing of Barnsley's children and young people. It directs BSCP's quality assurance programme to deliver improvements in practice, monitoring multiagency audits, s.11 and s.175 self-assessment audits. The multiagency data scorecard is driven by and is overseen by the Group. It drives progress of the subgroups workplans and drives improvements that are identified by external and peer inspections through task & finish groups as required. It has oversight of multiagency escalations, monitors the risk register and makes recommendations to the Executive and Partnership board meetings.

### **Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership meeting**

The Partnership meeting, or board, as it was known in earlier arrangements, brings together representatives from all agencies across the Partnership every 3 months. It receives statutory updates from BSCP and relevant reports from other multiagency boards, enabling joined-up working. It helps drive the Partnership priorities, providing appropriate scrutiny and challenge to each workstream or subgroup. Development sessions help determine future priorities and contribute to continuous learning.

## Subgroups

### **Child Sexual Abuse:**

The Child Sexual Abuse subgroup will provide support to children who are identified as at risk of, or experiencing, child sexual abuse in the family environment. It works in coordination with the contextualised safeguarding subgroup to ensure a consistent approach to addressing harm occurring inside and outside the home.

### **Audit and Performance :**

This subgroup focuses on the audit and performance function of the partnership. Focusing on the learning from multi agency audits, gathering and analysing performance data for the multiagency scorecard identify improvements, address gaps, and measure the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements.

Work within the group also ensures that safeguarding policies and procedures remain current, relevant, and accessible to practitioners, supporting staff in their safeguarding duties. It leads the delivery and evaluation of the BSCP's multiagency training program—regularly reviewing it to align with strategic priorities and foster professional development. Additionally, the group identifies and applies learning from both local and national reviews, including domestic homicide reviews, to benchmark and enhance agency practices.

### **Contextual Safeguarding:**

The group maintains a strategic oversight of interagency working in all areas of Contextual Safeguarding in the Partnership, including responsibility for the development and implementation of the BSCP Child Exploitation Strategy and work plan. It links with the Combatting Drugs Partnership, Safer Barnsley Partnership and education settings, for a coordinated approach to harm outside the home.

### **Neglect:**

Neglect is the most prevalent category for referrals for Barnsley children. The Neglect subgroup will build on the original foundations, with a focus on Education, Health and other areas where Neglect has an impact on the lives of children and young people.

### **Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (LCSPR):**

The group is responsible for undertaking rapid reviews in relation to serious incidents/ death of children where abuse and /neglect is suspected or known, and for commissioning child safeguarding practice reviews. The panel will report into the Operational and Business Group who will have oversight of the recommendations and responsibility of the action plan ensuring agencies are accountable for implementation of recommendations and action plans.

### **Child Death Overview Panel:**

The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) operates a structured review process for all child deaths in Barnsley, which takes account of networks of NHS care and agency and organisational boundaries and updates the Operational and Business Group of a minimum of twice per year.

Most of these subgroups lead on the work of BSCP's priorities. The detail of this work will be reflected in the yearly report.

## **Relationships with other Boards and Networks**

The lead safeguarding partners ensure positive relationships are in place with other boards and networks, to provide oversight of joint strategic priorities and cross-cutting areas.

The chairs of key multiagency boards meet quarterly in the Strategic Partnership Oversight Group, which is chaired by the LSP for Barnsley local authority.

- Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership
- Barnsley Childrens Young People Board
- Barnsley Health and Wellbeing Board
- Barnsley Safer Barnsley Partnership including the Domestic Abuse Partnership
- Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board

Its terms of reference are framed in an Inter-Partnership Joint Working Protocol.

The South Yorkshire Strategic Safeguarding Board is chaired by the South Yorkshire assistant chief constable. Delegated safeguarding partners, adult social care directors and partnership managers meet quarterly to address safeguarding priorities requiring a regional approach and to resolve local barriers.

Cross-cutting work takes place between BSCP and Education. BSCP's Executive has been strengthened with the addition of the Education Alliance Independent Chair. BSCP's business unit provides safeguarding in education support and provides safeguarding reports to the Education Alliance Board.

Education representatives participate in partnership meetings, providing representation across each of the subgroups as well as providing an update to the Operational and Business group meeting. BSCP organises 4 Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) forums a year, attended by settings-based DSLs and services that provide safeguarding-related support in schools and colleges.

BSCP is a member of The Association of Safeguarding Partners (TASP), the national network of Independent Scrutineers and Partnership Managers. We participate in regional and national roundtables organised by the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel

In the Partnership's aim for continuous improvement, lead safeguarding partners will actively seek and accept external guidance, support and scrutiny from partnerships that have been judged as good or outstanding at external inspection, and relevant individuals identified by the Department for Education.

## **Information Sharing Agreement**

All agencies are signatories to BSCP's Information Sharing Agreement. Its purpose is to ensure secure, confidential, proportionate and necessary information sharing, in relation to children and families, so they are safeguarded, protected and their welfare is promoted. The emphasis on collaborative working enables joint identification and responses to, existing and emerging needs, and to agree priorities to improve outcomes for children. It is reviewed every 2 years and is on BSCP's website

## **Child Protection Information System**

The Child Protection Information System (CP-IS) is a national digital service that securely shares essential safeguarding information for children who are Looked After, on a Child Protection Plan (CPP), or unborn children subject to a CPP. It enables NHS clinicians to receive an alert when a child with safeguarding concerns attends a health setting and automatically notifies the relevant children's social care team.

CP-IS is now expanding beyond unscheduled care into settings such as GPs, school nursing, health visiting, community paediatrics, CAMHS, specialist dentistry, and sexual health services. In Barnsley, partners are fully committed to this initiative, and key stakeholders will support the effective rollout of Phase 2.

### **Escalation Policy**

Professional Disagreements inevitably occur from time to time, and the Escalation Policy provides agencies with a disputes resolution process to remove any barriers to practice and better outcomes for children. It is reviewed every 2 years and is on BSCP's website.

### **Funding & Resourcing**

Lead safeguarding partners are required to agree the level of funding secured from each partner, which should be equitable and proportionate, and any contributions from each relevant agency to support the local arrangements. Details of Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership's annual budget and how it has been spent, can be found in the Yearly Report. Resources also come from colleagues who allocate dedicated time to the BSCP, time and expertise is contributed by partners, whose representatives act as chairs and lead on subgroup and task & finish work. In addition, partnership reps are expected to participate in multiagency audits and contribute to the multiagency training programme.

### **Partnership Team**

The BCSP Business Unit are employed by Barnsley Council as the host employer on behalf of the lead safeguarding partners. It plays a key role in supporting the Partnership arrangements in its essential functions, including:

- **Administration:** Organise and administer all partnership meetings.
- **Local Safeguarding Child Practice Reviews:** Coordinate rapid and child safeguarding practice reviews, recruitment of independent reviewers and track action plans. Disseminate learning from local and national reviews.
- **Learning and Improvement:** Lead and facilitate learning and improvement initiatives and events.
- **Safeguarding Training:** Design, deliver and commission multi-agency training.
- **Data Analysis:** Co-ordinate multiagency data gathering and analysis.
- **Yearly Report:** Produce the yearly report in line with WT23 requirements.
- **The Business Plan:** Prepare and produce BSCP's Business Plan.
- **Education:** Lead on Education safeguarding work. Conduct the annual s.175 Education self-assessment audit and assurance reports, deliver Designated Safeguarding Lead induction and refresher training, organise DSLs forums, create resources for schools, parents and children, attend the Education Alliance strategic board. Ensure joined-up approach with Education
- **Cross-board working:** Joint work with other multiagency boards and partnerships to ensure a coordinated approach to shared priorities in Barnsley and South Yorkshire.
- **Audits & Performance:** Devise the yearly multiagency audit schedule. Organise and produce multiagency audits to ensure risks are effectively managed. Ensure single agency audit findings inform outcomes. Conduct the Section 11 self-assessment audit. Capture performance metrics.

- **Escalations:** Manage the Escalations process to ensure effective dispute resolution
- **Information Sharing:** Produce and review BSCP's Information Sharing Agreement.
- **Voice:** Liaise and co-produce with children and young people to ensure their voices are heard.
- **Action Plans:** Ensure the implementation and progress of action plans from audits and reviews
- **Inspection Preparation:** Preparation for Joint Targeted Area Inspections (JTAI) ensuring readiness and compliance with standards.
- **Scrutiny:** Support the work of the independent scrutineer and integration of learning from scrutiny.
- **Policy:** Support development of multiagency policies, procedures and practice guidance.
- **Communications:** Ensure effective communication, including development of BSCP's website

## 5. Relevant Agencies: Roles & Responsibilities of Partnership Members

Relevant agencies are named in the 'Relevant Agencies Regulations' and have a statutory duty to co-operate and collaborate with the lead safeguarding partners. Relevant agencies are those organisations and agencies whose involvement the lead safeguarding partners consider is required to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children. The relevant agencies with whom the three lead safeguarding partners are required to work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children are listed in **Appendix A**.

Relevant agencies will receive up to date information at least annually about the expectations of them in engaging with and supporting these multiagency safeguarding arrangements. The roles and responsibilities of subgroup members are described in the TOR for each group. The list of relevant agencies will be reviewed annually.

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 BCSP subgroups are expected to:

- Make a commitment and prioritise attendance at meetings and, on the occasions, they are unable to attend, they should identify an appropriate deputy who is authorised to act on behalf of the agency's representative and meet their 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 able to access and share the information necessary to inform collective action.
- Be critically reflective, strengths-based, solution-focused and child-centred, to shape and influence practice.
- Lead and/or participate in work streams.
- Take responsibility for identified actions and see them through to completion.

The relevant agencies will also be asked to contribute to the work of the Partnership by nominating representation at the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership meeting. Invitations may be extended

to join task and finish groups, participate in BCSP development sessions, and provide practitioner feedback on specific issues.

Relevant agencies are required to participate in multiagency audits as part of the Quality Assurance Framework and to provide assurance of single-agency action plans, to embed learning as part 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 participate in local child safeguarding practice reviews.

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a statutory duty on key organisations (Working Together 23 chap 4) to participate in organisational self-assessments to assure that they meet safeguarding requirements and standards. Best practice will be shared and improvements monitored by the Operational & Business Group, through single agency action plans, challenge event and independent scrutiny. Agencies are asked to undertake s.11 self-assessments every two years, to provide assurance that their safeguarding duties are being met.

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

The three lead safeguarding partners regard all schools (including independent schools, academies, alternative provision and free schools), further education colleges, early years providers, and other education providers in Barnsley as relevant agencies.

As designated relevant agencies, maintained, independent and academy trust schools, further education colleges, early years providers and other education providers in Barnsley, have a statutory duty to co-operate with these multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and will be engaged as follows:

- The Independent chair of the Education Alliance will be the Education representative on BSCP's Executive Business Group.
- Educational Representatives will be sought and attend the relevant BSCP subgroups to support the priorities of the partnership. Membership includes, Barnsley College Safeguarding Lead, designated safeguarding leads, the Education Alliance, Youth Voice and Participation team, Education, Welfare & Inclusion team, Family Hubs, commissioned services who provide health & wellbeing support in schools.
- Designated Safeguarding Leads are encouraged to participate in the quarterly Designated Safeguarding Leads Forum, which provides information, advice and guidance on safeguarding in education topics and opportunities for joined up working across the borough.
- Links between BSCP and the Education Alliance board ensure there is collaborative working for safeguarding and education at operational and strategic levels.

### **Health Service Providers:**

The Lead Safeguarding Partners regard the following health providers as relevant agencies. The Barnsley Integrated Care Board commissions the following Health providers:

- Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- South-West Yorkshire Partnership Foundation Trust, includes the Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)
- Barnsley Primary Care Network
- Yorkshire Ambulance Service

### **Voluntary and Community Sector:**

Barnsley Community and Voluntary Services (CVS) draws VCSE organisations together in the Start Well forum and they are included in these multi- agency safeguarding arrangements. Barnsley CVS representatives are part of our partnership meetings to ensure that key safeguarding messages are communicated to non-commissioned VCSE organisations. Sports and Faith groups are part of BSCP, attend quarterly meetings and will be invited to join relevant subgroups.

### **Other statutory relevant agencies:**

Representation on BCSP subgroups is not sought from the following national organisations: UK Visa and Immigration and British Transport Police. However, engagement will take place where necessary, for example, when scoping agency involvement following a serious incident.

### **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.

### **Young Offenders:**

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

### **Provision of information:**

In engaging with relevant agencies, the lead safeguarding partners will be aware of their own responsibilities under the relevant information law and have regard to guidance provided by the Information Commissioner's Office when issuing and responding to requests for information. All partners/agencies are signatories to BSCP's Information-Sharing Agreement, to ensure that relevant information is shared proportionately where a child may be in need of help or protection.

## **6. Effectiveness of the arrangements: Independent Scrutiny & Quality Assurance**

### **Independent Scrutiny**

The role of independent scrutiny is critical to provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. In Barnsley, the delivery of independent scrutiny is partly fulfilled through the role of an Independent Scrutineer and is an important element of BCSP's Quality Assurance Framework. The independent Scrutineer is appointed for a defined period and is subject to performance review, to ensure their roles delivers for the Partnership. The role of the Independent Scrutineer is focused on the impact decision makers have on outcomes for children through their leadership of the system and offers independent, practical support and challenge at strategic and operational levels.

Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership aims to build a culture where all members of the Partnership, from frontline practitioners to strategic leaders, positively welcome and actively participate in scrutiny, trusting and learning from each other, while also taking accountability. Lead safeguarding partners will ensure that scrutiny is objective, acts as a critical friend and promotes reflection to drive continuous improvement. BCSP aims to achieve improvement by developing good practice based on

what we know works well, using an evidence-based approach. Local arrangements for independent scrutiny will:

- **Assurance of Effectiveness:** 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.
- **Quality Assurance:** Ensure that statutory duties are being fulfilled, quality assurance mechanisms are in place, and that local child safeguarding practice reviews and national reviews are analysed, with key learning areas identified and effectively implemented across the Partnership.
- **Voices of Children and Families:** Ensure that the voice of children and families is considered as part of scrutiny and is at the heart of arrangements through direct feedback, informing policy and practice.
- **Critical Friend Role:** Provide objectivity, act as a constructive critical friend and promote reflection to promote continuous improvement.
- **Conflict Resolution:** Provide independent advice when there are professional disagreements between safeguarding partners and facilitate escalations.
- **Evaluation and Continuous Improvement:** Act as part of a wider system which includes the independent inspectorate's single assessment of the individual safeguarding partners and the Joint Targeted Area Inspections.
- **Regular Reporting:** The scrutineer provides regular updates to the Strategic leadership groups on the progress, challenges, and outcomes of their scrutiny activities, ensuring that safeguarding partners consider and act upon findings.

### **Quality Assurance**

A Quality Assurance and Continuous Improvement Framework will deliver improved outcomes for children in Barnsley by using a wide range of practice and performance evaluation processes, aligned to the BSCP priorities, to scrutinise, challenge and also to highlight and promote good practice - and to evaluate the effectiveness of local arrangements.

**Multi Agency Audits** - BCSP has a yearly multiagency audit schedule, drawn from key risks in children's lives or priorities identified in earlier findings and scrutiny where improvement or assurance is required. Audit tools assess the quality of work undertaken by agencies and identify areas which are working well and those requiring improvement. Partner agencies are asked to share their single agency audits to also support the quality assurance process. A new Performance and Audit work group will lead multiagency audit work and report to the O&BG. Learning and best practice are shared in action plans, which report into the relevant subgroup and the Operational & Business Group. Findings and recommendations go forward to the Business Executive to monitor organisational and practice changes. Learning from audits is taken up through the PWD subgroup and informs multiagency training programme. Assurance audits take place to assure that improvements, learning is embedded in practice change.

**Partner Consultation and Self-Evaluation** - As part of workforce development, agency partners are regularly asked to self-assess on safeguarding areas, identified in national and local learning.

**Benchmarking** against inspection standards, such as JTAI criteria, is done collectively through the relevant subgroup or partnership, with results reported to Executive partners. It enables BSCP to not only test for inspection readiness but also to identify gaps and good practice in current practice and shape future improvements.

**Engagement with front line practitioners** – Feedback and engagement from practitioners, managers and senior leaders is sought to triangulate BSCPs qualitative evidence and is part of the multiagency

audit process. Evaluation is sought from frontline colleagues and shapes future modelling. Practitioner events are part of Child Safeguarding Practice reviews. Practitioners participate in and help shape development sessions, Designated Safeguarding Lead forums and Safeguarding Awareness Week activity, all of which help capture evidence of what is working well in practice and what areas need to be examined or changed.

**S.11 Organisational Safeguarding Self -assessment audit.** BSCP delivers a self-assessment to ten statutory services across Barnsley as part of the Section 11 responsibilities. It includes a face-to-face multiagency challenge event, attended by the Independent Scrutineer. Individual submissions are reviewed as part of independent scrutiny work. Partners participate individual scrutiny meeting to discuss results and action plans. An assurance event is held by the Operational & Business group to test for implementation of action plans, progress and learning.

**S.175 Safeguarding Self-Assessment Audit.** BSCP carries out a yearly audit, to provide assurance of safeguarding arrangements in schools and colleges. This comprehensive audit captures data and qualitative intelligence and serves as schools and colleges' mechanism for safeguarding reporting as well as providing evidence for external inspections. Each setting has an action plan which is used to inform their safeguarding plan with their governors. Analysis of the s.175 Audit returns helps identify safeguarding gaps and trends across the borough's settings and shape BSCP's priorities.

**Using data and intelligence to assess effectiveness-** BSCP's multiagency data scorecard will capture the relevant data and intelligence to assess the effectiveness of help and protection provided to children and families in Barnsley, which supports our strategic priorities and alerts the Partnership to gaps, risks and good practice. The scorecard will combine single-agency data and multi-agency performance indicators agreed by the Executive group. All partner agencies have agreed to provide quarterly data reports to ensure a purposeful multiagency data scorecard.

**Feedback from children and young people and their families** - is sought in BCSP audit and review frameworks. Voice of the child is a standing line of enquiry in all multiagency audits The S.11 audit seeks assurance from partner agencies about capture of children and families' feedback and how it informs practice development and service design. Co-production takes place in development of BSCP resources and tools, service design, events, open days. Consultations, surveys and feedback help determine strategic priorities. The Signs of Safety provides a common language across agencies and a child-centred model for conferencing and core group child protection meetings.

### **Voice of Children, Young People and Families**

The voice of the child is at the heart of the Partnership. Involving children and families is important to safeguarding in Barnsley, both in contributing to delivery of the Partnership's vision and in helping to scrutinise and review the Partnership arrangements. Across the Partnership and the Borough, there are several, processes, activities and forums that give a platform for the voice of children and young people.

**Barnsley Inclusive Network Youth Voice and Participation:** This team supports young people's voluntary involvement in Youth Voice and Participation activity. The team's primary focus is to:

1. To support the engagement and participation of young people in decision making and ensure their voices are heard.
2. To ensure the most vulnerable young people are supported to engaged in decision making processes.
3. To support services to engage users in shaping service delivery and coproduction of how services are designed, commissioned, and delivered.

The Team run several groups in Barnsley that gives young residents aged 11- 25 years a way to have their say and work on projects they are passionate about:

- **Barnsley Youth Council** - Barnsley has a democratically elected Youth Council which represents the views of their peers across the Borough and is made up of representatives from each of the secondary schools, Barnsley College, and the Borough's specialist provisions for SEND / those not in full time education. There are a minimum of two representatives per school. The Youth Council is elected for a two-year term of office. It also elects a Young Mayor and Barnsley's Members of Youth Parliament (MYP's).
- **Barnsley UK Youth Parliament.** Three young residents are elected as members of UK Youth Parliament for Barnsley. They lead on national campaigns and the bi-annual Make Your Mark Survey. Elections take place once every two years.
- **Barnsley Inclusive Youth Voice.** Barnsley Inclusive Youth Voice is a representative name for all the young people aged 11 to 25 experiencing SEND and SEMH. These young people represent themselves, their educational settings, youth groups and peers. They regularly meet with wider youth groups to share experiences.
- **Barnsley Care4Us Council.** The Care4Us council is made up of young people aged 8 to 25 who are either looked after or have left the care system but are still part of the leaving care system. The purpose of Care4Us council is to work with young people's corporate parents and other services, making a difference by talking and listening to young people who are in care or care experienced.
- **Secondary School drop ins** - All secondary schools are offered support, and there are weekly school drop ins/surgeries at all secondary schools for the borough's young people to engage in voice and participation campaigns / workstreams.

The Partnership works closely with:

- Chilypep' s Young Commissioners groups: [Barnsley Young Commissioners](#) have a say in how the services young people use to look after and treat their mental health are run. Escape and Sanctuary are two groups of young people with lived experience of mental ill health, whose views contribute to service modelling.
- Barnsley Public Health Inclusivity group - Works closely with young people from Targeted Youth Support's LGBTQ+ group, Chilypep' s HOME group, Barnsley College and several schools, the group produce co-developed pieces of work that aim to create a more inclusive and supportive environment for LGBTQ+ individuals in our community.
- The South Yorkshire Children and Young People's Alliance (CYPA) - Chilypep lead the Alliance in CYP voice to ensure that young people are at the forefront of change. 7 Young Health Champions support the National Child Health Equity Collaborative, sharing their views about CYP health and wider social determinants in South Yorkshire.
- Healthier Futures Barnsley Initiative - The 'Let's Hear Your Voice' survey runs every two years to allow cohort trend data to be collected. The data can be used as a borough-wide tool to measure young people's health and wellbeing and inform strategic planning, as well as individual results being accessible to schools on a dedicated dashboard for internal use.

The Partnership will ensure children, young people are involved regularly and that their views are included particularly on the following elements of its work:

- When conducting audits
- When developing new policies and procedures
- When planning workforce development

- When conducting scrutiny exercises and peer reviews

The development of a common understanding of language across a partnership is important to enable services and practitioners to be clear and unambiguous about what the risks and needs are for children. This helps practitioners understand the differences between a child and their family needing help and what constitutes harm, ensuring that they receive the right help, at the right time, in the right place, at the earliest point of presentation.

Partners have worked together to develop a Thresholds for Intervention guidance to support practitioners at all levels working in early help and statutory services in Barnsley. The guidance sets out a framework of needs and vulnerabilities and considers the needs of children, young people and their families on a spectrum that is used to support practitioners' understanding of the individual circumstances of each child or young person. It is vital that the support offered to families is coordinated for a whole family approach.

The document is intended to enable practitioners:

- To make decisions about how best to respond to the needs of individual children and young people and families.
- To providing the right help at the right time, in the right place.
- To feel safe and confident in their decision making.

The guidance refers to the spectrum of need, rather than the threshold of need, because 'thresholds' can be static and unhelpful to a family. We know family life is fluid, and changes can occur at any time; therefore, services need to be flexible, timely and creative to move towards positive and sustained change.



The 5 categories of need in the i-Thrive Framework is a person-centred and needs-led approach to delivering services for children, young people and families, from Early Help to statutory responses.

The Thresholds for Intervention document is available on the BSCP website.

## 8. Responding to Child Death & Serious Incidents

### Child Death Overview Panel

The death of a child is a devastating loss that profoundly affects all those involved. The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) operates a structured review process for all child deaths in Barnsley, which takes account of networks of NHS care and agency and organisational boundaries. When a child death

occurs, it is mandatory to review the case under the Child Death Review (CDR) process. It includes a multi-disciplinary meeting where professionals directly involved in the child's care discuss the circumstances leading up to and surrounding the child's death. The purpose of this meeting is to gather comprehensive information, which is then forwarded anonymously to the CDOP for further discussion. There is an appropriate balance between forensic and medical requirements and providing supporting to the family.

Child Death Review partners (the local authority and the ICB) appoint a designated doctor, a senior paediatrician, for child deaths, who leads in the review process. Barnsley CDOP has direct links with the wider South Yorkshire area for consideration of child deaths, to ensure that emerging themes and learning are understood and shared.

The lead safeguarding partners are required to respond to any safeguarding issues identified by the child death review process, including the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) to ensure that the broader implications for child safety and wellbeing are considered at a strategic level and that relevant actions are integrated into local safeguarding practices.

### **Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews**

The lead safeguarding partners are responsible for ensuring that there is a defined and clear process in place to conduct a review following a serious child safeguarding incident, and for commissioning a subsequent local child safeguarding practice review where necessary. The safeguarding system is complex and involves multiple agencies and organisations working together to protect children. When things go wrong it is important to understand how those complex systems and processes operated and whether they need to change. At the core of this work, is the commitment to ensuring that local agencies understand the events leading to a death, and the ways in which those same agencies and others can help to protect children in the future.

The Local Authority has 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). The decision whether this threshold has been met, should be a joint agreement made by the Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs). Where there is disagreement, local dispute resolution or guidance from the Independent Scrutineer will be sought. If a notification is made, Lead Safeguarding Partners must be informed.

The definition of a serious child safeguarding incident and considerations can be found in [WT23](#) p133 and [National Panel Guidance](#).

On behalf of the Partnership, the Local Safeguarding Child Practice Review Panel notifies partner agencies of any serious child safeguarding incidents, organises rapid reviews and local child safeguarding practice reviews and their reporting. Barnsley's notification and rapid review flowchart can be found on the BSCP website.

Following a Rapid Review, the LCSPR 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. BSCP will:

- Promptly undertake a rapid review of the case in line with national published guidance, 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 to be shared 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 how the review will be conducted, with the independent reviewer.
- 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.

BSCP 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 lead safeguarding partners 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. Child safeguarding practice review reports will be sent in full, to the National Panel and Secretary of State.

The Operational and Business Group will have overall responsibility and oversee the recommendations and learning from Barnsley's rapid reviews and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews including other national and local reviews, – ensuring progress is being made and that any learning is shared across the partnership.

The Partnership encourages a culture of continuous learning and improvement, to identify what works, promotes good practice, and where improvements are to be made to deliver better outcomes for children. It sets out its approach to learning and improvement in its Quality Assurance Framework. The Framework will demonstrate how learning is identified, shared, and implemented within a multi-agency context.

The Partnership's audit and performance subgroup leads on BSCP's learning cycle. It completes actions in relation to learning from reviews and multiagency audits, it evaluates and reviews the multiagency training programme. Activities and their impact are summarised in the Multiagency Training Yearly Report, which reports to the Partnership meeting and is also captured in BSCP's yearly report.

### **Embedding Learning across the system**

Lead safeguarding partners have a responsibility to ensure that local and national learning is embedded, to make improvements to practice. The audit and performance subgroup develops 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, to ensure that learning has an impact on practice. This subgroup

also ensures these actions plans are regularly reviewed and prepares assurance reports to the Business Executive.

### **Evaluating the impact of learning**

To ensure that local and national learning have a positive and demonstrable impact on practice and changes are embedded and sustainable, monitoring will take place through the following:

- **Performance analysis:** BCSP multi-agency dataset and single-agency performance measures
- **Quality assurance and audit activity:** Includes multi and single-agency audits
- **Supervision:** Line managers should regularly discuss the impact on practice from learning and development activity with practitioners in supervision and feedback through their agencies to PWD subgroup
- **Lived Experience:** The audit and performance sub group captures feedback from children, young people and their families on the impact of intervention

### **Multi-agency safeguarding training**

The lead safeguarding partners 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.

The audit and performance subgroup regularly reviews and evaluates training, and the multiagency training programme is adjusted to meet priorities. A periodic training needs analysis also informs the programme. It includes Designated Safeguarding Leads training to those working in education and other organisations. The programme is led by BSCP's multiagency trainer, supported by partner agencies subject matter experts and when required, by external specialists. We also deliver 2 or 3 keynote conferences / events each year, which are determined by our priorities and any identified gaps in learning.

Most courses are offered at no cost to safeguarding partner organisations in Barnsley. Participants are required to provide feedback in relation to the training course attended so that all learning activity can be monitored for impact on practice and outcomes for children. BSCP's multiagency training programme can be found on the BSCP website.

## **10. Review of Partnership Safeguarding Arrangements**

The Partnership will, through the Executive Business Group, carry out a review of the arrangements on an annual basis, to ensure the document is updated and processes and procedures meet the statutory requirements.

To bring transparency for children, families and all practitioners about the activity undertaken, the Lead Safeguarding partners will publish a report every twelve months setting out what they have done because of the arrangements, including on child safeguarding practice reviews, and how effective these arrangements have been in practice. The Yearly report will include:

- Evidence of the impact of the work of the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies, including training, on outcomes for children and families from early help/family help to looked-after children and care leavers.
- An analysis of any areas where there has been little or no evidence of progress on our agreed priorities.

The BCSP Yearly Report will be reviewed by the Independent Scrutineer prior to it being signed off by the Lead Safeguarding Partners. This is to provide a critical friend review and provide feedback and comments to the LSPs, DSPs and Executive Business Group for consideration.

The BCSP Yearly Report will be completed by 30<sup>th</sup> September and published on the BCSP website and presented to the Partnership meeting and through governance reporting in SY Police, the Integrated Care Board and the local authority, to its Senior Management Team and the local authority's Oversight & Scrutiny Committee, for questions and challenge. A copy of the published report will be sent to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel alongside any other relevant agencies as requested.

## Appendix A: Relevant Agencies

The following agencies are 'relevant agencies' as defined in the Schedule to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Relevant Agency (England) Regulations:

- Education providers
- Registered providers of a children's home
- Registered providers of a Fostering agency
- Registered providers of an Adoption support agency and/or a registered Adoption Society
- Registered providers of a registered holiday scheme for disabled children
- Registered providers of a residential family centre
- CAFCASS
- A Governor of a Prison
- Providers of Probation Services
- NHS Commissioning Board, known as NHS England (South Yorkshire)
- Commissioned providers of health services
- Providers of Youth Services
- Commissioned services to children\*
- Providers of community housing
- UK Visa and Immigration
- Youth Justice Service
- Fire and Rescue Service
- Voluntary and Community Sector including charities, social enterprise, youth organisations and faith groups
- Sport or leisure providers

All Barnsley schools and educational establishments, regardless of size or type, are seen as Relevant Agencies by Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP).

\*Commissioned services to children include all services which deliver advocacy, emotional health and well-being, support to children who experience domestic abuse, sexual abuse, grooming or exploitation, commissioned services in schools, physical and mental health.

## Appendix B: Scheme of Delegation

1. The three statutory Lead Safeguarding Partners are:
  - Chief Constable, South Yorkshire Police
  - Chief Executive, NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board
  - Chief Executive, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council.
2. The LSPs have joint and equal responsibility for multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in Barnsley. They are required to show strong leadership in overseeing the arrangements to help and protect children. Their focus is on multi-agency activity.
3. Each agency will have its own arrangements for ensuring effective safeguarding. On occasion this will be escalated to the BSCP, its principal focus is on the multi-agency aspects of protecting children.
4. Safeguarding partners have three functions, these are detailed in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children. The functions are to:
  - Speak with authority on behalf of their agency,
  - Commit their agency to the agreed actions of the BSCP, and
  - Hold their agency to account for the effective delivery of the arrangements.
5. The key task of the LSPs is to act as a team, as opposed to a voice for their agency alone.
6. LSPs can delegate their function to a senior officer in their authority. Delegation transfers the three functions to the Delegated Safeguarding Partners. Although the functions can be delegated, ultimate responsibility for them remains with the LSPs.

7. LSPs set the strategic plan and priorities for the multi-agency arrangements. They focus on the key issues which promote multi-agency practice and allows them a direct line of view of its effectiveness. Key areas for them to have in place include the:
  - priorities for the multi-agency partnership,
  - establishing local learning reviews and the learning framework,
  - assessment of the performance and effectiveness of multi-agency practice,
  - agree the BSCP business plan, JTAI and National Panel recommendations,
  - model of independent scrutiny,
  - resourcing and funding of the arrangements,
  - structure of the BSCP,
  - priorities of the intelligence and support team,
  - data and information sharing policies,
  - communication and engagement strategy with relevant partners and children,
  - approve the yearly plan as a public safeguarding assurance statement.
  
8. As far as possible these issues should be agreed on a three-year timescale with a triennial review. This would give a sensible planning horizon for DSPs to plan their improvement work.
  
9. The DSPs must focus on driving improvement in practice and delivering the agreed priorities and ensuring the practice of police, health and local government children service professionals is as effective as it can be to help and protect children. Like the LSPs, DSPs must act as a team and not a spokesperson for their agency alone.
  
10. The scheme of delegation from LSPs to DSPs should empower decision making and be arranged to ensure a clear line of accountability of the individual to their agency LSPs and the DSPs as a team to the LSPs.
  
11. As the LSPs will have determined the issues in paragraph seven, the operation of these decisions should be reported on by the DSP team. Empowering the DSP team will ensure they are not constantly referring upward to the LSPs or seeking their approval for operational decisions or changes in the arrangement of multi-agency services including the sub-structure of the BSCP.
  
12. In addition to the single agency arrangements made to hold DSPs to account, the DSP team should be held to account through the scheme of delegation to:
  - provide evidence about the quality/performance of multi-agency practice,
  - deliver the BSCP business plan, JTAI and National Panel recommendations,
  - update on the progress of meeting the BSCP priorities,
  - identify and anticipate new challenges to the work of multi-agency teams,
  - direct the BSCP support team, minimising bureaucracy ensuring task-oriented activity,
  - provide analyses of trends in practice from intelligent interpretation of data,
  - report on the engagement of children's schools, and other relevant partners,
  - respond to messages from learning reviews,
  - report on the performance of the support team and use of allocated budgets,
  - advise on any issues the DSP cannot agree on.

13. The process of accountability of DSPs to LSPs should include support and challenge from the Independent Scrutineer. One of their tasks is to advise LSPs of the effectiveness and leadership of the DSP as a team; progress against the BSCP business plan, JTAI and National Panel recommendations; key priorities of the LSPs; improvement in multi-agency practice; and areas which require the attention and or decision of the LSPs.
  
14. The Annual Assurance Statement of the LSPs should describe the accountability and governance model and include an assessment of the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for children in Barnsley.

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