



The Rotherham Safeguarding Partnership Practice Standards Group

An Overview

Who attends the Practice Standards Group?



Group membership consists of representatives from:

- Education
- Social Care
- Early Help
- Youth Offending Service
- South Yorkshire Police
- The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust (TRFT)
- Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust (RDaSH)
- Voluntary Sector Agencies

The Practice Standards group may also co-opt other professionals for time-limited pieces of work

What do we do?



Monitor practice standards across the safeguarding partnership, with reference to:

- RSCP Procedures and Policies
- RMBC Practice Standards
- Statutory Guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'
- National Standards for Youth Justice
- Standards set out by relevant professional bodies:
 - Social Work England
 - Nursing and Midwifery Council
 - College of Policing
 - Department for Education
 - National Youth Agency

What are our key functions?



Review cases and offer Practice Standards Appraisals in cases where:

- A case or situation is recognised as giving cause for concern in relation to the ways in which Partner Agencies work together to safeguard children, but the criteria for a formal Practice Review are not met; or
- A Child Protection Conference Chair has exercised their power of veto in regard to a majority decision at Case Conference; or
- A child is remanded in custody, or is handed down a custodial sentence in the Court; or
- There is exemplary practice in relation to the ways in which Partner Agencies work together to safeguard children

The object being to identify learning needs and good practice, towards developing recommendations for improving practice

How do we do it?



We meet bimonthly to consider referrals, determine the methodology for Appraisals, identify a Working Group to produce each Appraisal, consider outcomes, and agree on actions.

- Referrals can be made from any agency/service
- An appropriate and proportionate methodology is determined
- Involvement of practitioners as appropriate
- The review Process is multi-agency
- Appraisals feed into Learning and Improvement and Performance Management Frameworks
- The Group reports into the Learning and Improvement Subgroup
- Summaries are published on the RSCP website and in the annual report

Referral received and reviewed by the Chair of the Group

- A case or situation is recognised as giving cause for concern in relation to the ways in which Partner Agencies work together, or
- A child is remanded in custody, Local Authority Remand, or is handed down a custodial sentence, or
- exemplary practice is recognised

The Referral is circulated to the Group membership for discussion at the next Group Meeting, at which the issues are identified and a Working Group is allocated to carry out the Appraisal, becoming a task-oriented Virtual Team that produces the Appraisal.

The Appraisal is circulated to the Group membership for discussion at the next Group Meeting, at which the learning is identified and a method of dissemination is agreed. This might be by contribution to the Learning & Development Programme, a Multiagency Practitioner Event, or other appropriate means.

The Practice Review Group reports to the Learning and Improvement Subgroup of the Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership

A Child Protection Conference Chair has exercised their power of veto in regard to a majority decision at Case Conference

The Referral is circulated to the Group membership. Within two weeks, each representative returns their view and the Chair of the Group reviews them

The Chair of the Group contacts the Child Protection Conference Chair to advise them of the Group's consensus view

We adopt the Rotherham Family Approach

The Rotherham Family Approach



Restorative Practice



Practitioners and Agencies may have **doubts** about making a referral to the Practice Standards group. This can be because they are fearful of being judged or criticised, or they might worry about consequences for their careers.

In fact, the Practice Standards Group provides a **good learning opportunity**, which can help to change practice and lead to **improved outcomes for children and young people**.

Practice Standards Appraisals can highlight **good practice**.

Holding Practice Standards Appraisals can demonstrate to inspectorates that agencies are willing to **reflect on practice** when things haven't worked so well.

However, if there are **serious concerns** about an individual's practice, or an Agency's response, this will be reviewed and relevant Procedures followed.

Participation in an Appraisal can be used as evidence of **Continuing Professional Development**.

What a Practice Standards Group Appraisal is not for...



Settling **disputes** that could be resolved more appropriately elsewhere.

Raising **concerns about another agency**, where it would be appropriate to use internal or cross agency escalation procedures for **Resolving Professional Differences of Opinion**. If escalation processes have not been used, you will be asked to do this before the Referral is processed and considered by the Group.

Raising **concerns about an individual's practice**. You should use your Agency's procedures and/ or refer to the relevant professional body.

Please do not refer **every case** where there have been concerns. Use your professional judgement – **does the case highlight potential areas of learning?**

How to make a referral



Please e-mail:

Lisa.Clague@rotherham.gov.uk; or

Melody-cyps.Wilcock@rotherham.gov.uk

to request a Referral Form.

The Referral is screened for appropriateness and heard at the next bimonthly Practice Standards Group meeting.

Further information may be requested.

The Group will contact the Referrer and other professionals involved, in process of conducting an Appraisal.

Outcomes are fed back to the Referrer and other professionals involved, as well as to the Learning and Improvement Subgroup of the Safeguarding Children Partnership.

Making a Referral – completing the form.

Practice Standards Group Referral Form



RLSCB Multi-agency Case Review

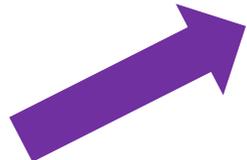
Practice Standards Group

Agency making request	Name			Position	
	Contact Number			E-mail	
	Organisation			Address	
Date of request					
Case Details – subject child	Child Name			D.o.B.	
	LCS No		NHS No		
	Parent/Carer Name			D.o.B.	
	Current Address:				
Is this a Veto by a Child Protection Conference Chair?					
Has this case been subject to the Practice Resolution Protocol , escalation or challenge within or between organisations or services?					
Details of the specific concerns relating to safeguarding the child, issues of effective multi-agency practice or practice that has led to poorer outcomes for the child.	<i>What is working well?</i>				
	<i>What are you worried about?</i>				
What do you think are the potential areas of learning within this case?					

You will also be asked to provide a short overview of key events

If appropriate, please make sure the case has been escalated either internally or cross-agency.

Please complete these sections in as much detail as possible.





*Please contact us if you have any
further questions or queries*

Lisa.Clague@rotherham.gov.uk

Melody-cyps.Wilcock@rotherham.gov.uk

Or try the website

<http://www.rscp.org.uk/>