

# **South Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnerships**

## **Multi-Agency Handbook for Safeguarding Children Arrangements**

**September 2024**

## Contents

1. Introduction .....	3
2. Signatories .....	5
3. Background .....	7
4. Safeguarding Partners responsibilities .....	7
5. How the Safeguarding Children Partnership will work .....	9
6. Independent scrutiny .....	10
7. Independent Scrutiny Principles .....	12
8. Local Authority Arrangements .....	15
9. Relevant agencies .....	17
10. Rotherham Local Safeguarding Arrangements .....	17
11. MASA Structure (each LA to insert their structure) .....	19
12. Multi-agency threshold guidance for help and protection of children .....	20
13. Dispute resolution, escalation and whistleblowing .....	21
14. Safeguarding Effectiveness and Assurance .....	22
a) Partner organisations' safeguarding self-assessment .....	22
b) Performance Management Framework .....	22
c) Multi-Agency Auditing .....	22
d) Listening to the voice of children and families .....	23
e) Inter-agency learning and development .....	24
f) Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews .....	25
g) Review of Partnership Safeguarding Arrangements .....	28
h) Reporting .....	28
i) Funding and resourcing .....	29
j) Information Sharing .....	30
k) Management of Data .....	30
Appendix 1: Safeguarding Children Partnership Groups .....	31
Appendix 2: Delivery Group Meeting & Reporting Schedule 2024 .....	43
Appendix 3: Standard Executive Meeting Templates .....	43
Appendix 4: Relevant Definitions .....	44
Appendix 5: Threshold Document .....	47

## 1. Introduction

Welcome to the new South Yorkshire Multi-Agency Handbook covering the arrangements for Safeguarding Children, which has been developed in accordance with the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023.

In this document we have set out the way in which partners in South Yorkshire will work together to identify the needs of children across the region and to provide children with the help and protection they require. The handbook is an essential tool for anyone involved in the partnership and will be reviewed on an annual basis for accuracy, with key sections on process and membership updated when any changes occur.

The handbook outlines how the Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs) across South Yorkshire will work together in ensuring children and young people are safeguarded, taking into account the different demographics and priorities across the four local authorities.

The handbook is split into two distinct sections:

- The first outlining how the LSPs will deliver and fulfil their functions on a South Yorkshire regional basis, including principles in respect to the scrutiny role of the Independent Scrutineer
- the second section on each individual handbook will outline how the individual local authority will fulfil its Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSPs) and Executive function along with its priorities and sub structure to deliver its safeguarding arrangements.

The three safeguarding partners and their wider partnerships of local agencies and organisations are committed to building on the progress already made and look to continually improve, ensuring that children and families are given help as early as possible and are protected effectively when they need to be.

We will:

- Work together collectively across the partnership to safeguard children
- Ensure the partnership demonstrates openness and transparency in all its work
- Work with children and families to make sure our services are responsive to their needs
- Maintain a strong oversight of performance and safeguarding practice
- Allocate adequate resources and expertise to fulfil our responsibilities

- Keep a continued focus on learning and improvement

## 2. Signatories



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gavin Boyle'.

Gavin Boyle, Chief Executive,  
NHS South Yorkshire Integrated  
Care Board (ICB)

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lauren Poultney'.

**Lauren Poultney**, Chief Constable,  
South Yorkshire Police

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sharon Kemp'.

**Sharon Kemp**, Chief Executive,  
Rotherham  
Metropolitan Borough Council

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K Josephs'.

**Kate Josephs**, Chief Executive,  
Sheffield City Council

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D Allen'.

**Damian Allen**, Chief Executive, City  
of Doncaster

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S Norman'.

**Sarah Norman**, Chief Executive,  
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough  
Council

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024

### 3. Background

The Children Act 2004, as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017, requires that the three safeguarding partners (Local Authorities, Integrated Care Board and Chief Officers of Police), 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 what the responsibilities of safeguarding partners are, delivered through the new safeguarding arrangements. This includes a shared accountability between the three key partners, the requirement to have independent scrutiny and the transition from Serious Case Reviews to Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.

The three key partners must publish their arrangements by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024. Transitional guidance has also been published to set out the change from the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) to the new safeguarding children arrangements, which includes new accountability arrangements for Child Death Reviews and the move away from Serious Case Reviews.

### 4. South Yorkshire Safeguarding Partners responsibilities

There will be two meetings of South Yorkshire LSPs to look at local place based arrangements and any safeguarding matters across the region in which collaboration would prove effective.

The safeguarding partners 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 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 and the following provider services via this link [South Yorkshire ICS - Home \(syics.co.uk\)](https://syics.co.uk). The Police force for the area is South Yorkshire Police. As outlined below placed based arrangements will also be in place to ensure that local arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The arrangements for South Yorkshire and individual local authority footprints recognises the importance of strong leadership for the new arrangements to be effective in bringing together

the various organisations and agencies and the lead representative from each of the three safeguarding partners will play an active role at all levels of the new arrangements.

In line with the expectations set out in Working Together 2023, the key responsibilities of the safeguarding partners are to ensure that:

- There is a clear, shared vision for how to improve outcomes for children locally across all levels of need and all types of harm
- When a child is identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm there is a prompt, appropriate and effective response to ensure the protection and support of the child
- Organisations and agencies are challenged appropriately, effectively holding one another to account
- The voice of children and families combined with the knowledge of experienced practitioners and insights from data, provides a greater understanding of the areas of strength and/or improvement within arrangements and practice
- Information is sought, analysed, shared, and broken down by protected characteristics to facilitate more accurate and timely decision-making for children and families, and to understand outcomes for different communities of children
- Effective collection, sharing and analysis of data, enables early identification of new safeguarding risks, issues, emerging threats, and joined-up responses across relevant agencies
- Senior leaders promote and embed a learning culture which supports local services to become more reflective and implement changes to practice
- Senior leaders have a good knowledge and understanding about the quality of local practice and its impact on children and families

In addition, we will:

- Implement local and national learning including from serious child safeguarding incidents.
- Achieve the best possible outcomes for children and families ensuring they receive targeted services that meet their needs in a co-ordinated way.

The purpose of these arrangements is to support and enable local organisations and agencies to work together in a system where:



- Children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted
- Partner organisations and agencies collaborate, share and co-own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children
- Organisations and agencies challenge appropriately and hold one another to account effectively
- There is early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues and emerging threats
- Learning is promoted and embedded in a way that local services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice
- Information is shared effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and families

In order to work together effectively, the safeguarding partners with other local organisations and agencies will develop processes that:

- Facilitate and drive action beyond usual institutional and agency constraints and boundaries
- Ensure the effective protection of children is founded on practitioners developing lasting and trusting relationships with children and their families
- To be effective, these arrangements must link to other strategic partnership work happening locally to support children and families.

## **5. How the Safeguarding Children Partnership will work**

The Chief Officer Group of Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs) consists of:

- Chief Constable SYP – Lauren Poultney
- Chief Executives of Barnsley, Sarah Norman, Doncaster, Damian Allen, Rotherham, Sharon Kemp and Sheffield, Kate Josephs
- Chief Executive ICB – Gavin Boyle

These members will meet twice a year to provide strategic oversight and agree the vision and priorities for safeguarding children in respect to each local authority safeguarding arrangements in South Yorkshire. It will ensure that there are strategic links with other partnership boards operating across local authorities in relation to safeguarding children and

will also provide a mechanism for escalation of safeguarding risks from the respective Executive Group. The Chief Officer Group will also agree the funding and resourcing arrangements for each of the partnerships and ensure reports are published annually, on the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements in each place based area.

**Working Together 2023 sets out the following responsibilities of LSPs.**

1. Set the strategic direction, vision, and culture of the local safeguarding arrangements, including agreeing and reviewing shared priorities and the resource required to deliver services effectively.
2. Lead their organisation's individual contribution to the shared priorities, ensuring strong governance, accountability, and reporting mechanisms to hold their delegates to account for the delivery of agency commitments.
3. Review and sign off key partnership documents: published multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, including plans for independent scrutiny, shared annual budget, yearly report, and local threshold document.
4. Provide 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. Ensure 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. Ensure all relevant agencies, including education settings, are clear on their role and contribution to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

## **6. Independent scrutiny**

The role of independent scrutiny in each local authority arrangements, will provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguarding and promote the welfare of all children, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases. This will be part of a wider system which includes the independent inspectorates' single assessment of the individual safeguarding partners, Joint Targeted Area Inspections (JTAs) and Peer Review activity across the region. Safeguarding partners will ensure that the scrutineer is objective, acts as a constructive critical friend and promotes

reflection to drive continuous improvement. The Scrutineer will 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.

Key responsibilities of the Independent Scrutineer:

- Agree with the safeguarding partners 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.
- 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 sub-groups.
- Offer appropriate challenge and scrutiny to ensure that the partners are accountable, and that the local arrangements operate effectively.
- Scrutinise the work of the sub-groups and the progress of the business plan.
- Deliver an Annual Report in collaboration with the safeguarding partners.
- Act objectively as a critical friend to promote reflection and drive continuous improvement.
- Lead challenge sessions in relation to organisations' safeguarding children arrangements.
- Have access to and is sighted on relevant (single and multi-agency) safeguarding performance data and quality assurance information to effectively challenge practice and across the partnership to improve outcomes for children.
- Have an influencing role within and across the partnership with regard to multi-agency practice and outcomes for children.
- Participate in reviews by Inspectorates when required, including JTAI's. Holds partners to account for Improvement Plans (including attendance at Improvement Boards) arising from Inspection and Peer Review activity.

- Be alerted to serious safeguarding cases, incidences of whistleblowing relating to safeguarding matters and act as a point of escalation when safeguarding partners are unable to find a resolution within the partnership.
- Seek assurance and scrutinises decision making in relation to Serious Child Safeguarding Cases.
- Have a line of sight to frontline practice and outcomes for children – where appropriate is able to observe practice, engage with practitioners, children and their families with regard to their experience of the safeguarding system.
- Communicate with external local/regional/national organisations and governmental departments where appropriate in relation to safeguarding matters impacting on partnership working and outcomes for children.
- Engage with community groups or community representatives in matters relating to safeguarding children.
- Meet with chairs of other Local Authority Partnership Boards (SAB, Community Safety Boards, and H&WB).

## 7. Independent Scrutiny Principles

The following are scrutiny principles to be applied across all Local Authorities to provide a level of consistency in application of scrutiny:

### Why Scrutiny?

The decision on how best to implement a robust system of independent scrutiny is made locally, and the LSPs should be assured that the system in place leads to objective and rigorous analysis of the local arrangements. Many partners and statutory agencies cover not only locally, but sub-regionally, such as SYP and SYICB. Consistency of approach is beneficial for partners, and a core minimum standard, that can have local additions when required.

Independent scrutiny can be delivered through a range of methods and structures, and local areas may choose to have an individual or an externally commissioned group delivering their scrutiny, but above all it must be independent. The core requirement expected by the LSPs is that there is independent scrutiny at a local and sub-regional level.

## **What is Scrutiny?**

Scrutiny allows an overview of a partnership's activity, allows individuals in the partnership and local communities to hold decision-makers accountable, and obtains reassurance regarding services delivered. Effective scrutiny ensures the efficient delivery of services and drives improvements within the partnership and individual organisations, and at a strategic and operational level.

The key guiding principles of scrutiny that the partnership will adhere to and work towards are that the scrutineer will: -

- Provide constructive “critical friend” challenges to all areas of activity.
- Ensure the voice and concerns of the public are addressed.
- Be independent people who take responsibility for their role.
- Drive improvement in public services across the partnership.
- Be aware of the local, regional and national pressures and best practice.

The detail and rationale behind these principles are:

### **Critical friend challenge**

Being a “critical friend” is a balancing act. Scrutiny must be challenging, whilst supportive and encouraging so as not to distance decision-makers and practitioners. Everyone has a collective responsibility to build a culture of high support and high challenge.

### **The voice and concerns of the public**

Scrutineers must ensure that the voice of the community and stakeholders are heard in the way that decision-makers design and deliver services and that they have a role in developing and improving what is offered. They must also improve the practice of scrutiny itself by ensuring that the work that is delivered is outward-focused, looking at issues that are important to local people and communities.

### **Led by independent people**

Scrutineers must be independent. It can be a challenging, political and emotive role, and is often resource intensive. Many organisations operating across the partnership have other

roles and responsibilities and pressures beyond that under scrutiny, and independence ensures the pressures are understood, considered and given context. Scrutineers should in conjunction with partners set an audit and scrutiny schedule and ensure everyone is engaged.

## **Improvement in public services**

Scrutiny needs to lead to change and service improvements, building on the good and developing areas that require improvements. Organisations and partnerships can always enhance the services they deliver, and as communities change, so do their needs and expectations. Scrutiny needs to ensure this is paramount and always a focus of the role.

## **Local, Regional and National pressures and practice**

Scrutineers need to understand the pressures locally, regionally, and nationally and be aware of what is working and what isn't. Horizon scanning and network building are essential parts of scrutiny, helping to identify best practice and gaining support to develop areas that need improvement. The more people involved, the better the discussion and the better the solutions.

## **Areas of responsibility**

The following areas are the core requirements of scrutiny expected by LSPs:

- 1) Reviewing Management Information, including:
  - Performance information, supplied quarterly by all partners
  - Finance & Budget information
  - Partnership Risk Register
  - Complaints, compliments data and any identified trends.
- 2) Investigating cross-cutting partnership issues and locality-based issues across other partnerships to ensure a coordinated approach and avoid duplication of work.
- 3) Horizon scanning: looking for best practices, building networks, and ensuring partners are not working in isolation, but supporting each other.
- 4) Production of the relevant annual reports expected in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023.
- 5) Visibility to all partners with an ethos that the scrutineer is known throughout the partnership.

- 6) Work collaboratively across the sub-region, with scrutineers assisting each other and meeting regularly to develop consistency and service improvements at sub-regional level.

There may be additions to the core requirements locally, and other areas of governance and scrutiny that take place dependent on community and partnership needs and priorities. How the role is resourced and delivered is a local decision and it is accepted that there may be differences sub-regionally.

How the partnership uses the scrutineer to represent them, locally, regionally or nationally is also a local decision and needs to meet the local needs and governance structures, that will naturally vary. What is essential is that the scrutineers share best practice and assist with areas for improvement.

## 8. Local Authority Arrangements

The Designated Safeguarding Partner (DSPs) in Rotherham are the members of the RSCP Executive. These are:

- Andy Wright, Chief Superintendent, Rotherham District Commander SYP
- Nicola Curley, Strategic Director CYPS, RMBC
- Andrew Russell, Director of Nursing, South Yorkshire ICB

In addition, each Local Authority will agree their priorities, wider safeguarding partners, and how they will engage the wider partners in their arrangements.

**Working Together 2023 sets out the following Joint functions of delegated safeguarding partners of LSPs.**

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.

Each Local Authority in this section of these arrangements will confirm their Executive Group arrangements. Their Executive Group will ensure that the local safeguarding arrangements are compliant with statutory guidance and meet local need, setting out the priorities within their Business Plan. The Executive Group will receive regular reports on the progress of the Business Plan, receiving updates at each meeting from their sub-groups, providing appropriate scrutiny and challenge to each sub-group. The areas updated to the Executive should cover:

- What is working well at present and what are the success stories for the group?
- What needs to improve and are the areas of work you are concentrating on at present?
- What are the areas of concern, and is there anything you need support with?
- What is the current performance picture (Success & Concern), please include any gaps in data.

They will maintain a risk register in relation to key aspects of safeguarding, overseeing escalations and managing dispute resolution. It will ensure that the sub-groups are supported by the required partnership representation and will set and monitor the budget in accordance with the business plan. The Executive will ensure the meetings are governed correctly and managed in accordance with requirements.

The following will also provide an annual report to the Executive to provide reassurance and details of their activity over the year, due to the connection to safeguarding children:

- 1) Local Authority Designated Officer – LADO
- 2) Independent Reviewing Service
- 3) Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub

### **Connectivity across partnerships**

In Rotherham we have bi-annual meetings that bring together the chairs of the children's and adults' safeguarding boards, the chair of the health and wellbeing board, the chair of the children and young people's partnership board and the chair of the Safer Rotherham partnership. These meetings, supported by the business units for the various boards, ensure



that priorities and business plans are shared and aligned. The chairs are signed up to a partnership protocol, which sets out how the boards will work together on safeguarding-related issues.

## **9. Relevant agencies**

Relevant agencies are those organisations and agencies locally whose involvement the safeguarding partners consider is required to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children. Strong, effective multi-agency arrangements are ones that are responsive to local circumstances and engage the right people. For local arrangements to be effective, they will engage organisations and agencies that can work in a collaborative way to provide targeted support to children and families as appropriate. This approach requires flexibility to enable joint identification of, and response to, existing and emerging needs, and to agree priorities to improve outcomes for children. Every agency is able to participate across the local partnership safeguarding arrangements and are aware of their responsibilities within the arrangements. The relevant agencies include all Educational Establishments, NHS Trusts, and all Private and Voluntary Sector providers of services in the Local Authority.

All applications to register a children's home in the local authority area must undertake a location assessment in accordance with the Children's Homes (England) Regulation 2015. In addition, all children's homes in the area will be required, as part of the local safeguarding assurance framework, to undertake a safeguarding self-assessment once every 2 years, which will be monitored by the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership.

There is a comprehensive list of the identified relevant agencies at Appendix 1.

These agencies and organisations are statutorily required to act in accordance with these arrangements (Working Together 2023, Chapter 2, and Children Act 2004 section 16G).

## **10. Rotherham Local Safeguarding Arrangements**

In addition to the South Yorkshire LSPs meetings, Rotherham will also have assurance meetings with local safeguarding Leads. These will be in addition to the local Rotherham safeguarding partners executive meetings outlined below.

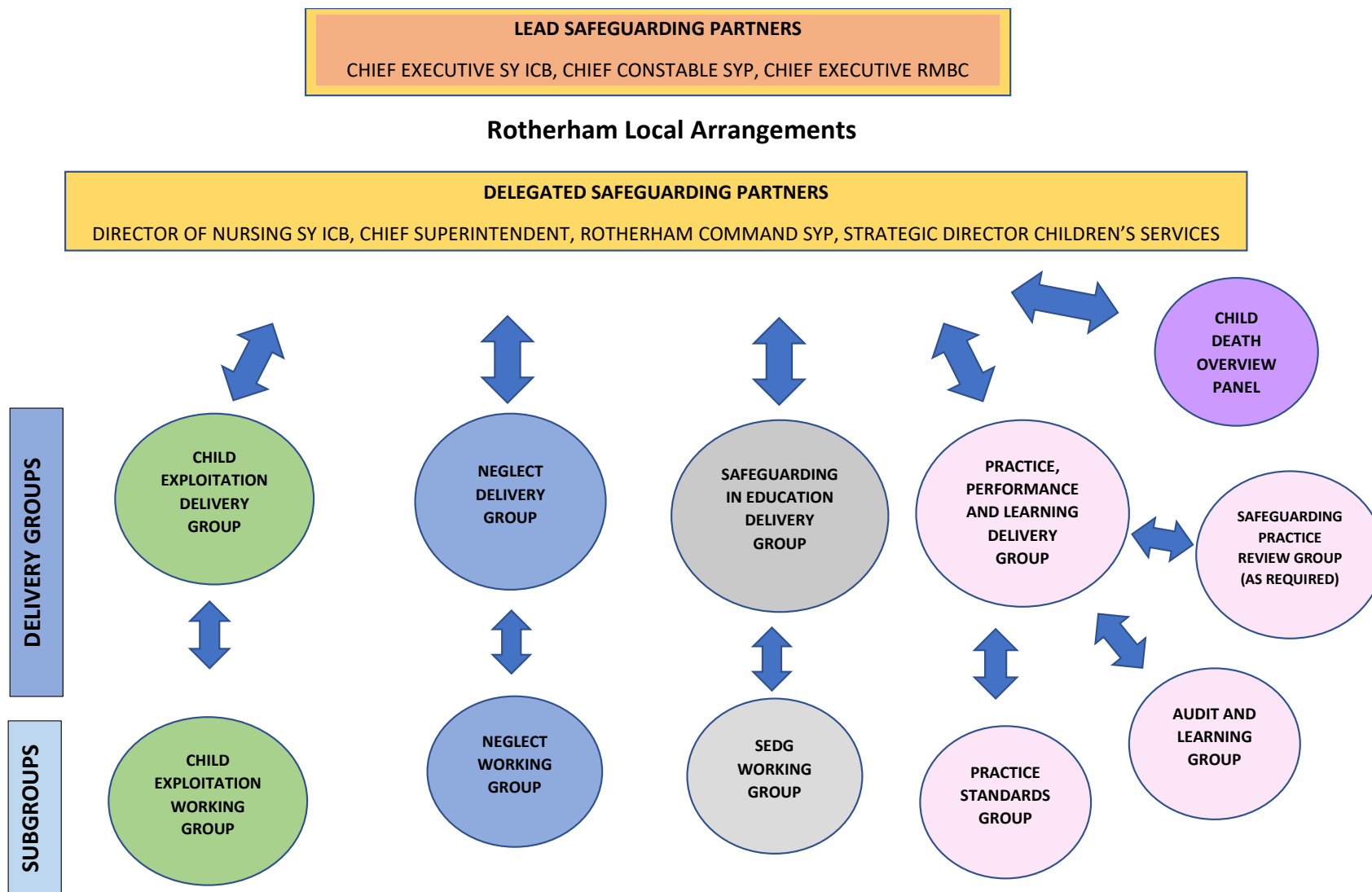
The safeguarding partners and LSPs in Rotherham are:

- Chris Edwards, Deputy Chief Executive and Place Director for Rotherham, NHS South Yorkshire (Rotherham) Integrated Care Board (ICB),
- Sharon Kemp, Chief Executive, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC)

- Hayley Barnett, Assistant Chief Constable, South Yorkshire Police (SYP)

The geographic area for which the safeguarding partners have safeguarding responsibilities is the Rotherham Local Authority area. The NHS services in the area consist of the NHS Rotherham ICB, the Rotherham Foundation NHS Trust, and the Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Trust. The Police force for the area is South Yorkshire Police

## 11. Rotherham Multi Agency Safeguarding Structure



## 12. Multi-agency threshold guidance for help and protection of children

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 level of support or Family Help at the right time. This is especially important for those working in universal services, particularly schools and other education settings, who have regular contact with children and their families and can offer an appropriate Early Help/Family Help response when problems arise.

It is, therefore, important that there are clear criteria amongst all organisations and agencies working with children and families in Rotherham for taking action and providing help across the full continuum of need. This will ensure that services are commissioned effectively and that the right help is on offer dependent on the individual needs of each child.

The safeguarding partners have agreed with their relevant agencies the levels for the different types of assessment and services to be commissioned and delivered. A threshold/Level of Need document and continuum of need guidance (Appendix 5), which sets out the local criteria for action, will be published as part of the online safeguarding children procedures and promoted to all partners. It will be transparent, accessible and easily understood.

This will include:

- The process for the early help/family help assessment and the type and level of early help/family help services to be provided.
- The criteria, including the level of need, for when a case should be referred to local authority children's social care for assessment and for statutory services under:
  - Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 (children in need).
  - Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 (reasonable cause to suspect a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm).
  - Section 31 of the Children Act 1989 (care and supervision orders).
  - Section 20 of the Children Act 1989 (duty to accommodate a child).

- Clear procedures and processes for cases relating to:
  - The abuse, neglect and exploitation of children.
  - Children managed within the youth secure estate.
  - Children with disabilities.

### **13. Dispute resolution, escalation and whistleblowing**

Working together effectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children is essential to achieving good outcomes for children and young people in Rotherham. There will on occasions, inevitably be some areas of disagreement or concern between professionals, agencies or organisations in relation to safeguarding responsibilities, whether this is in relation to the decisions or actions of a single agency or organisation or within a partnership context.

Therefore, in order to promote and maintain effective multi agency working, it is vital that these concerns and disagreements are raised and discussed in a timely, open and transparent manner and that appropriate resolution is sought; and escalated to achieve this if necessary. Wherever possible, all efforts should be made to resolve these issues at the lowest possible level between professionals, agencies and organisations, as it is at this level that the child and their family's circumstances are known best.

For individual children's circumstances refer to the multi-agency [dispute resolution protocol](#) which provides guidance and a process for escalation and resolution of concerns. Ultimately if this does not achieve a satisfactory resolution then the Executive Group and Independent Chair & Scrutineer should be notified.

Where there are issues which appear to be more systemic in nature then escalation should be made to the Safeguarding Partnership Executive Group and Independent Chair & Scrutineer. If an issue cannot be resolved at the Executive Group, the Independent Chair & Scrutineer will bring Chief Officers together in order to reach resolution.

The Independent Chair & Scrutineer will arbitrate at the Chief Officer Group if an issue cannot be resolved. A log of all escalations and their outcomes will be managed by the Executive Group and reported into the Chief Officer Group and within the Safeguarding Partners annual report.

Each individual organisation or agency must have whistleblowing procedures and guidance available and accessible to their workforce, including volunteers. Further guidance on whistleblowing for organisations within the safeguarding partnership can also be found [here](#).

[This sets out the definition, legal requirements and what to do.](#) Whilst the guidance provides a number of pathways for whistleblowing, if it relates to the safeguarding of children in Rotherham, a whistle blower may also wish to contact the Independent Chair & Scrutineer of the Safeguarding Partnership.

## **14. Safeguarding Effectiveness and Assurance**

The Performance, Practice and Learning (PPL) Delivery Group is the lead Delivery Group for providing oversight and challenge in relation to safeguarding effectiveness in Rotherham, and reports to the Executive.

### **a) Partner organisations' safeguarding self-assessment**

We will continue with the regular safeguarding assurance reviews of organisations safeguarding arrangements across the partnership. This is undertaken through a self-assessment by each organisation, followed by a peer challenge drawn from across the partnership and led by the Independent Chair & Scrutineer. The safeguarding self-assessment standards are both inclusive and applicable to both safeguarding children and adults and are undertaken jointly with the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board, with the next event to take place in October 2024.

### **b) Performance Management Framework**

The safeguarding Performance Management Framework is developed on a quarterly basis. It includes data and intelligence from across the partnership in relation to practice/family help and outcomes for children across the continuum of need, including early help/family help. It provides a holistic view of the effectiveness of partnership working, including single agency practice and findings from inspections, and a focal point for partnership challenge. Key trends, concerns or messages are communicated from the PPL Delivery Group to the Executive Group.

### **c) Multi-Agency Auditing**

Auditing is one of the ways that the effectiveness of multi-agency practice and outcomes for children can be measured. It is a way of locating good practice in addition to areas for improvement and can provide a level of assurance to the way that partners are working together to safeguard children.

The PPL Delivery Group will develop an annual audit schedule which reflects the priorities of the safeguarding partnership and any emerging issues. Audits developed and agreed within the partnership and organisations are expected to allocate the required resource to undertake audit work within the timescales agreed in the schedule. Recommendations

are developed from the findings of audits and communicated to the Learning and Improvement subgroup for implementation of any respective learning activity. Periodically re-audits will be undertaken to establish whether the necessary improvements have been implemented.

#### **d) Listening to the voice of children and families**

Rotherham partners have made a commitment to being a child friendly borough and through our new multi-agency arrangements we will build on the engagement with children and young people that is already in place. We will ensure that children in Rotherham have a strong voice in making sure that all partners understand what it is like to be a child or young person in Rotherham and what needs to happen to make their childhood as safe as possible. Their voice will influence decisions at a strategic, operational and individual level.

Safeguarding Partners will continue to work with the following groups:

- Youth Cabinet
- LAC Council
- Different but Equal Board
- Young Inspectors
- New and emerging groups and councils

Safeguarding Partners will receive reports on the following services:

- Child Protection Advocacy Service (Barnardo's)
- Rights to Rights (LAC children's rights service)
- Rotherham Young Carers service

All the quality assurance mechanisms of the partnership, the performance framework, case audits, agency audits and practice reviews will monitor the ways in which children's views are taken into account by services. We will seek to increase the ways in which all services listen to the views of the children they are working with through routine feedback, consultation events with young people on specific safeguarding issues and through lifestyle surveys.

The aims of our work with young people will be to shape services based on their experiences, to increase their understanding of safeguarding issues and how to keep

themselves safe, but most importantly to understand how we can shape the environment and communities around children to enable them to be safe.

#### **e) Inter-agency learning and development**

There should be a culture of continuous learning and improvement across the organisations that work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, so as to identify what works and what promotes good practice; and where improvements need to be made.

In order to do this the Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership will utilise a shared local learning and improvement framework across all those local organisations working with children and families. This local framework describes the way that professionals and organisations providing services to children and their families need to reflect on the quality of their services, outcomes for children and learn from their own practice and that of others. It explains the requirements for an integrated local learning and improvement framework and the principles to be used when undertaking Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, as well as other forms of reviews, audits and quality assurance activity.

The Performance, Practice and Learning Delivery Group is the lead delivery group for taking learning forward from this work and where necessary commissioning inter-agency training.

On an annual basis the Performance, Practice and Learning Delivery Group will develop and publish a learning and development prospectus for inter-agency safeguarding training and workforce development. This will utilise a partnership safeguarding competency framework to enable all organisations to establish what the learning needs are in relation to their workforce.

The prospectus for each year will be based on the priorities of the safeguarding partnership and is flexible and responsive to emerging issues which have been highlighted at any point during the year. Training will be commissioned and delivered collaboratively with other partnership boards, for example, the Safer Rotherham Partnership in relation to domestic abuse.

Inter-agency training is mostly delivered from safeguarding leads within the partnership, however, some specialist training will be commissioned and from external provider where a need is identified and this is a priority. Training is at no cost to any safeguarding partner organisation within Rotherham.



Every participant is required to provide feedback in relation to the training course received and then as a follow up so that all learning activity can be monitored for impact on practice and outcomes for children.

#### **f) Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews**

The Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive will make the decision regarding whether the criteria for a Child Safeguarding Practice Review should be considered, with the Performance, Practice and Learning Delivery Group being the lead delivery group for co-ordinating any rapid reviews and local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and reporting into the Executive group.

The purpose of reviews of serious child safeguarding cases, at both local and national level, is to identify improvements to be made to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Understanding whether there are systemic issues, and whether and how policy and practice need to change, is critical to the system being dynamic and self-improving. Reviews should seek to prevent or reduce the risk of recurrence of similar incidents. They are not conducted to hold individuals, organisations or agencies to account, as there are other processes for that purpose.

The responsibility for how the system learns the lessons from serious child safeguarding incidents lies at a national level with the Performance, Practice and Learning Delivery Group (the National Panel) and at local level with the Rotherham safeguarding partners.

The National Panel is responsible for identifying and overseeing the review of serious child safeguarding cases which, in its view, raise issues that are complex or of national importance. The National Panel should also maintain oversight of the system of national and local reviews and how effectively it is operating.

Locally, the Rotherham safeguarding partners will make arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases which, in their view, raise issues of importance in relation to their area. We will commission and oversee the review of those cases, where they consider it appropriate for a review to be undertaken.

#### **Serious child safeguarding cases are those in which:**

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

Serious harm includes (but is not limited to) serious and/or long-term impairment of a child's mental health or intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development. It should also

cover impairment of physical health. This is not an exhaustive list. When making decisions, judgment should be exercised in cases where impairment is likely to be long-term, even if this is not immediately certain. Even if a child recovers, including from a one-off incident, serious harm may still have occurred.

**16C (1) of the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017) states:**

Where a local authority in England knows or suspects that a child has been abused or neglected, the local authority must notify the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel if:

- (a) the child dies or is seriously harmed in the local authority's area, or
- (b) While normally resident in the local authority's area, the child dies or is seriously harmed outside England.

Rotherham local authority will notify any event that meets the above criteria to the National Panel. They should do so within five working days of becoming aware that the incident has occurred. The local authority should also report the event to the safeguarding partners in their area (and in other areas if appropriate) within five working days.

Rotherham local authority must also notify the Secretary of State and Ofsted where a looked after child has died, whether or not abuse or neglect is known or suspected.

The duty to notify events to the Panel rests with the local authority. Others who have functions relating to children should inform the safeguarding partners of any incident which they think should be considered for a child safeguarding practice review.

**The criteria which the Rotherham safeguarding partners will take into account include whether the case:**

- Highlights or may highlight improvements needed to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, including where those improvements have been previously identified
- Highlights or may highlight recurrent themes in the safeguarding and promotion of the welfare of children
- Highlights or may highlight concerns regarding two or more organisations or agencies working together effectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children

- Is one which the child safeguarding practice review panel have considered and concluded a local review may be more appropriate

**Rotherham Safeguarding partners will also have regard to the following circumstances:**

- Where the safeguarding partners have cause for concern about the actions of a single agency
- Where there has been no agency involvement and this gives the safeguarding partners cause for concern
- Where more than one local authority, police area or integrated care board is involved, including in cases where families have moved around
- Where the case may raise issues relating to safeguarding or promoting the welfare of children in institutional settings

The Rotherham Safeguarding Partners will take account of the findings from local reviews and from all national reviews, with a view to considering how identified improvements should be implemented locally, including the way in which organisations and agencies work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The safeguarding partners will highlight findings from reviews with relevant parties locally and will regularly audit progress on the implementation of recommended improvements in conjunction with the other delivery groups. Improvement will be sustained through regular monitoring and follow up of actions so that the findings from these reviews make a real impact on improving outcomes for children.

When commissioning a reviewer for the report the Rotherham Safeguarding Partners will consider whether the reviewer has the following:

- Professional knowledge, understanding and practice relevant to local child safeguarding practice reviews, including the ability to engage both with practitioners and children and families
- Knowledge and understanding of research relevant to children's safeguarding issues
- Ability to recognise the complex circumstances in which practitioners work together to safeguard children

- Ability to understand practice from the viewpoint of the individuals, organisations or agencies involved at the time rather than using hindsight
- Ability to communicate findings effectively
- Whether the reviewer has any real or perceived conflict of interest

When compiling and preparing to publish the report, the safeguarding partners will consider carefully how best to manage the impact of the publication on children, family members, practitioners and others closely affected by the case. The safeguarding partners will ensure that reports are written in such a way so that what is published avoids harming the welfare of any children or vulnerable adults involved in the case. The report will be submitted to the National Panel and Ofsted 7 working days prior to the publication of the report on the Rotherham Safeguarding Partners website.

#### **g) Review of Partnership Safeguarding Arrangements**

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

#### **h) Reporting**

In order to bring transparency for children, families and all practitioners about the activity undertaken, the Rotherham safeguarding partners will publish a report annually. The report will set out what we have done as a result of the arrangements, including on child safeguarding practice reviews, and how effective these arrangements have been in practice.

In addition the 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
- A record of decisions and actions taken by the partners in the report's period (or planned to be taken) to implement the recommendations of any local and national child safeguarding practice reviews, including any resulting improvements

- Ways in which we have sought and utilised feedback from children and families to inform their work and influence service provision
- 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
- Any updates to the published arrangements and the proposed timescale for implementation

The report will be published on the Rotherham Safeguarding Partners website.

The report will be submitted to other key local partnerships including the Health and Well-being Board, Safer Rotherham Partnership and the Children and Young Peoples Transformation Board. The report will also be submitted to the Council's Improving Lives Select Commission for scrutiny and a copy of the published report will be sent to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care within seven days of being published.

#### **i) Funding and resourcing**

Working in partnership means that organisations and agencies should collaborate on how they will fund their arrangements. The three safeguarding partners and relevant agencies in Rotherham should make payments towards expenditure incurred in conjunction with local multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding and promoting welfare of children. The funding will be transparent to children and families in Rotherham, and sufficient to cover all elements of the arrangements, including the cost of local child safeguarding practice reviews.

The safeguarding partners will 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. The funding agreement and any decisions will be the responsibility of the LSPs. It has been agreed that funding will be delivered on a rolling three year basis to provide stability and commitment to the partnership.

Organisations and agencies will also be expected to ensure that they support the work of the delivery groups and any task and finish groups through appropriate attendance of their staff required to support the work of the safeguarding partners. In addition, partners will, from time to time, be asked to contribute to any conferences or events relevant to the safeguarding partnership and offer meeting rooms or resources to facilitate multi-agency meetings.

## **j) Information Sharing**

Effective information sharing underpins partnership working and is a vital element of both early intervention and safeguarding. Research and experience have shown repeatedly that keeping children safe from harm requires practitioners and others to share information about:

- A child's health and development and any exposure to possible harm.
- A parent who may need help, or may not be able to care for a child adequately or safely; and
- Those who may pose a risk of harm to a child.

The Rotherham multi-agency Safeguarding Children Procedures which can be found here contain detailed guidance, which must be followed, in relation to information sharing including:

- The General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018
- The Seven Golden rules for Information Sharing
- Confidentiality and Consent
- National Guidance on Information Sharing

## **k) Management of Data**

All safeguarding arrangements and information will adhere to the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulations.

The Rotherham Multi-Agency Arrangements for Safeguarding Children is a statutory body in its own right, and is not a public authority for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

## Appendix 1: Safeguarding Children Partnership Groups

Chief Officer Group: Frequency – Meets twice a year	
Membership	Key Responsibilities & Priorities
<p>Independent Chair &amp; Scrutineer</p> <p><b>Darren Downs</b></p> <p>Chief Executive (Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council)</p> <p><b>Sharon Kemp</b></p> <p>Chief Executive Officer (South Yorkshire ICB)</p> <p><b>Gavin Boyle</b></p> <p>Chief Constable (South Yorkshire Police)</p> <p><b>Lauren Poultney</b></p> <p>Other members involved when required:</p> <p>Lead Member for Children's Services (Participating Observer) Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council</p> <p>Representative from Office of South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner (for budget items)</p> <p>Others in attendance as required</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approves the local safeguarding arrangements to meet statutory requirements and local need.</li> <li>• Approves the local vision and priorities for safeguarding children.</li> <li>• Is accountable for the effectiveness of the arrangements in the local area.</li> <li>• Approves the funding and resourcing arrangements for the safeguarding partnership.</li> <li>• Ensures strategic link with other partnership boards in relation to safeguarding children.</li> <li>• Mechanism for escalation and resolution of relevant issues from Executive Group/Independent Chair.</li> <li>• Approves and publishes reports, at least annually, on the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements.</li> <li>• The Chief Officer Group will meet twice annually.</li> </ul> <p>Should the lead representatives delegate their functions they remain accountable for any actions or decisions taken on behalf of their agency. If delegated, it is the responsibility of the lead representative to identify and nominate a senior officer in their agency to have responsibility and authority for ensuring full participation with these arrangements.</p>

Heads of Partnerships and RSCP Executive Chair: Frequency 6 monthly	
Membership	Key Responsibilities and Priorities
<p><b>Darren Downs</b></p> <p>Independent Executive Chair &amp; Scrutineer RSCP</p> <p><b>Councillor Alam</b></p> <p>Chair of Safer Rotherham Partnership</p> <p><b>Moira Wilson</b></p> <p>Chair of Adult Safeguarding Board</p> <p><b>Councillor Baker-Rogers</b></p> <p>Chair of Health and Wellbeing Board</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share information and collaborate regarding the activities of the various delivery groups and boards</li> <li>• Avoid unnecessary duplication across the partnerships</li> <li>• Discuss and plan activity in respect of cross-cutting themes e.g. transition arrangements for young people and the impact of domestic abuse</li> <li>• Share strategic information and planning for future board/partnership activity</li> </ul>



<b>Executive Group: Frequency – Every 2 months (Alternate to Delivery Groups)</b>	
<b>Membership</b>	<b>Key Responsibilities &amp; Priorities</b>
<p>Independent Chair &amp; Scrutineer (Chair)</p> <p><b>Darren Downs</b> Director of Children's Services (Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council)</p> <p><b>Nicola Curley</b> Chief Nurse (Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group)</p> <p><b>Andrew Russell</b> Chief Superintendent - District Commander (South Yorkshire Police)</p> <p><b>Andy Wright</b></p> <p>Others will be required to attend the meeting by invite.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyse emerging and current safeguarding issues to advise Chief Officers on priorities.</li> <li>Ensure that the local safeguarding arrangements are compliant with statutory guidance and meet local need – sets the local vision and priorities.</li> <li>Receives reports on the progress of the business plan and its impact, issues of concern and new and emerging issues</li> <li>Manages a risk log in relation to key aspects of safeguarding and oversees escalation and dispute resolution</li> <li>Develops and ensures the delivery of the safeguarding partnership business plan</li> <li>Develops and oversees the production of a public report, at least annually</li> <li>Ensures delivery groups are supported by the required partnership representation</li> <li>Provides detailed monitoring and challenge of the delivery groups activity against the objectives in the business plan</li> <li>Receives updates from and has a mechanism to raise issues with the local Channel Panel, MAPPA Board, Local Family Justice Board.</li> <li>Sets and monitors the budget in accordance with the business plan</li> </ul> <p>Should the lead representatives delegate their functions they remain accountable for any actions or decisions taken on behalf of their agency. If delegated, it is the responsibility of the lead representative to identify and nominate a senior officer in their agency to have responsibility and authority for ensuring full participation with these arrangements.</p>

<b>Delivery Groups: Held every 2 months (Alternate to Executive)</b>	
<b>Membership</b>	<b>Group and Key Responsibilities &amp; Priorities</b>
<p><b>Chair – LA Lead</b></p> <p><b>Tony Morrissey</b>, Interim Head of service for Safeguarding, Quality Assurance and Learning RMBC</p> <p>Lee Durrant - Service Manager, Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership (RSCP)</p> <p>Sam Davies-Deputy Designated Nurse for Safeguarding, Rotherham Place, South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB)</p> <p>Ashley Leggott-Strategic Coordinator, Children, Young People and Families Consortium (CYPF)</p> <p>Malcolm Ewing- MASH Health Advisor, Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Trust (RDaSH)</p> <p>Head of Service, Early Help, RMBC</p> <p>Paula Williams - Service Manager, Early Years, CYPS, RMBC</p> <p>Lindsay Wootton-Ashforth, Education Safeguarding Officer, RMBC</p> <p>Jackie Scantlebury - Manager, Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board</p> <p>Dawn Peet- Safeguarding Officer, South Yorkshire Fire &amp; Rescue</p> <p>Victoria Finch-Named Nurse Safeguarding Children, The Rotherham Foundation Trust (TRFT)</p>	<p><b>Practice, Performance and Learning Delivery Group</b></p> <p><b>Standing Sub Groups</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audit Working Group</li> <li>• Practice Standards Group</li> <li>• Learning and Improvement Group</li> <li>• Safeguarding Practice Review Group (as required)</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Functions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration of Serious Safeguarding Cases (Rapid Reviews) and recommendation to Independent Chair</li> <li>• Assurance Group for Local Safeguarding Practice Reviews</li> <li>• Development of Recommendations and Action Plans arising from cases and audit</li> <li>• Multi-Agency Auditing of safeguarding practice.</li> <li>• Oversight of Assurance Readiness (JTAI)</li> <li>• Development of partnership Performance Management Framework and challenge within the partnership.</li> <li>• Oversight of safeguarding assurance for organisations via S11, S175 (schools), Voluntary &amp; Community Sector safeguarding self-assessment.</li> <li>• Receive findings from cases reviewed at the Practice Standards Group.</li> <li>• Oversight and responsibility for the RSCP training offer</li> <li>• Responsibility for assuring a robust Tri-X library (Procedures) and RSCP website</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Priorities 2024</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop reporting and analysis mechanism for S11 and S175 feedback</li> <li>• Development of a Multi-Agency Scorecard to support the sharing of key metrics and subsequent interrogation</li> <li>• End of year review of the RSCP training offer to ensure it is conversant with current practice and emerging themes in the safeguarding arena</li> </ul>

<p>Rebecca Sansom, John Bushell or Roxanne Womack - Named Nurse Safeguarding, RDaSH</p> <p>Laura Greatwood – Detective Inspector South Yorkshire Police (SYP)</p> <p>Carol Sibley – Principal Children and Families Social Worker, CYPS, RMBC</p> <p>Tina Bates- Quality - Learning &amp; Development &amp; Right 2 Rights Team Manager, RMBC</p> <p>Kirstie Woodhead – Service Manager Early Help, RMBC</p> <p>Anne Hawke – Head of Service Performance and Planning, RMBC</p> <p>Lee Oughton – Named GP, South Yorkshire ICB</p> <p>Alicia Plane – Named Midwife, TRFT</p> <p>Grace Davidson – Audit Consultant, RSCP</p> <p>Others to be invited as and when required.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation for JTAI activity in relation to Serious Youth Violence and Knife Crime</li> <li>• Oversight and development of a new website for the partnership</li> <li>• Review of the Virtual College offer</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chair – Sarah Gilmour (SYP)</b></p> <p>Deputy Chair – Tony Morrissey- Interim Head of Service, Safeguarding, Quality Assurance and Learning, RMBC</p> <p>Melissa Johnson - Detective Inspector, Rotherham PVP, SYP</p> <p>Alan Pogorzolec - Service Manager, Licensing, RMBC</p> <p>Kirsty Woodhead - Service Manager Early Help</p>	<p><b>Child Exploitation Delivery Group</b></p> <p><b>Standing Sub Groups</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Exploitation Working Group</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Functions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of responses to and review the effectiveness of partnership working in relation to: Child Sexual Exploitation</li> <li>Missing Children</li> <li>Child Criminal Exploitation</li> </ul>

<p>James Thurston- Service Manager, First Response, CYPS, RMBC</p> <p>Alexia Barber - Team Manager, EVOLVE, RMBC</p> <p>Vicky Finch-Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children, TRFT</p> <p>Helen Tyrrell - Wickersley Partnership Trust (Schools)</p> <p>Grace Davidson – Audit and Training Officer, RSCP</p> <p>Lindsay Wootton-Ashforth, Education Safeguarding Lead, RMBC</p> <p>Roxanne Womack - Named Nurse for Safeguarding, RDaSH</p> <p>Peter Douglas - Virtual School Headteacher, RMBC</p> <p>Alex Roberts, Business Support Officer, RSCP, RMBC</p> <p>Lee Durrant – Service and Business Manager, RSCP</p> <p>Emma Ellis - Head of Service for Community Safety and Regulatory Services, RMBC</p> <p>Helen Banerjee - Community Safety Officer, RMBC</p> <p>Kath Blain - Safeguarding Lead for Operation Stovewood, NCA</p> <p>Paul Walsh - Head of Operational Services, Housing and Estates Services, RMBC</p> <p>Ashley Leggott - Strategic Coordinator, Children, Young People and Families Consortium</p> <p>Others will be invited as and when required</p>	<p>Trafficking/Modern Slavery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring that the Child/Young Person's Voice is captured and responded to</li> <li>Oversight of the practice pathways for children subject to Exploitation across the partnership</li> <li>Liaison with the Safer Rotherham Partnership in order to ensure information sharing and a place-based response</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Priorities 2024</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the Early Help assessment as a key tool to support early identification and intervention to reduce the likelihood children will be harmed via Child Exploitation</li> <li>Contextual Safeguarding will guide the development of a Child Exploitation pathway for practitioners across the partnership workforce, including a review of the Child Protection Process for children who are at Risk Outside the Home</li> <li>Ensuring that the partnership is trained to identify and act on early indicators around Child Exploitation and understand their role in the Safeguarding process.</li> <li>Rotherham's communities will have a challenging and active role in preventing and responding to child exploitation.</li> <li>Targeted education and awareness to prevent people becoming victims and suspects in priority high risk areas and within the online space. Including the use of analytical capability and capacity to identify high risk areas of vulnerability in order to target intervention/ prevention activity, including identification of emerging threats to support early intervention and longer-term problem solving.</li> <li>Work to identify and engage with hard-to-reach communities to improve confidence in reporting abuse and signs of exploitation</li> <li>Evidencing that children at risk of, or experiencing Child Exploitation receive interventions that reduce risk in a timely way.</li> <li>Ensuring that Rotherham's CE practice is Child Centred and ensures the child is firstly seen has a victim</li> <li>A renewed commitment to the collection of service user feedback from children and families, considering the impact of practice on children, young people, and their families as well as perpetrators of abuse</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure children have the knowledge and tools to protect themselves and report abuse, including abuse within the online space</li> <li>• A multi - agency approach to info and intelligence sharing that allows early identification and management of offenders so that the Police with support of partners will pursue all offenders, prioritising those who cause the most harm.</li> <li>• Having in place the right strategic and operational arrangements to ensure that investigations around large scale historic abuse in the borough connect effectively to processes for current work with children and survivors.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chair – Health Lead</b></p> <p><b>Gemma Cross</b>, Lead nurse for Safeguarding TRFT</p> <p>Lee Durrant - Service and Business Manager, Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership (RSCP)</p> <p>Tina Hohn/Pete Douglas – Headteachers, Virtual School RMBC</p> <p>Sam Davies-Deputy Designated Nurse for Safeguarding, Rotherham Place, South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB)</p> <p>Mohammed Faisal - Barnardos</p> <p>Ashley Leggott - Strategic Coordinator, Children, Young People and Families Consortium (CYPF)</p> <p>Malcolm Ewing- MASH Health Advisor, Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Trust (RDaSH)</p> <p>Paula Williams - Service Manager, Early Years, CYPS, RMBC</p>	<p><b>Neglect Delivery Group</b></p> <p><b>Standing Sub Groups</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neglect Pathway/Working Group</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Functions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of responses to and review the effectiveness of partnership working in relation to: Neglect</li> <li>• Oversight and direction in relation to working practices and policy when working with Neglect in Rotherham</li> <li>• Ensuring the partners work collaboratively and share information as required in relation to children at risk of neglect</li> <li>• Management and analysis of multi agency data related to neglect</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Priorities 2024</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a Neglect pathway for practitioners across the partnership workforce</li> <li>• Promoting and increasing the use of targeted assessment tools in order to identify neglect and work alongside parents and carers to address the issues and improve outcomes for children</li> </ul>

<p>Lindsay Wootton-Ashforth, Education Safeguarding Officer, RMBC</p> <p>Dawn Peet- Safeguarding Officer, South Yorkshire Fire &amp; Rescue</p> <p>Victoria Finch-Named Nurse Safeguarding Children, The Rotherham Foundation Trust (TRFT)</p> <p>Rebecca Sansom/John Bushell/Roxanne Womack - Named Nurse Safeguarding, RDaSH</p> <p>Laura Greatwood – Detective Inspector, South Yorkshire Police</p> <p>Carol Sibley – Principal Children and Families Social Worker, RMBC</p> <p>Alex Roberts - RSCP Business Support Officer</p> <p>Kirstie Woodhead – Service Manager Early Help, RMBC</p> <p>Alicia Plane – Named Midwife, TRFT</p> <p>Grace Davidson – Audit and Training Officer, RSCP</p> <p>James Thurston or Social Care representative - Service manager, First Response RMBC</p> <p>Others will be invited as and when required</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing communities and wider families to have an active role in recognising and responding to neglect.</li> <li>• The Partnership will actively seek to include the voice of children, young people and their families in shaping and delivering the services offered</li> <li>• A Neglect score card will be developed to give clear oversight and check and challenge to partners from the neglect delivery group</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chair – Education Lead</b></p> <p>Niall Devlin, Assistant Director for Education and Inclusion, RMBC</p>	<p><b>Safeguarding In Education Delivery Group</b></p> <p><b>Standing Sub Groups</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be developed</li> </ul>

<p>Lee Durrant - Service and Business Manager, Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership (RSCP)</p> <p>Tina Hohn/Pete Douglas – Headteachers, Virtual School RMBC</p> <p>Sam Davies-Deputy Designated Nurse for Safeguarding, Rotherham Place, South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB)</p> <p>Ashley Leggott or rep - Strategic Coordinator, Children, Young People and Families Consortium (CYPF)</p> <p>Susan Claydon/Kirstie Woodhead - Head of Service/Service Manager Early Help, RMBC</p> <p>Paula Williams - Service Manager, Early Years, CYPS, RMBC</p> <p>Lindsay Wootton-Ashforth, Education Safeguarding Officer, RMBC</p> <p>Victoria Finch-Named Nurse Safeguarding Children, The Rotherham Foundation Trust (TRFT)</p> <p>Rebecca Sansom, John Bushell or Roxanne Womack - Named Nurse Safeguarding, RDaSH via RDaSH</p> <p>Melissa Johnson – Detective Inspector, South Yorkshire Police</p> <p>Carol Sibley – Principal Children and Families Social Worker, RMBC</p>	<p><b>Key Functions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing, implementing and Operationalising the Education safeguarding Strategy</li> <li>• Keeping children safe in education by ensuring that partners carry out their statutory safeguarding responsibilities</li> <li>• Understanding the lived experience of all Rotherham children educated in and out of the borough and to hear, and act upon, the voice of children and families as they journey through their education in Rotherham</li> <li>• Oversight of the safeguarding training offer to staff involved in the education of children and young people, and any thematic areas of development</li> <li>• Maintaining and interrogating data analysis and narrative around a scorecard</li> <li>• A robust level of audit activity, which informs plans and actions to safeguard children</li> <li>• Ensuring that partners are working most effectively collaboratively across the many systems involved</li> <li>• Working with the Working Together 2023 Guidance about strengthening multi-agency working including in education</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Priorities 2024</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety of children in all education settings in the borough</li> <li>• Safety of children who are not attending school – including those subject to suspensions, exclusions and part time timetables</li> </ul>
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<p>Grace Davidson – Audit and Training Officer, RSCP</p> <p>James Thurston – Service Manager, First Response RMBC</p> <p>Sarah Whitby – Head of Access and Inclusion, RMBC</p> <p>Rebecca Braithwait, Senior Officer, School Admissions, RMBC</p> <p>Pam Ward – Head of Service, Education School Improvement Service, RMBC</p> <p>Kelly Crompton – Strategic Lead for Inclusion and Alternative Provision</p> <p>Sarah Graham – Maltby Learning Trust, Schools</p> <p>Lynsey Hadfield - Executive Headteacher and Head of Centre at Rawmarsh School and Children's Centre, Schools</p> <p>Others will be invited as and when required</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a line of sight to those children who are electively home educated and to ensure that partners address any safeguarding concerns for these children</li> <li>• Line of sight for those children not Rotherham residents who receive education in Borough</li> <li>• Early identification and implementation of support where safeguarding concerns are identified</li> <li>• Sharing of strategic and child specific safeguarding information – emerging themes, context and national guidance</li> <li>• Consistency across different schools and education phases in how safeguarding is managed operationally (Quality Mark). Set a standard of expectations for all schools across Rotherham</li> <li>• Working with families to further support our children. Understanding the barriers to accessing and engaging in education.</li> </ul> <p>In carrying out these functions, the Group will put in place, update and review a multi-agency strategic delivery plan, specifying the actions, timelines and measurable outcomes to be achieved in order to implement the strategy.</p>
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## Wider Safeguarding Partnership – Minimum of twice a year

Membership	Key Responsibilities
<p><b>Core Membership:</b></p> <p>Independent Chair &amp; Scrutineer</p> <p>Children and Young Peoples Services</p> <p>South Yorkshire Police</p> <p>Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group</p> <p>The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p>RDaSH NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p>Named Safeguarding Professionals</p> <p>Business Manager</p> <p><b>Relevant Agencies:</b></p> <p>National Probation Service</p> <p>Community Rehabilitation Company</p> <p>CAFCASS</p> <p>South Yorkshire Fire &amp; Rescue</p> <p>Colleges and Training Providers</p> <p>RMBC Adult Services</p> <p>Voluntary &amp; Community Sector Commissioned services</p> <p>Children's homes in local area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides wider partnership engagement, perspective and challenge on the key priorities emerging issues and the business plan</li> <li>• Participation in Delivery Groups as appropriate to the role of the organisation and needs of the delivery group</li> <li>• Ensure wide dissemination of safeguarding issues and key messages across the borough</li> <li>• Participation in meetings which focus on a particular theme or issue</li> <li>• Meetings have a workshop/conference style rather than formal board</li> </ul> <p>The wider safeguarding partnership will be flexible and inclusive - for example being responsive to themed meetings by inviting a wider range of organisations and extending invites to members of delivery groups.</p>

## Education Safeguarding Forum – Frequency one per school term

All Schools and Academies

Pupil Referral Units

Special Schools

Early Years settings

Colleges

- Engagement with the Safeguarding Partnership:
- Statutory Safeguarding responsibilities
- Emerging themes and priorities
- Dissemination of key messages and best practice
- Issues and challenges fed back to Executive Group

## Appendix 2: Delivery Group Meeting & Reporting Schedule 2024

10.07.2024	Performance, Practice and Learning Delivery Group
15.07.2024	Safeguarding in Education Delivery Group
17.07.2024	<b>Executive Group</b>
18.07.2024	Child Death Overview Panel
14.08.2024	Neglect Delivery Group
10.09.2024	Performance, Practice and Learning Delivery Group
16.09.2024	Safeguarding in Education Delivery Group
19.09.2024	Child Death Overview Panel
25.09.2024	<b>Executive Group</b>
16.10.2024	Neglect Delivery Group
11.11.2024	Safeguarding in Education Delivery Group
12.11.2024	Performance, Practice and Learning Delivery Group
20.11.2024	<b>Executive Group</b>
21.11.2024	Child Death Overview Panel
11.12.2024	Neglect Delivery Group

## Appendix 3: Standard Executive Meeting Templates

- 1) [Agenda..\..\1. RSCP EXECUTIVE GROUP\2024\May Exec\Agenda for RSCP Executive May 2024.docx](#)
- 2) [Minutes..\..\1. RSCP EXECUTIVE GROUP\2024\March exec\Draft RSCP Executive Minutes March Blank.docx](#)
- 3) [Action Schedule..\..\1. RSCP EXECUTIVE GROUP\2024\May Exec\Final papers for RSCP Executive Group May 2024\RSCP Executive Group Action Log May 2024.docx](#)
- 4) [Delivery group report..\..\1. RSCP EXECUTIVE GROUP\RSCP Blank Report Template.doc](#)
- 5) [Budget report..\..\1. RSCP EXECUTIVE GROUP\2024\May Exec\Final papers for RSCP Executive Group May 2024\RSCP Budget Report May 2024.pdf](#)

## Appendix 4: Relevant Definitions

### Education and childcare

- The proprietor of an Academy school within the meaning given by section 1A of the Academies Act 2010.
- The proprietor of a 16-19 Academy within the meaning given by section 1B of the Academies Act 2010.
- The proprietor of an alternative provision Academy within the meaning given by section 1C of the Academies Act 2010.
- The governing body of a maintained school within the meaning given by section 20(7) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.
- The governing body of a maintained nursery school within the meaning given by section 22(9) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.
- The governing body of a pupil referral unit within the meaning given by section 19(2) of the Education Act 1996.
- The proprietor of an independent educational institution registered under section 95(1) of the Education and Skills Act 2008.
- The proprietor of a school approved under section 342 of the Education Act 1996.
- The proprietor of a Special post-16 institution within the meaning given by section 83(2) of the Children and Families Act 2014.
- The governing body of an institution within the further education sector within the meaning given by section 91(3) of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992.
- The governing body of an English higher education provider within the meaning of section 83 of the Higher Education and Research Act 2017.
- Any provider of education or training—
  - (a) to which Chapter 3 of Part 8 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006(c), and
  - (b) In respect of which funding is provided by, or under arrangements made by, the Secretary of State.

- A person registered under Chapter 2, 2A, 3 or 3A of Part 3 of the Childcare Act 2006.
- The provider of a children's centre within the meaning given by section 5A (4) of the Childcare Act 2006.

**The above includes all Schools and Academies, Pupil Referral Units, Special Schools, Early Years Settings, Colleges and Alternative Provision.**

### **Health and Social Care**

- The National Health Service Commissioning Board (known as NHS England) as established under section 1H (1) of the National Health Service Act 2006.
- An NHS trust established under section 25 of the National Health Service Act 2006: **(The Rotherham Foundation NHS Trust, Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust)**
- An NHS foundation trust within the meaning given by section 30 of the National Health Service Act 2006.
- The registered provider of an adoption support agency within the meaning given by section 8(1) of the Adoption and Children Act 2002.
- The registered provider of a registered adoption society within the meaning given by section 2 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002.
- A registered provider of a fostering agency within the meaning given by section 4 of the Care Standards Act 2000.
- A registered provider of a children's home within the meaning given by section 1 of the Care Standards Act 2000. **(Independent Children's Homes named here)**
- A registered provider of residential family centre within the meaning given by section 4(2) of the Care Standards Act 2000.
- The registered provider of a residential holiday schemes for disabled children within the meaning given by regulation 2(1) of the Residential Holiday Schemes for Disabled Children (England) Regulations 2013/1394(b). (Liberty House).

## **Criminal Justice**

- The Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass) as established under section 11 of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000.
- Providers of probation services as defined by section 3(6) of the Offender Management Act 2007.
- Youth offending teams as established under section 39 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

(Rotherham does not have a Youth Offending Institute with the borough. Children placed in such organisation out of borough will be monitored by the Youth Offending Service which will also secure assurance on the safeguarding policies and procedures of the Institute.)

## **Police and Immigration**

- The British Transport Police as established under section 18(1) the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003.
- National Crime Agency
- Any person or body for whom the Secretary of State must make arrangements for ensuring the discharge of functions under section 55 of the Borders Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009.

## **Other agencies or organisations**

- Charities within the meaning given by section 1 of the Charities Act 2011
- Religious Organisations as set out in regulation 34 of, and Schedule 3 to, the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012
- Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012.
- Any person or body involved in the provision, supervision or oversight of sport or leisure.

The above includes all voluntary and community sector organisations, faith groups, youth groups, sports and leisure activities.

## **Appendix 5: Threshold Document**

[..\..\Miscellaneous\multiagency\\_threshold\\_descriptors.pdf](..\..\Miscellaneous\multiagency_threshold_descriptors.pdf)

#### Document Classification

Author Name & Role	Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership
Date Created	09.07.2024
Date Issued	09.07.2024
Description	Safeguarding Children Guidance
File Name	MASA 2024
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Geographical Coverage	RMBC area
Group Access	Public
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Master Location	RSCP/MASA/Current Version
Publisher	Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership
Rights Copyright	Copyright of RSCP
Security Classification	Public
Subject/Keywords	Safeguarding, Partnership, Governance
Type	Strategic Safeguarding Arrangements

#### Consultation Log

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Consultees	RSCP Executive
Date sent for Consultation	09.07.24
Consultees	RMBC Cabinet

#### Approval Log

	Group	Date approved
To be agreed by	Sub	
To be approved by	Delivery Group	
To be reviewed by	Executive	17.07.24

#### Version Log

Version	Date	Description of change	Reason for Change	Pages affected
V1	09.07.24	Review	Updated MASA	