

Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Partnership Published Arrangements August 2022



**Staffordshire and
Stoke-on-Trent**
Integrated Care Board



City of
Stoke-on-Trent



**Safeguarding
Children Partnership**
STOKE - ON - TRENT

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Foreword

Stoke-on-Trent has always been a city with a strong identity – one that our residents are rightly proud of. In 2022-23 we are now strengthening our partnership arrangements to safeguard children.

The Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Executive has been established to lead the local Multi-Agency Safeguarding Children arrangements required by government guidance Working Together 2018. Further new guidance is expected in 2022 and these arrangements will be reviewed and updated for 2023 - 24.

As leaders we recognise that safeguarding children cannot be achieved in isolation from other partnerships, or our communities. This is a core principle that is embedded in 'Room to Grow' our Children, Young People and Families' Strategy 2020-24 and in the Stoke-on-Trent Early Help and Prevention Strategy 2020 –24.

As a partnership we will provide leadership and joint accountability to provide protection, support and representation for those in greatest need.

We believe in prevention and that it is better to act before harm occurs, while seeking the least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.

We aim to provide local solutions through services working with their communities, we will promote a child centered approach and continue to do our best to listen to the views and understand the needs of children and families in Stoke-on-Trent. We will do our best to ensure people are supported and encouraged to make their own decisions with informed consent, but where children need to be protected, we will take decisive action to safeguard them.

All three partners have equal and joint responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements and we are committed to the principles that support these arrangements. The accountable officers for the arrangements are the City Director, Stoke-on-Trent City Council, the Chief Constable, Staffordshire Police and the Chief Executive Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board (formerly the accountability sat with the Chief Accountable Officer for the Stoke-on-Trent Clinical Commissioning group, up to the 1st July 2022).



Introduction

Following on from the 2016 Wood Review, the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 introduced a duty to be placed on three agencies: Local Authorities, the Chief Constable and Clinical Commissioning Groups to make arrangements for the safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in their area. Integrated Care Boards, from 1 July 2022, have replaced clinical commissioning groups as a result of the Health and Care Act 2022.

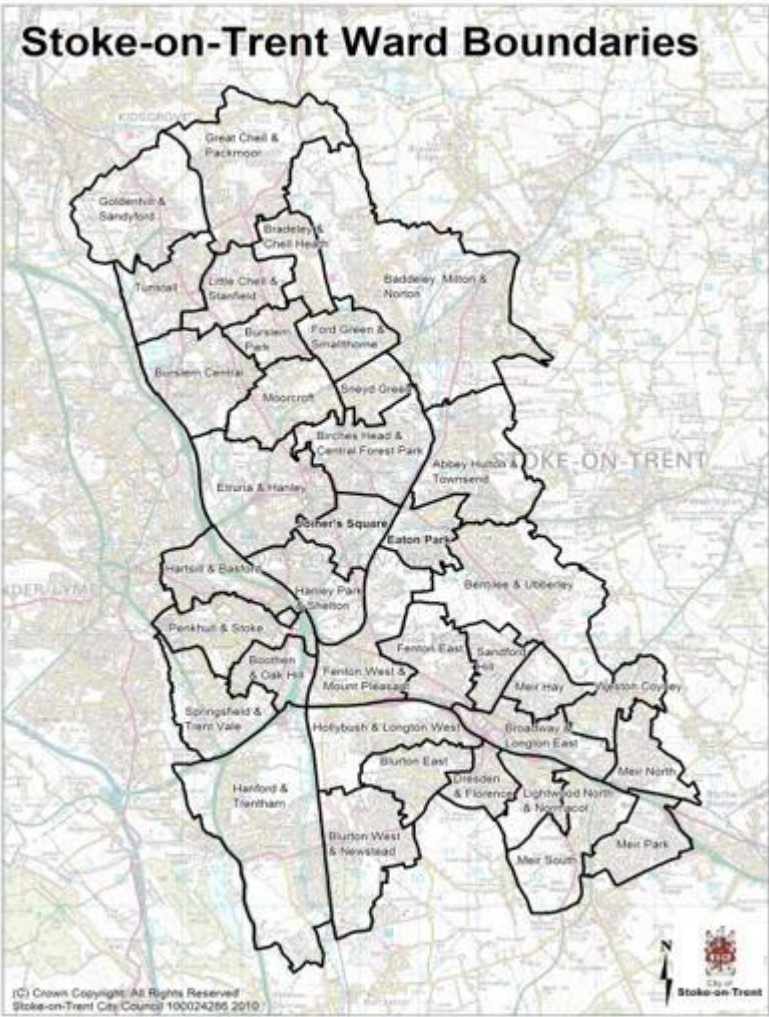
In Stoke-on-Trent we have come together as a single Safeguarding Children Partnership to deliver a system that protects children, especially the most vulnerable. Protecting, safeguarding and ensuring the wellbeing of children are complex tasks that can only be successfully achieved by agencies working together in a coherent and effective manner.

Nothing is more important than children's welfare, and children who need help and protection deserve high quality and effective support as soon as a need is identified. Professionals working with children and their families in Stoke-on-Trent take their responsibility to do so, and to keep children safe, very seriously.

Vision, Values and Principles

One vision	Partners in Stoke-on-Trent will work effectively and collaboratively towards shared priorities to improve safeguarding outcomes for all children
Two key values	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Children should be safe, healthy, nurtured and loved.2. All our partners are committed to working together so that every child in Stoke-on-Trent children and young people are protected from abuse, neglect or harm and are equipped with the skills and knowledge they need to keep themselves safe as they grow older.
Three Key principles	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Child centred – Children are at the heart of everything we do and we will ensure that we listen to children, understand their lived experience and needs, risks are minimised and protective factors supported.2. High support high scrutiny – We will learn from each other, promote scrutiny and supportive conversations that have a sharp focus on keeping children safe.3. Outcome and Impact focused – Our partnership strategy, plans and practice will be informed by evidence, performance and evaluation.

Geographical Area



Purpose

The purpose of local safeguarding children 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
- 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

The partnership recognises that for it to be successful it will strive to provide:

- An ethos of collaborative working and putting children at the centre of decision-making
- A listening and learning culture – with no blame culture, but with all parties being accountable
- Encouragement for innovation
- A culture of professional challenge
- Kindness and compassion
- Honesty and integrity throughout the partnership arrangements
- Respect and tolerance
- Trust
- Promote equality of opportunity and meet the diverse needs of all children living in our communities.

Objectives

- (1) **To identify and prevent harm and impairment of health or development and ensure that all children are provided with safe and effective care as they are growing up by:**
 - Ensuring mechanisms are in place to identify abuse and neglect wherever they may occur
 - Working to increase the understanding in the professional and wider community of what is needed to safeguard children, promoting the message that safeguarding children is everybody's responsibility
 - Helping to ensure that organisations working or in contact with children operate safe recruitment and safe workforce practices that consider the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- (2) **Measure the effectiveness of the arrangements by reviewing the impact of threshold conversations and procedures for work with children and families where a child has been identified as being 'in need' under the Children Act 1989 and Early Help, in order to protect children who are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm (section 47, Children Act 1989), including:**
 - Children abused and neglected within families, including those harmed, in the context of domestic abuse, as a consequence of the impact of substance misuse or parental mental ill health.
 - Children abused outside of families by adults known to them; including those in fear of or subject to forced marriage and honour-based violence.
 - Children abused and neglected by professional carers, within an institutional setting, or anywhere else where children are cared for away from home.
 - Children abused by strangers.
 - Children abused and or exploited by other young people.
 - Young perpetrators of abuse.
 - Children abused through sexual exploitation and child trafficking.

Identification of Need - Information Sources

Safeguarding partners, supported by the Stoke-on-Trent Quality Assurance group will utilise intelligence gathered from a number of sources, including but not limited to:

- Feedback from children, young people and families.
- National strategies, policy and legislative changes.
- Learning from reviews including; child death reviews, domestic homicide reviews, serious case reviews, rapid reviews, learning reviews, multi-agency audits.
- Performance and audit information.

- National, regional and local research, for example, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).
- Education safeguarding practice as highlighted through the section 175 and section 157 audits.
- Monitoring the effectiveness of organisations implementation of their duties under section 11 of the Children Act 2004.
- Helping to ensure that children know who they can contact when they have concerns about their own or others' safety and welfare.
- Helping to ensure that adults (including those who are harming children) know who they can contact if they have a concern about a child or young person.

Voice of the Child - How young people will be involved in developing an effective and responsive Safeguarding Children Partnership

We will

Aim to put children and young people at the centre of understanding safeguarding effectiveness and that we are doing the right things, at the right time. This includes listening to their experiences, views, aspirations, ideas and acting on them.

Align our participation activities to the Stoke-on-Trent **Be the cause, youth participation strategy** ([Policies, procedures and strategies directory - Youth Participation Strategy 2021 | Stoke-on-Trent](#)) utilising existing forums and structures to maximise opportunities for young people to shape their involvement in the safeguarding partnership.

Ensure the focus of participation and engagement for the Partnership will be in relation to the priority areas identified in the business plan.

Seek feedback from children and young people who use safeguarding services, so we know their view on how to keep children safe in Stoke-on-Trent.

Create opportunities for young people to work with the partnership in order to provide young people with the information and tools to keep them safe through accessible social media platforms.

Develop young people as scrutineers to help us scrutinise the effectiveness of safeguarding services linked to the business plan.

Independent Scrutiny

The Partnership will have an Independent Scrutineer. The role of independent scrutiny is to provide additional assurance in assessing the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area and should provide added value to what we already know and do. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 requires that safeguarding partners ensure that the scrutiny is objective, acts as a constructive critical friend and promotes reflection to drive continuous improvement.

The triangulation and scrutiny of how we are doing across the system enables us to test out assurance or identify where additional activity or assurance may be required. In addition to practice review information and quantitative data, the **Quality Assurance and Scrutiny Framework** sets out other assurance methods such as:

- assurance reports from the statutory partners and designated relevant agencies will be requested where deemed necessary. These reports should provide evidence of what is working well, what is not working well and actions in place to improve where appropriate.
- receiving external audits and inspection reports of safeguarding or related issues from bodies such as HMIPFRS, Ofsted and CQC and monitor progress against action plans to address any significant continuing safeguarding risks identified during the above processes.
- themes where performance is considered to be a significant risk.

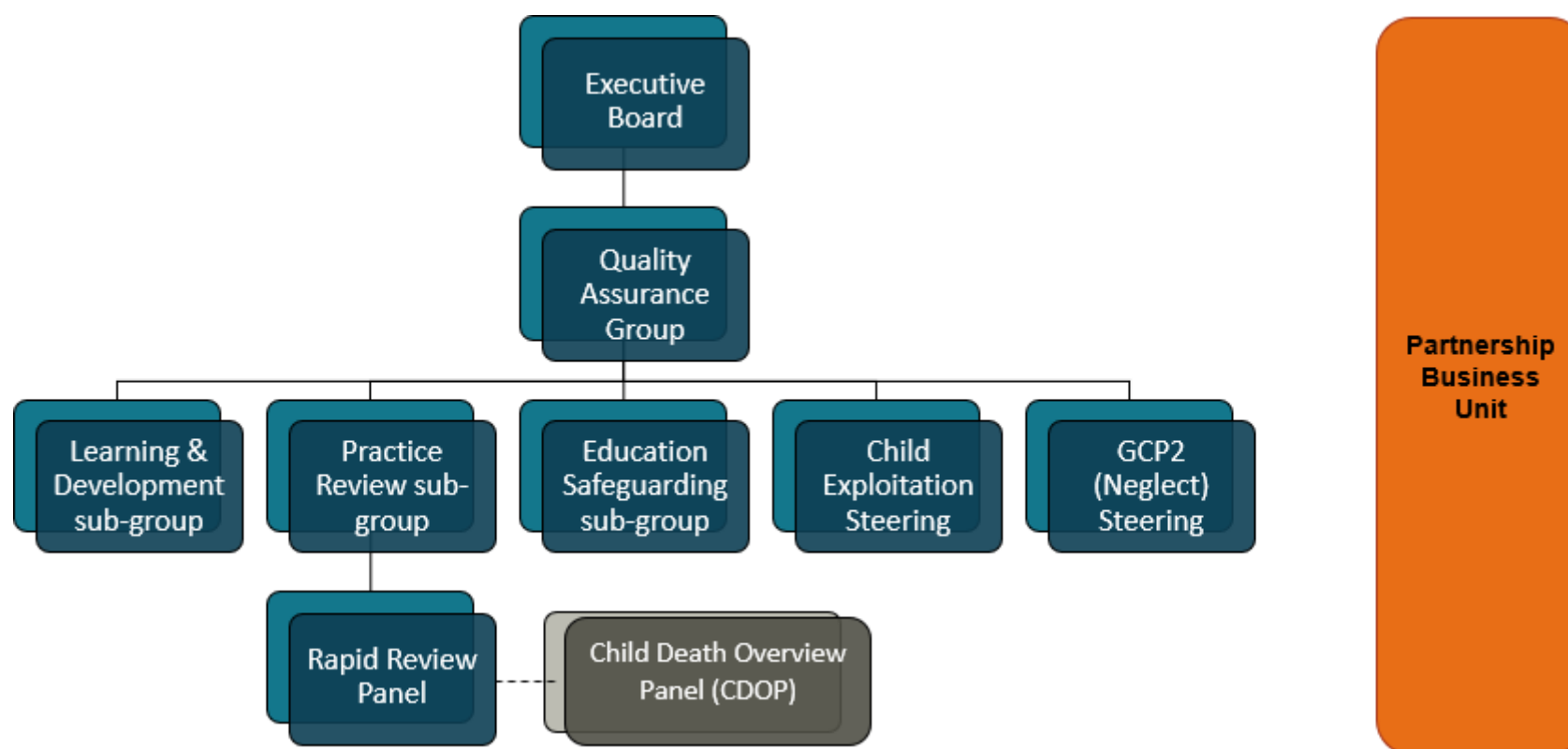
Professional Challenge and Escalation

Safeguarding partners will work together to resolve any professional challenges and disputes locally. Whilst every effort will be made to work across the partnership in a strengths-based way, there may be occasions where necessary agreement cannot be reached after escalation to the Partnership. Agencies should follow the Stoke-on-Trent Professional Challenge and Escalation Procedures and Standards. This partnership policy does not negate any single agency policies and it is expected that organisations will adhere to their own whistle-blowing policies as appropriate. For more information see the Stoke-on-Trent whistleblowing guidance. The Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive and all relevant agencies will be expected to adhere to the policy.

In order to reach a resolution, the partnership may need to commission an independent adviser to review and make recommendations and the Safeguarding Executive will make any final decisions required.

Governance Structure

Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Partnership is structured to provide strong collaboration, scrutiny and assurance, and to drive and enable co-ordination of safeguarding activity. Each sub-group will have terms of reference and an annual workplan which align with the arrangements and clearly demonstrate golden threads to priority areas and impact on the lives of children and young people. Agendas and facilitative discussions at all meetings focus on safeguarding practice, impact and improvement. The Partnership Business Unit and a multi-agency Quality Assurance Group (which includes each of the three safeguarding partners) undertake the management and support function of the partnership. Task and Finish Groups will be established as necessary. This model allows partnership group meetings to focus on practice and outcomes, rather than administration.



Name of Meeting	Description
Executive Board	<p>The three statutory partners plus an Education Sector Representative form the membership of the Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive, with representation as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director for Children and Family Services, Stoke-on-Trent City Council • Chief Nursing and Therapies Officer, Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board • Assistant Chief Constable, Staffordshire Police • Senior Leader, Education Sector Representative <p>The Safeguarding Executive have delegated responsibility from the accountable officers. The Executive's core functions are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the annual report. • Agree the independent scrutiny arrangements and delegations. • Set the budget and agree any actions required. • Agree priorities for the partnership and promote these both within and outside Stoke-on-Trent. • Monitor progress and performance. • Provide leadership to promote a culture which puts children and families at the heart of the partnership, and values learning. • Members of the Safeguarding Executive will ensure that other local area leaders and Boards promote safeguarding children arrangements and there is effective inter-board working.
Quality Assurance Group	<p>The Quality Assurance Group is responsible for the following on behalf of the Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Partnership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the business of the Safeguarding Children Partnership is efficient and effective, deadlines are met, and include guiding the work of the business unit. • Ensure there is effective joint working and flow of information from sub-groups to QAG. • Responsibility for implementing the Safeguarding Quality Assurance Framework, the group will bring together a range of evidence outlined in the framework, undertake Section 11 audits, and report by exception to the partnership.

Name of Meeting	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checking how we are doing and what we can do better and any learning is reported to the SSCP and disseminated to frontline practitioners where relevant • The Safeguarding Children Partnership does not seek to replicate quality assurance standards or activity that has already been undertaken in single agencies. We expect all sub-groups to take a role in monitoring performance of their specialist area and to determine impact of the work we, and our partners are undertaking and how we can do better. We have a task and finish group reviewing the high level multi-agency dataset; we plan to have up to four deep dives per year based on our priorities and qualitative information obtained through audits, case reviews and other methods will be brought together in the Safeguarding Quality Assurance group.
Learning and Development Sub-group	<p>The Learning and development group is responsible for the following on behalf of the partnership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning, delivering and evaluating of multi-agency training to support best practice across the partnership • Seeking assurance that high quality single-agency and multi-agency training on safeguarding and promoting welfare for children and young people is provided at different levels to meet local needs. • Ensuring that learning from reviews, scrutiny and other assurance event is disseminated widely and the impact is measured • This group is key in supporting a learning culture across partner agencies and supporting wider system change to improve safeguarding outcomes for children and families.
Practice Review Sub-Group	<p>When a child dies or is seriously harmed in circumstances where abuse or neglect are known or suspected (i.e. is a serious child safeguarding case), Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships are required to consider if a Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) is appropriate to consider the involvement of organisations and professionals with the child and family. In order to do this, a rapid review must be carried out within 15 days of the notification of the serious child safeguarding case to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (see guidance below). *Serious harm is defined as serious or long-term impairment of a child's mental health or intellectual, emotional social or behavioural development, as well as impairment of physical health.</p> <p>The purpose of each review is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify improvements to be made to safeguard and promote the welfare of children • Seek to prevent or reduce the risk of recurrence of similar incidents • Establish whether there are lessons to be learned from the case about the way in which local professionals and organisations work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children • Identify clearly what those lessons are, how they will be acted upon, and what is expected to change as a result

Name of Meeting	Description
	<p>And as a consequence, to improve inter-agency working and better safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews are learning exercises and not investigations to find out who is to blame for things going wrong, with the overall purpose being that of improving practice.</p> <p>Stoke-on-Trent Partnership works within the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements across the wider West Midlands region with a framework for the commissioning and dissemination of learning from Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.</p>
Education Safeguarding Sub-group	<p>The Education Safeguarding Sub-group (ESSG) aims to drive improvements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the city. The ESSG will focus on all education provisions in Stoke-on-Trent which includes all schools whether maintained; non-maintained or independent schools; including academies and free schools; maintained nursery schools; early years provisions; pupil referral units; alternative provision, further education colleges and sixth-form colleges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure ALL education providers in Stoke-on-Trent are compliant with their responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children attending the provision. • To understand education providers role regarding children at risk including but not exclusively: Children missing education; domestic abuse; serious youth crime; child on child abuse; elective home education and the consequences of these. • To review S175 audits, the process and priorities and make recommendations where appropriate. Section S175 of the Education Act 2002 requires educational settings to carry out an annual review of their safeguarding practice and to provide information to their local authority regarding how the duties set out in the guidance have been discharged. • To support Stoke-on-Trent City Council delivery of its education responsibilities. • To provide clarity and identify areas for development regarding education providers early help agenda. • To ensure the learning from Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) network meetings is disseminated to multi – agency practitioners. • To advise the SOTSCP of any major new developments and initiatives identified by DSL's. • To establish any gaps of knowledge and skills for schools DSL's and devise a solution to rectify this learning. • To receive surety that all Stoke-on-Trent education providers understand their responsibility for managing allegations against staff. • To review national and local learning and disseminate accordingly; and • To provide challenge to board partners regarding practice and commitment.

Resources and Infrastructure

The statutory partners have an equal and joint responsibility to ensure that there is sufficient and effective resourcing to support the arrangements.

Partnership Business Unit

The Partnership Business Unit, led by the Partnership Business Manager, provide the infrastructure for successful operation of the Safeguarding Children Partnership. Duties will be varied, but will include the following:

- Maintain and update policy and procedures, including links with Staffordshire and the West Midlands Partnership Network.
- Maintain communications and knowledge sharing including briefings and web presence, including communicating learning and key messages to all agencies.
- Maintain partnership plans such as a forward plan, business plan and support subgroup work plans.
- Preparing agendas, administer and minute meetings of all groups that sit within the arrangements.
- Support a range of multi-agency practice reviews including co-ordination management of action plans.
- Coordinate and administer multi-agency audits.
- Collate performance information reports and draft annual reports.
- Lead a Safeguarding Training Needs Analysis of the Stoke-on-Trent safeguarding children workforce.
- Manage multi-agency learning and development, co-ordinate training and delivery of multi-agency training programme and learning events.
- Maintain links and joint working with other partnerships and Boards.

The current business support arrangements will be maintained for 2022/23 but will be subject to review through the Executive and Accountable Officers to identify any improvements or efficiencies required to ensure it is sufficiently resourced to meet the demands of the Partnership and respond to the findings of the Wood Review May 2021.

Annual Report

The Board will publish a report for a 12-month period setting out what has been done by the Board, and the partners, to safeguard children and young people during the previous year and the impact and effectiveness of the partnership arrangements.

Funding

The Safeguarding Executive need to agree the process to determine the budget for 2023/4, however the overall budget for 2022/23 will be maintained at the current level subject to confirmation in the formal budget setting process. The budget will be shared and proportional, transparent to children and families in the area, and sufficient to cover all elements of the arrangements. The cost of any in year changes will be the first call on the Partnership reserves. In addition to funding, donation of professional's time to the training pool, supporting sub-group activity and no-cost venues for training and meetings are provided by a range of partners.

Shared intelligence and information sharing

Safeguarding partners will adhere to relevant legislation in using data and intelligence. [Information Sharing Procedures](#) provide the overarching framework for information sharing.

As the partnership business unit is hosted within the local authority, they are designated data controllers on behalf of the partnership. The Partnership is not itself a public body and is not subject to freedom of information requests.

Each statutory partner will need to respond individually to any information requests and consider exemption under current legislation.

- The Quality Assurance group will ensure intelligence is shared appropriately to understand current performance
- The Practice Review sub-group will consider effectiveness of information sharing in audits and case reviews
- The Learning and Development sub-group will be responsible for ensuring the delivery of training and methods of improving information sharing skills of professionals.

Success Criteria

We will know that we have successfully implemented the new arrangements when:

- Children, families and communities tell us they feel safer and able to contribute to the work of the partnership.
- Professionals tell us they feel supported, know where to go for information, and they have opportunities to learn and network. Policies, procedures and tools for undertaking all types of reviews of practice are revised based on evaluation project, are implemented and users report an improvement in outcomes.
- Agencies report, and we can evidence, reduced duplication across the different partnerships and boards in Stoke-on-Trent.
- The Partnership and sub-group chairs have clear workplans in place. Actions are undertaken, monitored and achieve the desired impact.
- The Safeguarding Accountable Officers tell us they are assured.
- We can evidence that the budget allocated has been managed effectively to implement priorities agreed.
- Our respective inspectorates report that our response to child protection and safeguarding arrangements are consistently good or outstanding.

Relevant Agencies (see appendix A)

Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Partnership will set up and maintain a Stakeholder Directory of all relevant agencies and organisations in Stoke-on-Trent that will either be part of our safeguarding arrangements or receive information, including those who will be required to undertake an audit under Section 11 of The Children Act 2014. All schools are relevant agencies and will support the partnership through Section 175 and 157 audits. The Section 175/157 safeguarding audit supports education settings in identifying their progress in relation to their safeguarding duties.

This will promote consistency of the application of statutory guidance and good practice, and we are committed to continue efforts to get full engagement of all independent, private providers and communities.

Education

Schools, colleges and other educational providers have a pivotal role to play in safeguarding children and promoting their welfare. As part of developing the revised Safeguarding Arrangements we are reviewing the way that partners work to improve engagement with schools and education settings of all types in our local area by meetings with school leaders to focus on their understanding of the partnership, and how they will benefit from better engagement within the partnership structure. We will have an Education sub group and a new Safeguarding in Education senior role is planned to provide strategic leadership and support.

- We will communicate through meetings with Designated Safeguarding Leads
- Via Headteacher's Briefing and Headteachers and Leaders Meetings
- We will ensure regular links with the "Virtual School"
- Police visits to schools
- We will communicate with Governors via their newsletter and Governor Briefing sessions
- Via promoting school access to the new safeguarding partnership website once launched which will also provide access to NSPCC training

Working with other key Partnerships and Boards



Children, Young People and Families' Strategic Partnership Board

This is the overarching coordinating board for improving the lives of all children in Stoke-on-Trent. It is chaired by the Leader of Stoke-on-Trent City Council and has representation from across the Partnership at senior level. It will have oversight of the delivery of the portfolio of programmes and projects. This is the Board who will assess progress we are making against the priorities we have set, including mitigation of risk. It is where the partners can hold each other to account for our relative contributions to the delivery of the overall strategy and programmes. The Safeguarding Partnership will progress report every 6 months.

Access to Services

'Room to Grow' the Children, Young People and Families' Strategy 2020-24 sets out the approach to working together to ensure children needs are assessed.

We want professional colleagues in our partnership to talk together if they have a worry – not complete a form. We want to discuss children needs, not talk about thresholds. We have created a city based single front door, with emphasis on conversations not paper based referrals, and children's needs not thresholds. This approach puts our children at the centre of the conversation and repositions our relationships with the person contacting us. We will strengthen partnership assessments, interventions, knowledge and support relating to domestic abuse, drugs and alcohol and parental mental health. This will be monitored through the Safeguarding Children Partnership.

Children's Improvement Board

This is the Board that is overseeing the required improvements in children's social care in the city. In this period of our improvement journey it is chaired by the Children's Commissioner appointed by the Department for Education. It has a membership that is reflective of the local partnership but also includes our principal improvement partner, Leeds City Council and the Department for Education. The Board holds the Council and its partners to account for the delivery of the agreed Improvement Plan as well as identifying support that the city may require to secure the necessary improvements.

Early Help and Prevention Board

The Early Help and Prevention Board is a non-statutory Board that reports directly to the Children, Young People and Families' Strategic Partnership Board. It is charged with co-ordinating the development and delivery of our Early Help Plan to ensure that families receive the support they require before they are no longer able to cope and crisis occurs. It has a wide membership across

the Partnership, with a particular emphasis on the role of the voluntary & community sector and schools. It has a significant span of oversight from our work on early years development through to support to adolescents as they enter adulthood.

Lead Member Role

The Lead Member for Children's Services in the local authority holds key political accountability for ensuring that the needs of all children and young people, including the most disadvantaged and vulnerable, and their families and carers, are addressed. In doing so, they work closely with other local partners to improve the outcomes and well-being of children and young people.

Health and Wellbeing Board

The Health and Wellbeing Board is a statutory Board that develops and oversees the delivery of a local Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the city, based on a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment that is produced by the Director of Public Health. The core purpose of the Board is to bring about improvements in the health of the population. Health commissioners have, by law, to take account of the objectives of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy in setting their commissioning strategies. In the context of the 'Room to Grow' strategy the Board will have a crucial role in ensuring that the key health and wellbeing ambitions for children and young people are met. This includes public health provision, community health, mental health and specialist services. The statutory role of Healthwatch on this Board should ensure that the child and family voice on health matters is heard.

Integrated Care System (ICS) and Integrated Care Board (ICB)

The Health and Care Bill was passed through Parliament in early-2022, set out plans to put Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) on a statutory footing, empowering them to better join up health and care services, improve population health and reduce health inequalities. The ICS is led by an NHS Integrated Care Board (ICB), an organisation with responsibility for NHS functions and budgets, and an Integrated Care Partnership (ICP), a statutory committee bringing together all system partners to produce a health and care strategy. This collaborative approach will support health and care services locally to remove barriers, facilitate shared responsibility and resources and take an innovative approach to tackling the wider determinants of ill-health and inequalities. When ICBs were legally established on the 1st July, clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) were abolished.

In a continuation of the work undertaken with the CCGs and wider partnership, the safeguarding children partnership proposes to work with the Integrated Care Board and Partnership in all areas of joint interest in relation to safeguarding children where there could be joint work, reciprocal reporting and collaborative safeguarding improvement.

Community Safety Partnership

The Community Safety Partnership is made up of a group of statutorily defined responsible authorities that together must seek to protect their communities from crime and help people feel safer. In the context of this Strategy, the Community Safety Partnership will have a crucial role with respect to prevention and early intervention. This overlaps with the role of the Early Help and prevention Board. This includes work on violence prevention, youth justice and child exploitation which is also priority for the Safeguarding Children Partnership. It will have a specific interest in those young people who are victims of crime as well as young offenders, recognising these are often the same young people. The Community Safety Partnership will prioritise those who are most vulnerable. We are working to strengthen our partnership approach to child exploitation through the development of our Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Panels and a Violence Reduction Unit that seeks to safeguard and divert those at risk of harm by adopting a public health approach to breaking the cycle of violence.

Currently there is a mixed level of knowledge and skills across the partnership around child exploitation. Whilst some agencies and individuals have a significant understanding of the issue others do not. Therefore, a change in culture and understanding is required. This will be approached through the development of child exploitation advocates across services and the role out of training and support.

Domestic Abuse (DA) Commissioning and Development Board (Joint with Staffordshire)

- In 2021, a new DA Act was introduced It sets out a detailed definition of DA and ensures children experiencing or witnessing DA are recognised as victims. Most victims have children who also need support. Around three in four victims accessing services have children living with them, and half of these have more than one child living in the home. DA is one of the most prevalent issues in relation to 'Looked After Children' and is therefore tackling this is a significant issue in respect of safeguarding children and young people and reducing the need for care away from home.
- This is an agreed multi-agency DA Strategy, overseen by an established, board and supportive commissioning function led from the Office of the Police, Crime and Fire Commissioner.

The Safeguarding Children Partnership aims to ensure the safeguarding needs of children are given equal priority in the strategy.

- Ensuring DA training includes identification and assessment of safeguarding risks, taking the voice of the child into account and ensuring referral pathways for support for children are understood.

Child Death Review (CDR) Partners and Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

The CDR partners are the local authority and the clinical commissioning group. The Child Death Overview Panel is a multi-agency panel set up to review the deaths of all children normally resident in their area in order to learn lessons and share any findings for the prevention of future deaths. This is joint with Staffordshire.

The link between the CDOP and the Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Partnership is based on the 2018 Child Death Review Guidance 2018 3.3.11 that states that “ In circumstances where a child has died, **and abuse or neglect is known** or suspected, professionals at the initial information-sharing and planning meeting should notify the safeguarding partners whose responsibility it is to determine whether the case meets criteria for a child safeguarding practice review”.

Appendix A Relevant Agencies

Schedule 2 of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Relevant Agency (England) Regulations 2018 identifies relevant agencies who are required to work with the Safeguarding Partnership

Education and childcare

1. The proprietor of an Academy school within the meaning given by section 1A of the Academies Act 2010(1).
2. The proprietor of a 16-19 Academy within the meaning given by section 1B of the Academies Act 2010.
3. The proprietor of an alternative provision Academy within the meaning given by section 1C of the Academies Act 2010.
4. The governing body of a maintained school within the meaning given by section 20(7) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998(2).
5. The governing body of a maintained nursery school within the meaning given by section 22(9) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.
6. The governing body of a pupil referral unit within the meaning given by section 19(2) of the Education Act 1996(3).
7. The proprietor of an independent educational institution registered under section 95(1) of the Education and Skills Act 2008(4).
8. The proprietor of a school approved under section 342 of the Education Act 1996(5).
9. The proprietor of a Special post-16 institution within the meaning given by section 83(2) of the Children and Families Act 2014(6).
10. 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(7).
11. The governing body of an English higher education provider within the meaning of section 83 of the Higher Education and Research Act 2017(8).
13. A person registered under Chapter 2, 2A, 3 or 3A of Part 3 of the Childcare Act 2006(10).
14. The provider of a children's centre within the meaning given by section 5A(4) of the Childcare Act 2006.(11)

Health and Social Care

15. The National Health Service Commissioning Board (known as NHS England) as established under section 1H(1) of the National Health Service Act 2006(12).
16. An NHS trust established under section 25 of the National Health Service Act 2006.
17. An NHS foundation trust within the meaning given by section 30 of the National Health Service Act 2006(13).
18. The registered provider of an adoption support agency within the meaning given by section 8(1) of the Adoption and Children Act 2002(14).
19. The registered provider of a registered adoption society within the meaning given by section 2 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002(15).
20. A registered provider of a fostering agency within the meaning given by section 4 of the Care Standards Act 2000(16).
21. A registered provider of a children's homes within the meaning given by section 1 of the Care Standards Act 2000(17).
22. A registered provider of residential family centre within the meaning given by section 4(2) of the Care Standards Act 2000.
23. 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(18).

Local Government

24. District Councils within the meaning given by section 1(1) of the Local Government Act 1972(19).

Criminal Justice

25. The Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass) as established under section 11 of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000(20).
26. A governor of a prison in England (or, in the case of a contracted out prison, its director)
27. Providers of probation services as defined by section 3(6) of the Offender Management Act 2007(21).

- 28. The principal of a secure college.
- 29. The governor of a secure training centre (or, in the case of a contracted out secure training centre, its director).
- 30. The governor of a young offender institution (or, in the case of a contracted out young offender institution its director)(22).
- 31. Youth offending teams as established under section 39 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998(23).

Police and Immigration

- 32. The British Transport Police as established under section 18(1) the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003(24).
- 33. The Common Council of the City of London in its capacity as a police authority.
- 34. Port Police Forces as established under an order made under section 14 of the Harbours Act 1964(25), under Part 10 of the Port of London Act 1968(26), or under section 79 of the Harbours, Docks and Piers Clauses Act 1847 (c.27)(27).
- 35. 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(28).

Miscellaneous

- 36. Charities within the meaning given by section 1 of the Charities Act 2011(29).
- 37. 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(30).
- 38. Any person or body involved in the provision, supervision or oversight of sport or leisure.

Key Reference Documents and website links

Working Together (2018) [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#)

Keeping Children Safe in Education (2022) [Keeping children safe in education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Wood Review of Local Safeguarding Boards (2016) [Wood report: review of the role and functions of local safeguarding children boards](#)

Wood Review of Multi-agency Safeguarding Wood Arrangements (2021) [Wood Review of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

The Charity Commission (2018) [Safeguarding and protecting people for charities and trustees](#)

Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (2014) [Safeguarding children and young people - roles and competences for healthcare staff](#)

Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Partnership (www.safeguardingchildren.stoke.gov.uk)

Stoke-on-Trent City Council [SoTCC homepage \(stoke.gov.uk\)](http://stoke.gov.uk)

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board [Home - Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent ICB](#)

Staffordshire Police [Home | Staffordshire Police](#)