



***Solihull Local Safeguarding Children
Partnership***

***Arrangements for Safeguarding Children
and Young People in Solihull***

1st May 2019

Content	Page
1. Introduction.....	3
2. The Local Context.....	4
3. Solihull Safeguarding Arrangements.....	5
4. Relevant Agencies.....	9
5. Engagement with Early Years Settings, Schools and Educational Establishments.....	9
6. Independent Scrutiny Arrangements.....	11
7. Assessing the Effectiveness of Help Being Provided to Children and Families.....	14
8. Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.....	15
9. The Voice of Children and Families.....	16
10. Multi-Agency Workforce Development.....	16
11. Funding of Arrangements.....	17
12. Threshold Document.....	17
13. Annual Report.....	17

1. Introduction

This document sets out how as the safeguarding partners in Solihull we intend to work together with our wider partners to keep local children and young people safe, and to promote their welfare. These are our published arrangements, which fulfil our responsibility under Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 to set out those arrangements.

A 'safeguarding partner' is defined under the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017). Within Solihull the safeguarding partners are:

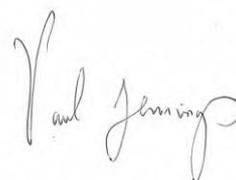
- (a) Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
- (b) Birmingham and Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group
- (c) West Midlands Police

In recognition of the developing understanding of the wider risks faced by children and young people today whilst acknowledging the need to remain focused on the quality and effectiveness of well established services, these safeguarding arrangements have been designed to allow partner agencies and practitioners to react to local safeguarding needs in a more flexible and dynamic way. Learning and improvement has been placed at the centre of the arrangements, with a focus on understanding the impact of our work on the outcomes for local children and young people.

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

We believe these arrangements demonstrate our commitment to keeping children and young people safe in Solihull, and to working with our partners to continuously improve our effectiveness in achieving this. We look forward to building on the strong partnership commitment and support we enjoyed as a Local Safeguarding Children Board as we embark on this new way of working.

Signed:



Solihull Metropolitan
Borough Council

West Midlands Police

Birmingham and Solihull CCG



2. The Local Context

Solihull's Local Safeguarding Children Partnership arrangements apply only to the area defined by that of Solihull Local Authority. It should be noted that although two of the three safeguarding partners, Birmingham and Solihull CCG and West Midlands Police cover an area larger than Solihull, these arrangements relate purely to the Solihull Local Authority area. That said, where appropriate and beneficial to effective working, certain functions will be delivered across a wider footprint, for example by sharing multi-agency procedures and rapid review processes with other areas in the West Midlands region.

Solihull is a broadly affluent borough characterised by above-average levels of income and home ownership, and the borough as a whole is subject to relatively limited levels of deprivation. Solihull is however challenged by a prosperity gap, with performance indicators in the Regeneration Area, framed by the wards of Chelmsley Wood, Kingshurst & Fordbridge and Smith's Wood to the north of Birmingham International Airport, significantly lagging the rest of the Borough. The impact of this is felt across a broad range of outcomes including educational attainment, employment, crime and health. We will therefore take care as a partnership to understand the postcode variations.

Solihull has significant geographic and infrastructure advantages, lying at the heart of the West Midlands motorway network, with excellent public transport connections with the Birmingham city conurbation and linked to European and global markets by Birmingham International Airport. Economically, this supports a strong service sector economy with a thriving Solihull town centre and key regional strategic assets, for example the NEC complex, Land Rover and the Birmingham & Blythe Valley Business Parks.

Solihull is in the midst of dynamic and rapid socio-demographic change. The Black and Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) population more than doubled between the censuses of 2001 and 2011, at which point people from a BAME background represented nearly 11% of the total population. Yet the Borough is less diverse than England as a whole and significantly less so than neighbouring Birmingham, but with BAME groups representing a relatively higher proportion of young people in Solihull (over 15% of those aged 15 and under) this representation is set to increase.

Whilst Solihull's population is ageing, the age profile of a number of wards in North Solihull is significantly younger than the rest of the Borough. This difference in age profile is important in our deliberations about the development of services, particularly in relation to the development of early help support to families.

3. Solihull Safeguarding Arrangements

Although Solihull Local Safeguarding Children Board was rated as ‘good’ by Ofsted, the changes to multi-agency arrangements brought about by the Children and Social Work Act 2017 was recognised by Solihull partners as an opportunity to improve on the effectiveness of their those arrangements. Partners undertook a process to review the range of activities completed by Solihull Local Safeguarding Children Board, and their effectiveness both individually and collectively in supporting the delivery of efficient and effective child safeguarding arrangements. This process has led to a model for our new safeguarding arrangements which will promote a more dynamic and flexible approach to continuously improving our work in keeping children safe in Solihull.

Solihull’s multi-agency safeguarding children arrangements will be based on three key groups. These groups will drive the multi-agency safeguarding activity within a framework based upon the ‘Kolb’ learning cycle of ‘experience, reflection, theorising and experimenting’. A diagram of the new arrangements is set out in Figure 1 below.

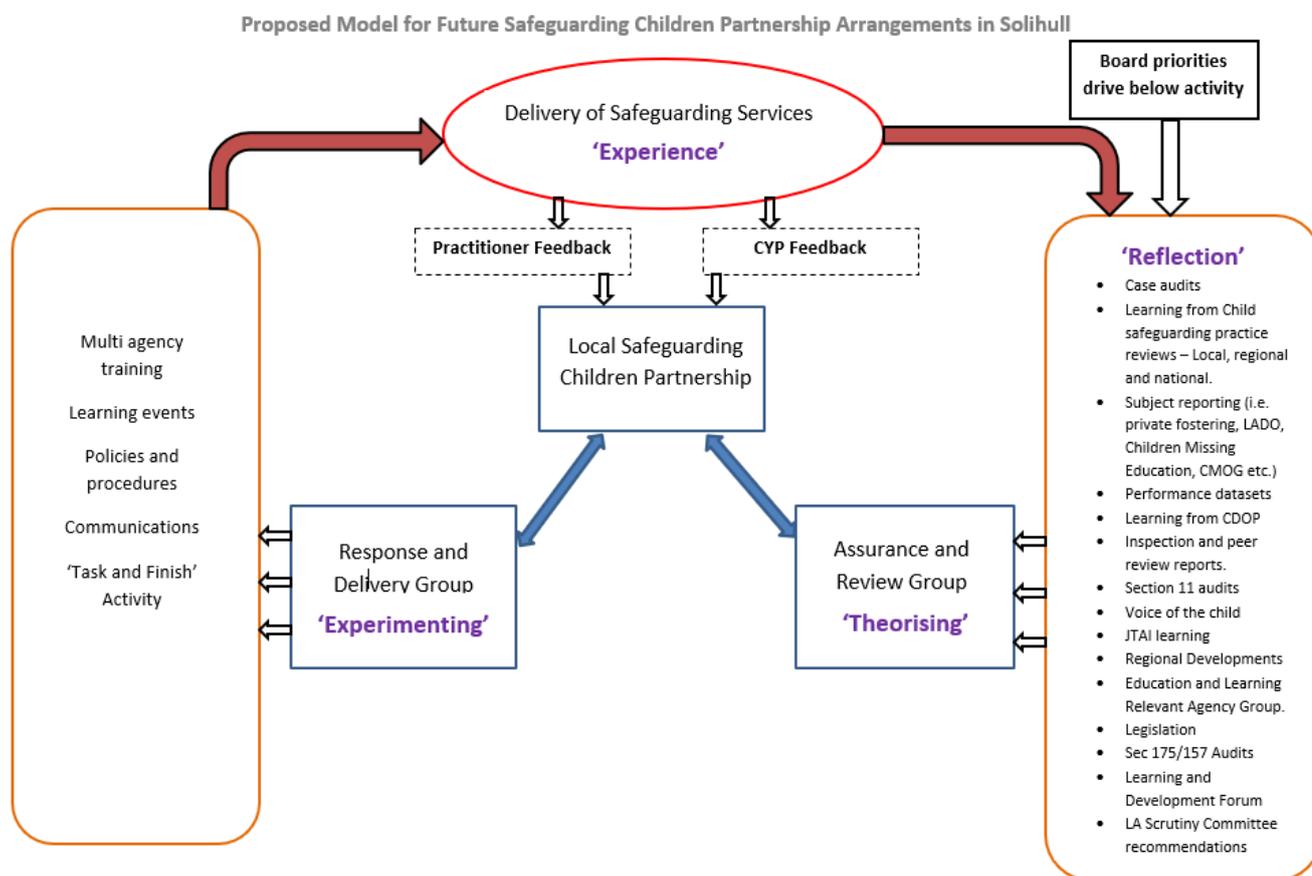


Figure 1 – Model for future safeguarding children partnership arrangements in Solihull

i) The Assurance and Review Group (ARG)

The Assurance and Review Group will assess and quality assure information coming from the reflective activities within the partnership arrangements. This includes but is not limited to:

- Case audits
- Child safeguarding practice reviews
- The Education and Learning Relevant Agency Group
- Regular subject reporting (Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), private fostering, children missing education etc.)
- Performance datasets
- Learning from Child Death Overview Process (CDOP) in relation to safeguarding
- Inspection and peer review reports
- Single agency audit activity
- Feedback from children, young people and families
- Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) Learning
- Regional developments
- Changes to legislation

The group will identify priorities and patterns from this work and recommend key multi-agency work streams to the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP). These work streams will be based on the LSCP priorities and their potential impact on the effectiveness and efficiency of local safeguarding arrangements. The Terms of Reference for the Assurance and Review Group can be found [here](#).

ii) Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP)

The Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) is central to decision making. It will decide on which aspects of work identified and presented by the Assurance and Review Group will be taken forward for action by the Response and Delivery Group.

The LSCP will have oversight of the entire cycle of reflective activities, assurance and review, response and delivery, actions resulting from learning and the safeguarding experience of children, young people and practitioners. All work will be driven by the [LSCP's priorities](#) which it will review as further information is provided from those activities, the voice of children and young people and practitioner feedback.

Finally, the LSCP will have responsibility for ensuring that the selected work priorities are delivered in such way that they make a positive impact on the outcomes for children and young people in Solihull. This will be achieved through the effective scrutiny and oversight of all aspects of the LSCP learning cycle and associated activities. The LSCP Terms of Reference can be found [here](#).

The membership of the LSCP is;

1. Local Authority - Director of Children's Services
2. CCG - Chief Nurse
3. Police – Borough Commander
4. Chair of Assurance and Review Group
5. Chair of Response and Delivery Group
6. CCG – Head of Safeguarding
7. Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education & Skills
8. Independent Scrutineer
9. Schools Representative (as nominated by the Education and Learning Sub Group)
10. Business Manager

iii) The Response and Delivery Group (RDG)

The role of the Response and Delivery Group is to drive forward the decisions from the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) on actions they have agreed will strengthen local safeguarding arrangements in line with partnership priorities.

The Response and Delivery Group will develop the action plan put forward to the LSCP by the Assurance and Review Group, take forward the actions associated with these decisions and disseminate the associated learning through:

- Multi-agency training
- Learning events
- Changes to, or new policies and procedures and their dissemination
- Communications to all partner agencies
- Task and finish activity to enable delivery of learning

The Response and Delivery Group will therefore drive the process of continuous improvement through the effective cycle of practitioner led evolution of policy, communication and learning. In doing so, the group will ensure that its activities remain focused on both the LSCP priorities and the impact on the effectiveness and efficiency of local safeguarding arrangements.

Having been completed, the effectiveness of the response on improving services to children and young people will be tested through the assurance/review processes as described in paragraph 7 below. Terms of Reference for the Response & Delivery Group can be found [here](#).

The work within the partnership structure will be driven by a reporting and planning process, and there are templates available for the [Priority Review Tool](#) and [Report Review Tool](#).

4. Relevant Agencies

In recognising the strength of the current partnership arrangements in Solihull which are rooted in the commitment and contribution of a wide partnership base, we have reflected this in naming a comprehensive list of relevant agencies to work with our safeguarding partners.

NHS England West Midlands

Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust

University Hospitals Birmingham

Staffordshire and West Midlands Community Rehabilitation Company

Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust

Solihull Community Housing

UK Visa and Immigration

CAFCASS

West Midlands Fire Service

National Probation Service Midlands – Coventry, Warwickshire, Solihull

Solihull Carers

South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust

All Solihull schools and educational establishments, regardless of size or type, are named as Relevant Agencies by the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP).

5. Engagement with early years settings, schools (including independent schools, academies and free schools) and other educational establishments

The Solihull safeguarding partnership has a strong history of engagement with education providers through the previous Board's Education and Early Years Sub Group. Under our new arrangements we are determined to both retain and build on those well established links.

Schools will be engaged as relevant agencies as follows:

- Schools are represented within the Partnership model by the Education and Learning Relevant Agencies Group (ELRAG) which has agreed [terms of reference](#). This group will be chaired by the Local Authority and will have representatives from the following;

- Two schools from each of the Collaboratives attending the Group, one from a primary and one from a secondary school
- Special schools
- Two independent schools
- Early Years (via private nurseries, child minders or Children's Centres)
- SWFT (School nurses)
- School Governors
- Colleges or post 16 providers
- Bespoke training providers
- Pupil Referral Units
- External Education Welfare Support (e.g. CSAWs)
- Local Police representative from the Solihull Police and Schools' Partnership.
- Any other places where children learn but which is not registered as a school e.g. Madrasahs, bespoke apprenticeships and Sunday Schools.

All school representatives to be head or deputy head teacher, or from the school's senior leadership team.

The above forms the basis of core and regular attendance on the Group in order to cover as many types of schools or learning settings as possible in a more multi-disciplinary way. In addition to these core members, other professionals, such as Educational Psychologists, Children's Social Care, Domestic Abuse specialists etc. will be invited as and when required by the agenda.

The Education and Learning Relevant Agencies Group will be further aligned to the LSCP by:

- Education pages being included on the LSCP website ensuring education safeguarding policy and multi-agency procedure, particularly surrounding issues such as Escalation, CSE, Prevent, FGM, E-Safety, recognition of neglect and domestic abuse (both at home and between young people) are seen as an important part of the Partnership.
- Designated Safeguarding Leads from each Collaborative will meet together on a regular basis to discuss safeguarding, the work of the Partnership and its priorities, legislation, transition from primary to secondary and any other relevant issues for schools. Any identified issues will be fed into the Education and Learning Relevant Agencies Group for inclusion in the report to the Partnership. This as an expectation of a school being named as a Relevant Agency.

Because of the importance of schools being relevant agencies and working together with the LSCP, a schools representative as nominated by the Education and Learning Relevant Agencies Group will sit on the LSCP to add a level of understanding for, and scrutiny by, schools on decisions and the process of the LSCP model.

Schools will report to the LSCP via the Education and Learning Relevant Agencies Group which meets bi-monthly. A report on concerns fed in by schools, targets via the Section 157/175 Safeguarding audit of all schools, targets via the Business Plan on the LSCP's priorities and reports of any good practice will be provided for the Assurance and Review Group of the Safeguarding Partnership Model, with follow up actions being delivered within the Response and Delivery Group.

6. Independent Scrutiny Arrangements

The independent scrutiny function as set out in statutory guidance (Working Together 2018); will provide the critical challenge and appraisal of Solihull's multi-agency safeguarding partnership arrangements in relation to children and young people.

Solihull's local children safeguarding arrangements has a two-tier model to independent scrutiny. The first tier is delivered by the retention of an independent person (scrutineer) with chairing functions, but with a greater emphasis on the scrutiny and challenge role.

The safeguarding partners will be responsible for agreeing with the scrutineer the key deliverables and performance indicators. Progress against these will be reported back to the safeguarding partners.

At the first tier of scrutiny the **key functions** of the scrutineer are;

- To Chair the LSCP meetings to provide scrutiny and challenge by observation and questioning.
- Agenda planning and preparation in conjunction with the LSCP Business Manager.
- To represent the Partnership at other meetings / events within the Borough, regionally and nationally.
- To represent the Partnership in media matters.
- To regularly review and monitor LSCP relevant agencies and recommend any membership changes to the safeguarding partners.
- To challenge and judge the effectiveness and impact of services to protect children and young people.
- Assist when there is disagreement between the leaders responsible for protecting children in the agencies involved in multi-agency arrangements.
- Support a culture and environment conducive to robust scrutiny and constructive challenge.
- Scrutinise the decision not to notify an incident to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel where it was originally thought to meet the statutory criteria.
- To scrutinise the decision of the partners to undertake, or not, a local review having identified that a serious child safeguarding case meets the statutory criteria.

- Provide consistency through out the contract period and be available to the LSCP as required.
- Through environmental scanning assist the Assurance and Review Group in identifying emerging safeguarding issues for the LSCP to consider.

The scrutineer will also be challenging and judging the effectiveness and impact of services by;

- Ensuring that the voices of children, young people and their families are appropriately represented and heard in the work of the partnership.
- Working with safeguarding partners to develop and monitor a performance-monitoring framework.
- Assessing how well organisations come together to cooperate with one another to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to hold each other to account for effective safeguarding.
- Contributing to the content of the partnership's annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements, their performance and the effectiveness of local services.
- Assessing the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families including early help.
- Assessing whether the three safeguarding partners are fulfilling their statutory obligations.
- Scrutinising any quality assurance activity (including multi-agency case file auditing and processes for identifying lessons to be learned).
- Scrutinising the effectiveness of training, including multi-agency training, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- Providing the three safeguarding partners with the necessary assurances regarding the robustness and effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements for Solihull.
- Evaluating arrangements for the operation of the safeguarding partnership, including the purpose and functions of board meetings, and recommend and implement appropriate changes.
- Supporting the implementation of the findings and outcomes of any safeguarding reviews, providing professional input to the development of any changes to existing models of delivery.
- Supporting the safeguarding partners in confirming, or not, that effective performance management, audit and quality assurance mechanisms are in place within relevant agencies organisations which will support the three safeguarding partners to fulfil their statutory objectives, and which will enable the partnership to identify and measure its success and impact.

These arrangements will be supported by a second tier of external scrutiny which is to be provided through a Local Government Association (LGA) peer review process. The Solihull safeguarding partners are currently working with LGA representatives to develop a methodology for an independent review process of local safeguarding partners' arrangements. This methodology will be trialled in Solihull in October 2019. The benefit of this is twofold: it will provide Solihull safeguarding partners with a thorough and independent evaluation of the effectiveness of the arrangements, whilst providing the LGA with an opportunity to develop then evaluate a peer review offer that could then be offered to the wider sector.

Solihull partners have also recognised the importance of having a clear understanding of the local governance structure for our child safeguarding arrangements. These are set out in figure 2 below. Within this we have sought to recognise the various responsibilities and interdependences of the individual safeguarding partners' governance and scrutiny arrangements. We have also mapped the links from the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership to other partnership forums.



**Solihull Local Safeguarding Partnership
Mapping of Governance Arrangements**

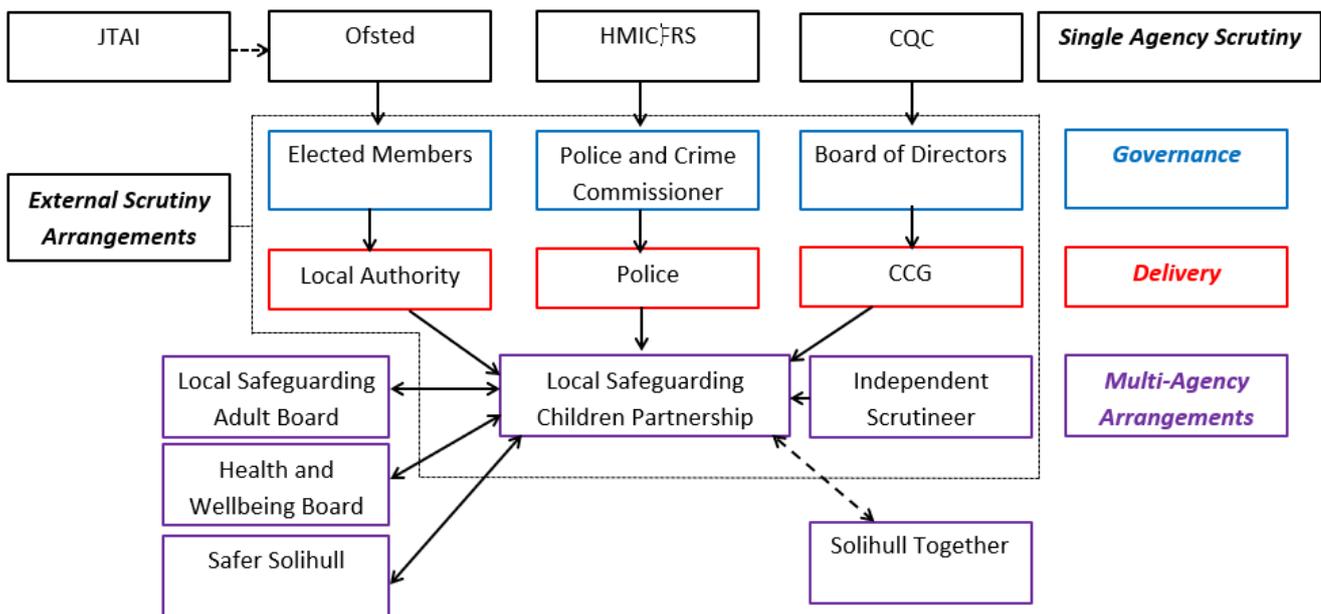


Figure 2 – local governance and scrutiny structure for child safeguarding arrangements in Solihull

7. Assessing the Effectiveness of Help Being Provided to Children and Families

Within our arrangements the safeguarding partners will assess the effectiveness of help being provided to children, young people and families using the following methods.

- i) Within Solihull there is a well established multi-agency case audit programme, with an annual cycle enabling partners to manage this complex task. Each year twenty four cases are audited in depth with a focus on the priorities of the safeguarding partners. Practitioners are provided with six Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE's) and 24 accompanying standards to assist them in auditing. Practitioners from all organisations are then invited to attend a Learning Event, allowing them to share their findings from the audits and discuss how to improve multi-agency working. A full audit report is also produced, offering a detailed account of the findings in relation to each Key Line of Enquiry and conclusions. These are then incorporated into the Learning and Improvement framework and used to inform the process for the next audit cycle.
- ii) The Assurance and Review Group, on behalf of the LSCP, will continue to use single agency audits to ensure local partners are fulfilling their duty under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 to ensure their functions, and any services that they contract out to others, are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Similar tools will be used with schools and education partners in relation to sections 157 and 175 of the Education Act 2002, and the Independent School Regulations 2003.
- iii) The Assurance and Review Group, on behalf of the LSCP, will receive quantitative data in relation to both specific areas of priority and the overall functioning of the child protection system, using the well established systems of the previous Local Safeguarding Children Board.
- iv) The Assurance and Review Group will also receive annual reports on areas of specific importance and/or interest in relation to safeguarding, for example a report from the Local Authority Designated Officer, and on children missing education.
- v) Child safeguarding practice reviews will also provide an opportunity to assess the effectiveness of arrangements to safeguard children and young people in Solihull.

Each of the above functions are designed to contribute to understanding the 'experience' of children, young people and families within Solihull, which together with other sources of information will provide the first stage of our learning cycle.

The findings from each of the above work streams will be fed into the Assurance and Review Group for consideration together alongside other sources of national, regional and local information. This is the 'reflection' stage of our learning cycle.

8. Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

The Solihull partnership has been part of the Birmingham led project focusing on the implementation of Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs). As a result, Solihull has adopted the regional practice guidance on commissioning and undertaking CSPRs, which covers all fourteen local authority areas in the wider West Midlands.

It will be the responsibility of the Local Authority to notify Ofsted of any serious incident within Solihull, in line with Ofsted's notification requirements. The Local Authority will share that notification with the other safeguarding partners via the LSCP Business Unit.

A review panel with representation from both the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies will be convened on each occasion to consider the information provided by individual agencies in line with regional rapid review process. This will be co-ordinated by the LSCP Business Unit. The panel will provide a recommendation to the safeguarding partner representatives on the LSCP as to whether based on the information available the incident meets the criteria for a child safeguarding practice review (CSPR) to be commissioned. This decision will be made by the LSCP and be subject of independent review by the Independent Scrutineer of the LSCP.

If it is decided that a CSPR is to be commissioned, this will be done via the West Midlands regional process which is currently being developed. The terms of reference for such a review and the final decision as to whether the final report is published will be a decision of the LSCP. Reports that are to be published will be placed on the LSCP website.

If it is decided not to undertake a review at the case meeting the decision will be subject to review by the Independent Scrutineer.

The progress and effectiveness of all child safeguarding practice review activity will be monitored by the Assurance and Review Group. Any learning from these reviews will also be received by this group, with recommendations being delegated via the LSCP to the Response and Delivery Group for delivery of appropriate learning across organisations and agencies.

9. The Voice of Children and Families

The views and opinions of those children, young people, parents and carers who have used services are collected within our annual multi-agency audit process. In addition, representatives of the LSCP will continue to engage with various youth events that are held in Solihull with a view to gaining views and feedback on various matters affecting children and young people in the local area. The Education and Learning Relevant Agency Group will provide a key link to young people in Solihull, with access to school councils and other such groups.

The work of the safeguarding partnership will also be informed by other existing groups, such as OVOS (Our Voice Our Service), the Children in Care Council, and well established links through partner agencies such as the Voluntary, Community Sector Reference Group (VSCRG) who work directly with children and families and so are well placed to advocate and represent the voices of children and identify potential safeguarding issues.

We will continue to produce a young persons' version of our annual report which will be distributed by our partners to provide a more accessible means by which young people can obtain information on safeguarding activity in their area.

10. Multi-Agency Workforce Development

The multi-agency workforce development arrangements within Solihull are well established and recognised as a strength within the partnership. Those arrangements will therefore continue unchanged within the new Solihull Local Safeguarding Children Partnership, and will be fed by the outcomes from the Response and Delivery Group when the need for learning and development across the partner agencies is identified.

The current multi-agency training offer is based on a modular format which provides practitioners and managers the opportunity to develop their skills and knowledge in the competencies needed for multi-agency work. The offer is supported by a multi-agency training pool, the members of which provide support to deliver training, each of them bringing different skills, experiences and agency perspectives to the training on offer.

The overall training offer is supported by the Learning Development Forum which provides an open consultative forum to enable multi-agency practitioners and managers who access both Local Safeguarding Children Partnership and Solihull Safeguarding Adults Board training programmes to review previous training, monitor existing training and engage in the planning and design of future training provision in order to meet front-line needs. This planning also

takes into account national and local drivers including legislation, policy and practice development. The forum therefore provides an opportunity for practitioners to influence the scope and content of the multi-agency training on offer.

Finally, the quality and effectiveness of the multi-agency training being provided is monitored using a comprehensive evaluation process. When an individual registers for any LSCP training they are required to complete a pre-training questionnaire which asks them to rate their skill, knowledge and confidence in the subject. In order to measure the effectiveness of the training provided an evaluation form is then sent out three months after the course to both the practitioner who attended and their manager. It asks them the same questions as before as well as how the training has impacted on their practice/organisation. This system provides the safeguarding partners with a comprehensive understanding of the effectiveness of each module of the training provided, and the full evaluation report containing this detail is made available annually.

11. Funding of Arrangements

A dedicated Business Support Unit is in place to support these safeguarding arrangements. The funding model previously applied to the Solihull Local Safeguarding Children Board will continue through 2019/2020, with contributions being made by both the three safeguarding partners and a number of relevant agencies. Further, income generation as a result of the provision of multi-agency training also contributes to the funding of the arrangements.

Having agreed a funding plan to see the new arrangements introduced in 2019/2020, partners are currently discussing a future funding model for the longer term, based on the concept of equitable and proportionate contributions.

12. Threshold Document

The Local Safeguarding Children Partnership will continue to publish a threshold guidance document to assist professionals within Solihull to identify suitable responses to the needs they identify amongst the children, young people and families they are working with. This document is not intended to be prescriptive or exhaustive, nor is it a definitive way to open or close a gateway to a particular service or range of services. Every child and family is unique. It recognises that their needs should be considered on a case by case basis, using professional judgement supported by the threshold guidance document. This document also sets out the local criteria for action in a way that is transparent, accessible and easily understood.

13. Annual Report

The safeguarding partners within Solihull will publish an annual report which will set out what we have done as a result of the safeguarding arrangements described in this document, together with an objective assessment of the effectiveness of these arrangements in practice.

The report will also include:

- evidence of the impact of our work on outcomes for children, young people and their families
- an analysis of progress against our agreed priorities
- a record of decisions and actions taken (or planned to be taken) to implement the recommendations of any local and national child safeguarding practice reviews, including any resulting improvements
- how we have sought and utilised feedback from children, young people and families to inform our work and influence service provision.

This report will be shared widely within the safeguarding partner and relevant agencies, and with other partnership arrangements within Solihull. It will also be made available publicly on the LSCP website. In addition a young person's version of the report will be produced and also made available on the website. The support of relevant agencies will also be sought to distribute this version more widely.