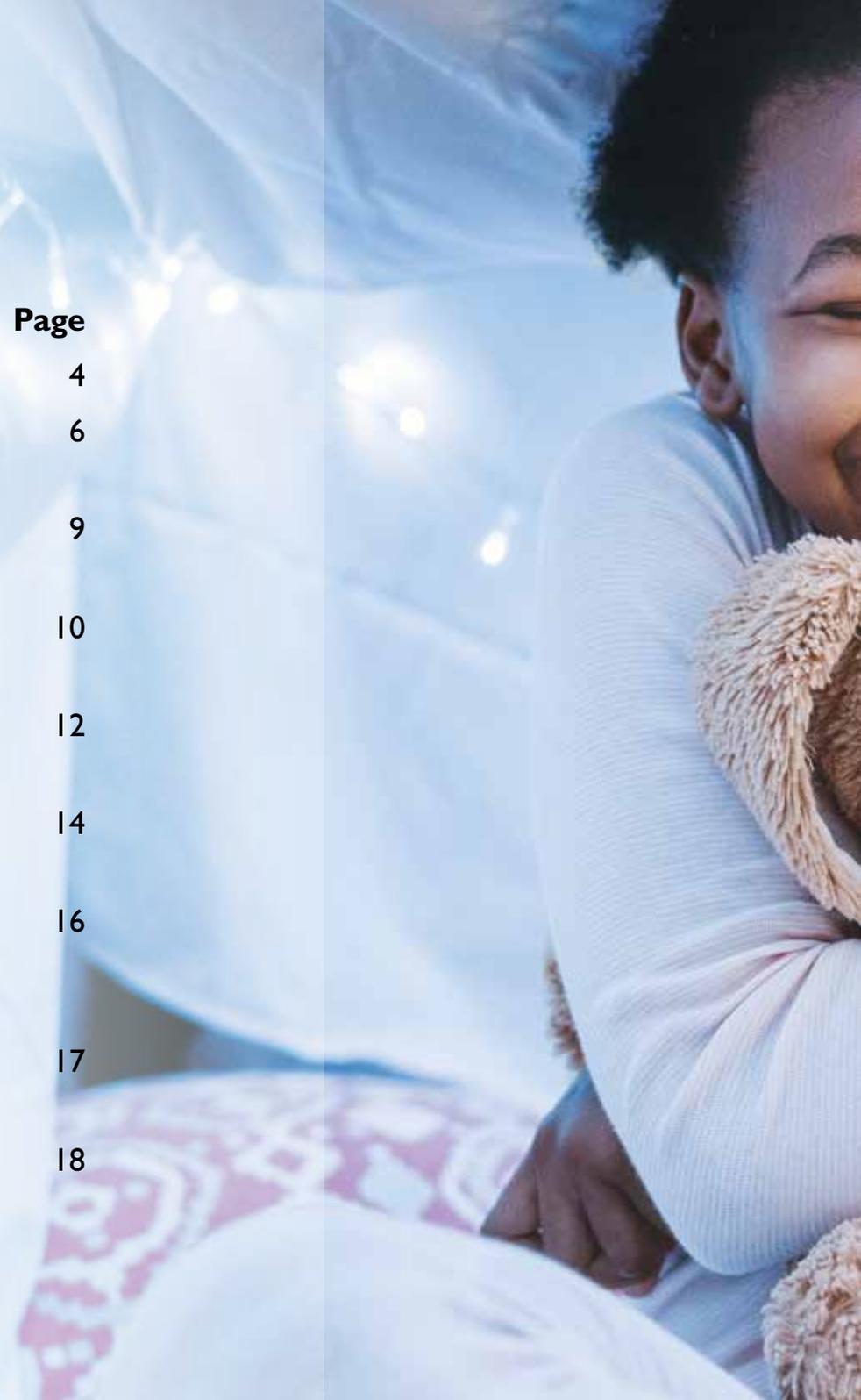




Knowsley
Safeguarding Children Partnership
Publication of arrangements

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Introduction

This document sets out the governance arrangements for Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership (KSCP), which will replace the Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB).

The new local safeguarding arrangements intend to build on the strengths of the existing safeguarding board, which has been successful at scrutinising the performance of Children's Social Care since the conclusion of the Improvement Board and the Council moving out of intervention following their Ofsted inspection.

Legislative changes introduced through the Children and Social Work Act 2017 will see the replacement of Local Children Safeguarding Boards (LCSB's) with Local Safeguarding Partners.

In addition, a new national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel has been formed to undertake reviews of a complex nature and cases, which are likely to be of national importance.

The changes will also see a transfer of responsibility for child death reviews from Local Safeguarding Children Boards to new Child Death Review Partners.

There has been a revision of the Working Together guidelines, which came into effect in the summer of 2018. The legislation will bring about significant changes in the way we safeguard and protect children.

A business plan setting out the priorities of the local safeguarding arrangements will be used as the vehicle to drive activity.





What arrangements have we made for safeguarding partners to work together?

Knowsley Safeguarding Children's Partnership will replace the Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board.

The new local safeguarding arrangements will build on the strengths of the existing safeguarding board, in particular the partnership ethos and commitment for learning. Streamlined systems and processes, as well as a focused performance framework, will facilitate the delivery of a robust business plan. To complement this, a revised structure, which is set out below, will be implemented. This will enable safeguarding partners to work together to identify and respond to the needs of children in the area.

- Strategic Forum
- Core Business Group
- Safeguarding Review and Learning Group
- Policy and Performance Review Group

Strategic Forum

The Strategic Forum will provide the required strategic direction and governance around the development and delivery of local safeguarding arrangements.

The Strategic Forum will meet three times per year. Each meeting will focus on a specific theme based around the key strategic priorities contained within the business plan.

Core Business Group

The Core Business Group will support the delivery of the business plan.

To ensure that the safeguarding arrangements are providing leadership and strategic focus on the areas of neglect, domestic abuse and child exploitation, three thematic leads for

each of these strategic priorities have been agreed who will be accountable for driving activity set out in the business plan 2019-2020.

The agreed thematic leads are:

1. **Child exploitation** - Merseyside Police
2. **Domestic abuse** - Knowsley Council
3. **Neglect** - Clinical Commissioning Group

The group is smaller in constitution and seeks to build on the positive elements of the previous Executive Group under LSCB arrangements.

It will meet bi-monthly to review the progress of the business plan and will be accountable to the Strategic Forum.

Safeguarding Review and Learning Group

The role of the Safeguarding Review and Learning Group will be to facilitate the effective management of serious child safeguarding review cases, which in their opinion raises issues of importance in relation to their area.

The group will also act as the conduit at a local level for the delivery of serious child safeguarding review cases, which are undertaken by the national panel.

The group will also coordinate other local reviews, which do not meet the criteria for serious child safeguarding reviews but present learning opportunities that will enhance our capabilities to safeguard and protect children. The group will be responsible for developing and driving the implementation of a training plan, influenced by the strategic priorities of the local safeguarding arrangements and from learning identified within serious child safeguarding review cases.

The group will be accountable to the Strategic Forum.

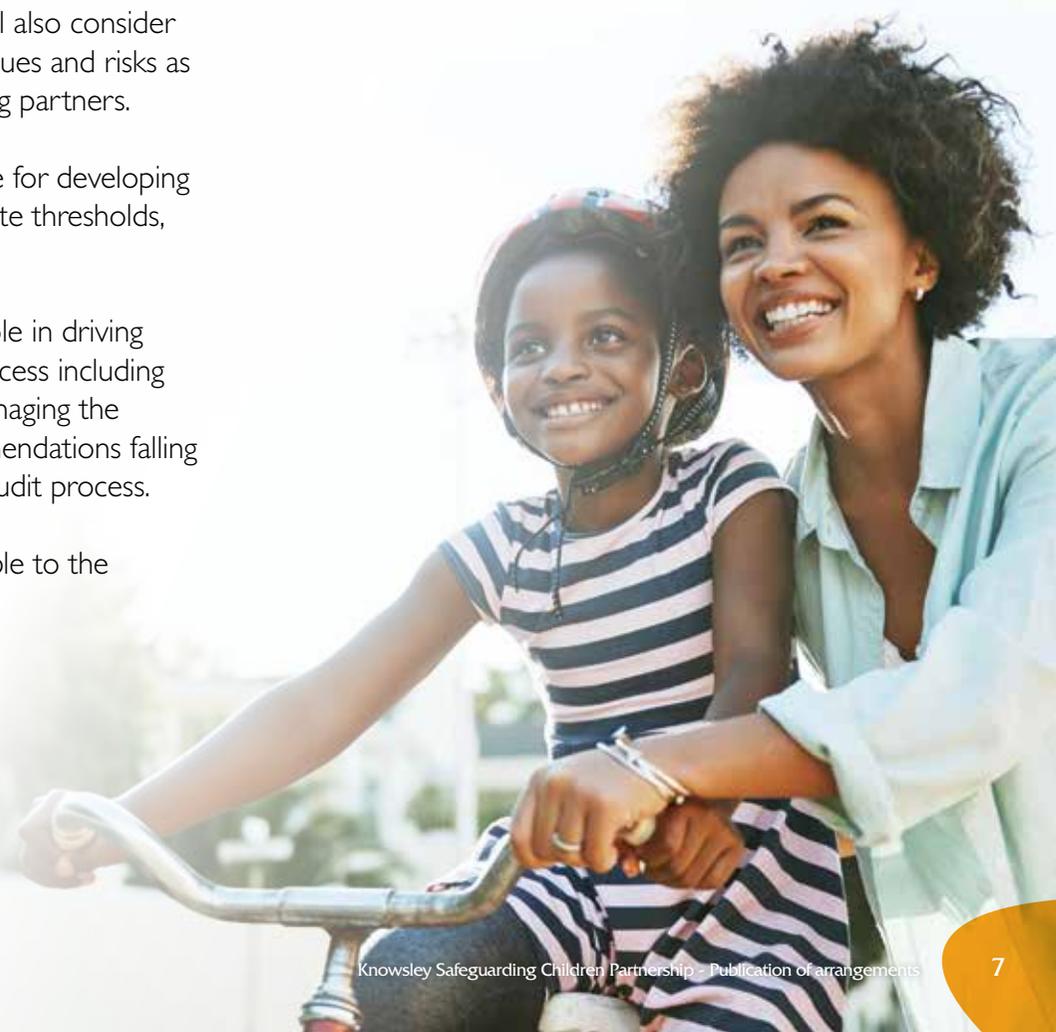
Policy and Performance Review Group

The role of the Policy and Performance Review Group will be to report against a performance framework that is focused on improving outcomes for children and is aligned to the priorities identified in the business plan. The group will also consider and respond to emerging issues and risks as identified by key safeguarding partners.

They will also be responsible for developing and implementing appropriate thresholds, policies and procedures.

The group will have a key role in driving the audit and inspection process including multi-agency audits and managing the governance around recommendations falling out of the review and / or audit process.

The group will be accountable to the Strategic Forum.



Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership



Knowsley Safeguarding Children Strategic Forum

- To provide strategic direction and governance around the development and delivery of local safeguarding arrangements
- Fulfil statutory responsibility for promoting and maintaining safeguarding and welfare of children
- To embrace a multi-agency ethos, which respects the views and contributions of partners and is focussed on improving outcomes for children
- To ensure early help provisions are in place that promote the welfare of children
- To provide governance to sustain continuous improvement in performance

Core Business Group

- Providing leadership and strategic focus on the priority of neglect / domestic abuse, child exploitation
- Driving activity contained within the business plan, ensuring activity is scrutinised and challenged
- Implementing and reviewing action plans, within the parameters of the local business plan
- Holding people to account in delivering the business plan
- Implementing measures that reduce risk and promote the safety and wellbeing of children
- Identifying good practice and sharing learning
- To commission research to enhance performance

Safeguarding Review and Learning Group

- To facilitate the effective management of serious child safeguarding review cases, which in their opinion raises issues of importance in relation to their area
- To act as the conduit at a local level for the delivery of serious child safeguarding review cases, which are undertaken by the national Safeguarding Practice Review Panel
- To develop and drive the implementation of a training plan, influenced by the strategic priorities of the local safeguarding arrangements and from learning identified within serious child safeguarding review cases

Policy and Performance Review Group

- To deliver a performance framework that is focussed on improving outcomes for children
- To develop and implement appropriate thresholds, policies and procedures (including guidance and protocols) that are focussed on improving outcomes for children and families
- To support the Strategic Forum in providing quality assurance and analysis

Who are the three Local Safeguarding Partners and relevant agencies?

Under the new changes the responsibility locally rests with the three Local Safeguarding Partners who have a shared and equal duty to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area.

The three Local Safeguarding Partners should agree on ways to co-ordinate their safeguarding services, act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others and implement local and national learning including from serious child safeguarding incidents.

A Local Safeguarding Partner in relation to a local authority area, in England is defined under the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017) as:

- a. The local authority
- b. A clinical commissioning group for an area, any part of which falls within the local authority area
- c. The Chief Officer of Police for an area, any part of which falls within the local authority area

The three Local Safeguarding Partners for Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership are:

- Merseyside Police
- Knowsley Clinical Commissioning Group
- Knowsley Council

All three Local Safeguarding Partners have equal and joint responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements.

Relevant agencies are those organisations and agencies whose involvement, the safeguarding partners consider is required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

The relevant agencies across Knowsley are committed to ensuring the effective operation of the local safeguarding children arrangements. They have a key role as members of the Strategic Forum and supporting groups. Representatives of the relevant agencies are able to speak with authority, commit to matters of policy and hold their organisation to account.

The following agencies have been nominated as relevant agencies for Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership:

1. NHS England
2. North West Boroughs Healthcare (NWBH) (Commissioned health provider)
3. Knowsley Council Education Services
4. Knowsley Secondary Schools representative
5. Knowsley Primary Schools representative
6. Knowsley College of Further Education
7. Merseyside Community Rehabilitation Company (Interserve)
8. National Probation Service
9. Youth Offending Service
10. Children and Families Court Advisory Support Service (CAFCASS)
11. Knowsley Housing Trust
12. Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
13. Faith Groups
14. Knowsley Youth Mutual (commissioned youth service provider)
15. Knowsley Adult Social Care
16. Merseyside Safeguarding Adults Board

What are the geographical boundaries of the Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership?

The local arrangements are relevant to the geographical area of the Metropolitan Borough of Knowsley which is within the Liverpool City Region.

There will continue to be a commitment to deliver plans locally particularly around audit and scrutiny, however following consultation across the city region it was agreed that there are areas of business where Local Safeguarding Partners could perform more effectively and efficiently across the Merseyside footprint. There is a well-established programme and history of collaboration between the safeguarding boards across the region. The Local Safeguarding Partners have committed to continuing and developing opportunities for collaboration whenever possible.

These arrangements will include:

- Continued collaboration to publish pan-Merseyside exploitation and missing protocols
- Continued development of the regional www.listentomystory.co.uk/ website
- Continued running of the pan-Merseyside Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)
- Development of a Regional Communications and Marketing Group
- Development of a Regional Safeguarding Policies and Strategy Group
- Development of a Regional Workforce and Training Group
- Agreement of a pan-Merseyside approach to case reviews
- Agreement of a regional approach to peer reviews



What arrangements have been made for commissioning and publishing local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews?

The national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (The 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 Panel should also maintain oversight of the system of national and local reviews and how effectively it is operating.

Where a local authority in England knows or suspects that a child has been abused or neglected, KSCP will notify the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (The 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.

National review criteria

The panel will consider whether the case in question:

- Highlights or may highlight improvements needed to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, including where those improvements have been previously identified
- Raises or may raise issues requiring legislative change or changes to guidance issued under or further to any enactment
- Highlights or may highlight recurrent themes in the safeguarding and promotion of the welfare of children

The Panel should also consider the following factors:

- Significant harm or death to a child educated otherwise than at school

- Where a child is seriously harmed or dies while in the care of a local authority, or while on (or recently removed from) a child protection plan
- Cases which involve a range of types of abuse
- Where the case may raise issues relating to safeguarding or promoting the welfare of children in institutional settings

Local review criteria

KSCP will consider whether the case in question:

- 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 agencies working together effectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children

The Safeguarding Review and Learning Group will manage the arrangements for commissioning and publishing national and local Safeguarding Practice Reviews.

The purpose of reviews of serious child safeguarding cases, at both local and national level, is to identify learning and improvements to be made to better safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

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

The Panel and the Local Safeguarding Partners have a shared aim in identifying improvements to practice and protecting

children from harm and should maintain an open dialogue on an ongoing basis. This will enable them to share concerns, highlight recurring areas that may need further investigation (whether leading to a local or national review), and share learning that could lead to improvements elsewhere.

The Rapid Review

Under the revised Working Together 2018 guidance, Local Safeguarding Partners have a duty to undertake a rapid review of the case.

The aim of this Rapid review is to enable safeguarding partners to:

- Gather the facts about the case, as far as they can be readily established at the time
- Discuss whether there is any immediate action needed to ensure children's safety and share any learning appropriately
- Consider the potential for identifying improvements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- Decide what steps they should take next, including whether or not to undertake a Child sSafeguarding Practice Review

On completion of the Rapid Review, KSCP will respond within 15 days of becoming aware of the incident, advising the panel of their decision about whether a local child safeguarding practice review is appropriate, or whether they think the case may raise issues which are complex or of national importance such that a national review may be appropriate.

As soon as they have determined that a local review will be carried out, they will inform the Panel, Ofsted and the DfE, including the name of any reviewer they have commissioned.



How will we independently scrutinise the effectiveness of the arrangements?

Working Together 2018 states that the purpose of the independent scrutiny is to provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases.

This independent scrutiny will be part of a wider system which includes the independent inspectorates of the individual safeguarding partners and the joint targeted area inspections.

Robust and objective scrutiny cannot rest with one individual or a single exercise, rather it requires a range of mechanisms to achieve two aims:

- To ensure Knowsley has robust and effective safeguarding children arrangements in place that are owned and delivered by key partners and all relevant bodies

- To ensure that the plan is subject to regular constructive challenge throughout the year and that the three key partners address identified weaknesses

KSCP will seek to undertake a peer review process on an annual basis, with a focus on the following three key elements:

1. **Effectiveness** - What is the impact of the new multi-agency safeguarding partnership?
2. **Efficiency** - How efficient is the new multi-agency safeguarding partnership in working together to achieve their strategic priorities?
3. **Leadership** - How effective is the new multi-agency safeguarding partnership in influencing outcomes to safeguard and promote the welfare of children?

The following areas will be considered for review:

1. Performance
2. Strategic priorities
3. Systems / processes
4. Structure

KSCP has chosen to retain an Independent Chair with the aim of providing independent rigour and scrutiny of arrangements in Knowsley.

The following areas will be considered for additional scrutiny:

- An agreed number of front-line visits to discuss the views of practitioners across the partnership
- An agreed number of focus visits with children
- Scrutiny of the findings of multi-agency audits

- Scrutiny of the performance information of the three key agencies
- Scrutiny of the findings from any reviews including serious case reviews
- Meetings with the Principal Social Worker
- Meetings with representatives of the relevant agencies to discuss respective contributions to the work and seek views on the effectiveness of the Annual Plan

The Independent Chair will provide written reports to the Knowsley Safeguarding Children Core Business Group at agreed milestones, highlighting areas of good practice and areas for development in Knowsley children safeguarding arrangements.



How will early years settings, schools (including independent schools, academies and free schools) and other educational establishments be included in the safeguarding arrangements?

Early years settings are well represented within the safeguarding partnership. Engagement happens via a series of learning events which are attended by nurseries, playgroups and child minders.

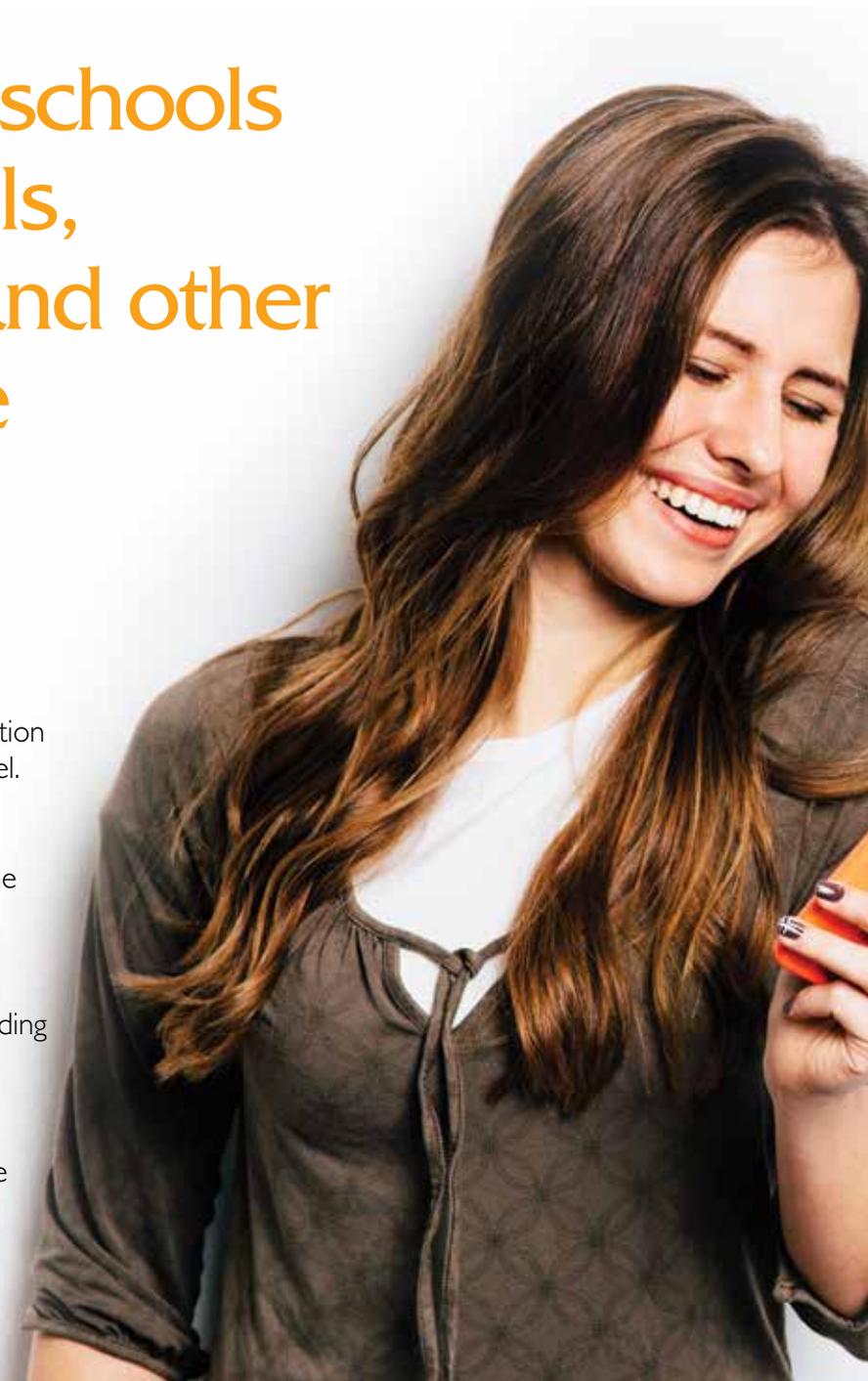
Front-line visits and the section 11 audit process also provide practitioners with an opportunity to raise any concerns or suggestions to enhance our approach.

Schools are able to air their views via the primary and secondary Head Teacher representative members of the Strategic

Forum. The local college of further education is also represented at Strategic Forum level.

Key personnel from schools and early years play an integral role in supporting the work of the partnership.

Although education is not included in the statute as being one of the Local Safeguarding Partners, KSCP has recognised that they have a pivotal role in improving outcomes for children. They have therefore ensured that there is representation on each of the partnership groups.



How will youth custody and residential homes for children be included in the safeguarding arrangements?

There are no Youth Offending Institutions or Police custody facilities within the borough of Knowsley, however Merseyside Police undertakes a multi-agency review of the detention of children via the Multi-Agency Panel for the Scrutiny of Children in Police Custody. The panel consists of representatives including Children's Social Care, Youth Offending Teams and Emergency Duty Teams.

The Council and partners, including police and health have a Children's Care Home Monitoring Group and compliance with national and local protocol is reported on and monitored. Any issues arising from the National protocol on Reducing Unnecessary

Criminalisation of Looked-After Children and Care Leavers (November 2018) can also be fed into the Knowsley Corporate Parenting Board. This provides opportunities to ensure that the children's homes operating in the local area are engaged in safeguarding arrangements and partnership working to divert looked after children away from the justice system.

How will the safeguarding partners use data and intelligence to assess the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families, including early help?

A data set has been agreed which is relevant to KSCP's strategic priorities.

Data will be collated and analysed by the Performance and Policy Group. The process will be robust and prioritise those areas which present the greatest risk to our ability to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

The performance framework is part of a wider children and families governance framework, which includes:

- Knowsley Children and Families Partnership Board
- Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) governance
- The Multi-Agency Child Exploitation and Missing Partnership Performance Board
- Corporate Parenting Board (Looked After Children)
- Early Help Governance Group
- School Collaborative Partnership Board
- SEND Partnership Board
- Strategic Education Board





How will inter-agency training be commissioned, delivered and monitored for impact and how will they undertake any multi-agency and inter-agency audits?

Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership is committed to provide a comprehensive and effective training programme to professionals and volunteers across the borough of Knowsley. It is informed by the identified priorities of the partnership and influenced by lessons deriving from local serious case reviews, audits and national safeguarding agendas.

The impact of the training plan will be critically evaluated using a number of methods:

- Course evaluation from participants after the course via the online booking portal
- Quantitative means - scrutinising attendance figures and agency breakdown
- Feedback from trainers
- Impact and evaluation process using post course questionnaires, survey monkey, observations, course reviews and follow up consultation by the KSCP Training Officer
- The training will primarily be delivered by members of the local training pool. Where there is a need to commission training from an external provider, enquiries will be made to identify experts within the relevant sphere of safeguarding. A training plan for the year 2019/2020 has been prepared and awaits approval

Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership will continue to undertake multi-agency audits, including section 11 and section 175 audits.

In addition we will continue to facilitate a number of multi-agency audits, and front-line visits in line with our strategic priorities. Recommendations made from the audits will be managed through the Policy and Performance Group.

How will the arrangements be funded?

Financial contributions totalled £0.268m for the period 2018/19.

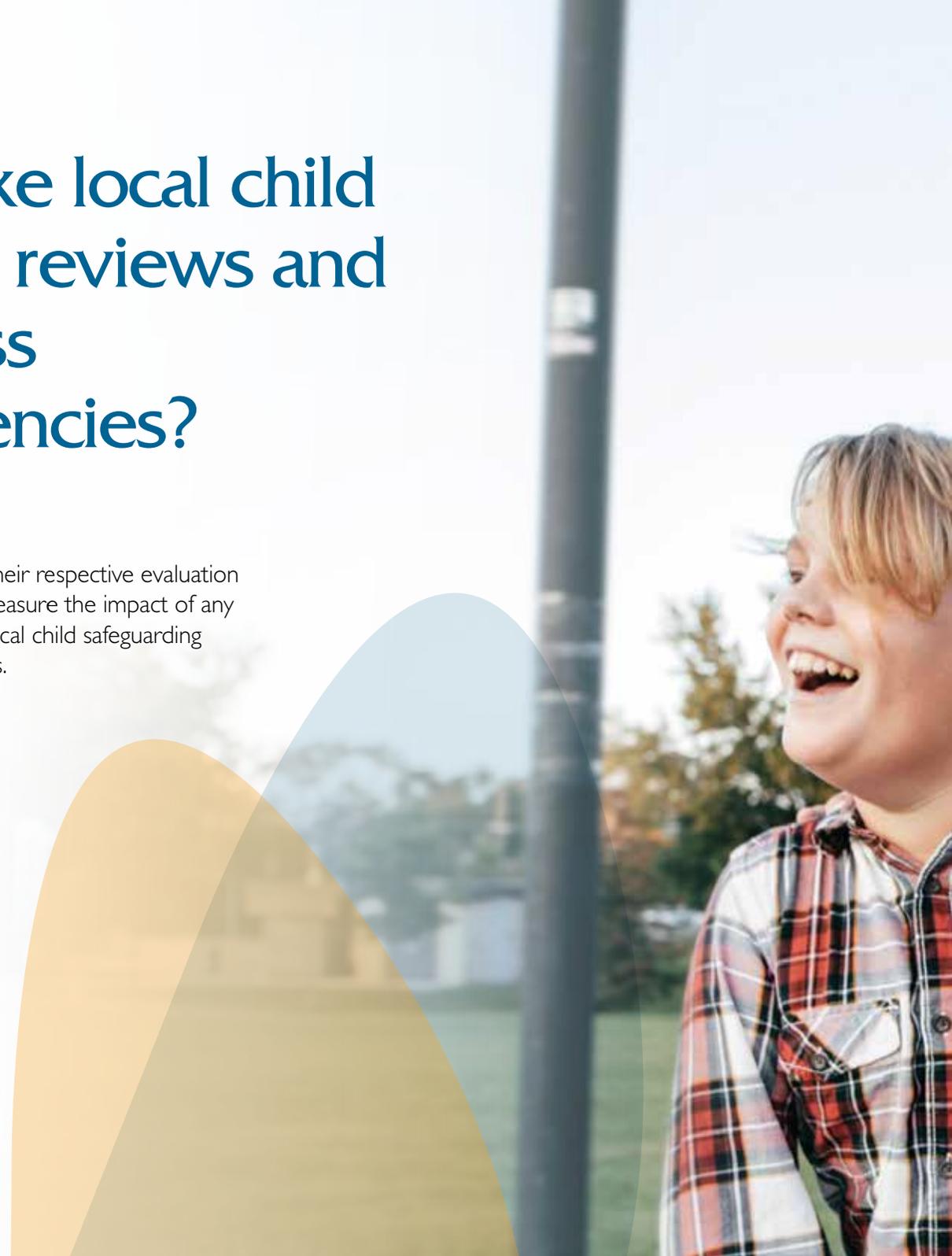
The three strategic partners are required to continue to make financial contributions to support the new safeguarding arrangements. Financial support and commitment from the relevant agencies that are concerned with safeguarding is also key to successful delivery.



How will we undertake local child safeguarding practice reviews and embed learning across organisations and agencies?

Under the new arrangements, reports of any local child safeguarding practice reviews which is undertaken will be published on the KSCP website and readily accessible for a minimum of twelve months. Thereafter the report will be made available on request. An executive summary containing a precis of the case, key learning recommendations and actions taken will also be published on the KSCP website. The KSCP will disseminate learning through other means including seven minute briefings, 60 minute briefings, newsletters, social media and conferences.

KSCP will use their respective evaluation processes to measure the impact of any learning from local child safeguarding practice reviews.





The voice of the child

Building on from the work undertaken by the LSCB, the Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership will continue to explore ways of improving our consultation processes to enable the voice of the child to be clearly heard, which helps to inform our priorities.

We will continue to promote the principles, which underpin the 'voice of the child', namely:

- Voice of the child, at an individual level, means ensuring the child's voice is listened to, heard and acted upon. Professionals will have a clear understanding of their lived experiences and ensure they influence or participate in decisions which affect them
- At service level, it means ensuring children use their expertise arising from their experience to participate in or influence the planning, design, delivery and evaluation of services
- At strategic level, it means ensuring children's views are embedded into the aims, objectives and priorities of Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership. This in turn will influence and ensure consistency in the aims, objectives and priorities of partner agencies

The partnership will commission an annual survey, in collaboration with Public Health, to seek the views and opinions of Knowsley children, on matters that may be of concern. These findings will influence the partnership in the development of future priorities.

Knowsley is developing plans to commission the services of Young Advisors to engage other young people to promote their voice across Knowsley around issues that matter. This will be fed back to services to better inform their plans / delivery.

Young Advisors are young people aged between 15 and 24, who show community leaders how to engage young people in community life, local decision-making and improving services. They also work with business leaders, bringing unique expertise and knowledge about being young to influence strategic planning, decision-making and marketing.

Signs of safety

Knowsley is implementing Signs of safety as its overarching practice model for all its work with children and families. This will build and sustain improvements in the way we safeguard and protect children across the partnership. The overall aim is to strengthen our approach to how we deliver services and support to children and families and that we implement the model across all our services. Knowsley believes that the model will provide a clear theoretical framework and methodology to further improve good practice and workforce development. Knowsley has a clear vision that we will empower and enable families to bring about their own change and require less intrusive levels of intervention. The Signs of safety model provides a clear set of skills, values and principles for practitioners and partners to use in their practice with families in order to achieve this.

Multi-agency training has been delivered to practitioners since October of 2018, as part of an extensive training plan.





How will the threshold of need guidance align with the arrangements

The Knowsley Threshold of Need Guidance 2018 was compiled by the Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board and partners to meet requirements of the Government's statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 and replaced all previous threshold information.

It was designed to help identify when a threshold or trigger has been reached, indicating when a child or family might need support and then identify where best to get this support from.

The guidance is intended for practitioners who are in contact with children and families who have a concern about a child and want to know how they should help them.

Knowsley's threshold document is being reviewed, to reflect the changes in the Working Together guidelines 2018 and in line with considerable improvements made to date.



Appendix A - Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership business plan 2019-2020

Our vision

Working together to safeguard and protect children from harm in Knowsley.

Our mission

We will work together to safeguard and protect children in Knowsley to enable them to grow up safe, be healthy, feel listened to and given the right opportunities to achieve their potential.

Enablers

- Learning and development
- Quality assurance and performance management
- Communication and engagement
- Standards, policy and procedure

Guiding principles

The delivery of our business plan will be underpinned by the following guiding principles:

- Having a child-centred effective approach
- Working effectively and efficiently in partnership with families to improve outcomes for children

- Providing a consistent approach to working with families across the continuum of need
- Providing a restorative approach to assessment and provision of care needs / interventions
- Equipping our staff with the requisite skills and equipment that will enable them to improve outcomes for children

- All partners work together effectively to support and protect the most vulnerable children and families
- Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership will provide effective leadership and scrutiny to ensure safeguarding is effective across the partnership

The priorities of the partnership will be delivered through a robust business plan, which will be monitored by the Core Business Group.

Thematic leads for each of the three strategic priorities will be responsible for supporting the delivery of the business plan by:

- Providing leadership and strategic focus on the priority areas of neglect, domestic abuse and child exploitation
- Scrutinising and challenging performance
- Holding services to account in delivering the strategy
- Promoting an ethos of partnership working
- Informing the partnership on the progress of performance and highlighting areas of risk
- Taking action to reduce risk and promoting the safety of wellbeing of children
- Identifying good practice and sharing learning
- To commission research to enhance performance

Key outcomes

Children in Knowsley are safeguarded and protected from harm, including abuse and neglect:

- The voice of children is fully embedded in practice and service planning
- All practitioners working with children have the skills needed to help and protect children, are well supervised and well managed
- All children and their families receive consistent support, and are fully involved in making decisions about their lives
- Front-line social work practice is consistently good and effective. There is effective multi-agency delivery of early help

Priorities 2019-2020

The partnership has set the following priorities to enable us to achieve our strategic vision:

- Children in Knowsley are safeguarded and protected from harm, including abuse, neglect and exploitation
- The voices and experiences of children are fully embedded in practice and service planning
- Learning from reviews is embedded, through the delivery of robust action plans, which enable early and appropriate intervention with a particular focus on:
 - Domestic abuse
 - Neglect
 - Child exploitation

How will we achieve our priorities?

Priority 1

Children in Knowsley are safeguarded and protected from harm, including abuse, neglect and child exploitation.

- The partnership has an ethos of shared responsibility, accountability, and supportive challenge which is seen as the norm
- The partnership delivers a robust Training Strategy which is based on the identified priorities and there is evidence of improved outcomes for children
- The agreed thresholds are fully implemented by all services working with children and services, escalating concerns

Priority 2

The voices and experiences of children are fully embedded in practice and service planning.

- We have a coordinated strategic approach to engaging children in the partnership and we deliver the activities set out in the Children Engagement Strategy
- Children are clearly heard by the partnership, their contributions valued and regularly involved in considering the business and effectiveness of the partnership
- The views of children receiving a service are consistently contributing to and influencing their individual plans
- Agencies have effective ways to gather the views of children to assess performance and influence service delivery

Priority 3

- Learning from reviews is embedded, through the delivery of robust action plans which enable early and appropriate intervention with a particular focus on:
 - **Domestic abuse**
 - **Neglect**
 - **Child exploitation**

Domestic abuse

- Reducing the impact of domestic abuse on children and develop a range of services to support children where domestic abuse is evident
- Raise awareness and increase the rate that domestic abuse is reported and offences that are brought to justice
- We understand the prevalence of FGM, Forced Marriage, Honour Based Violence and Trafficking in Knowsley
- We have a coordinated strategic approach to tackling FGM, Forced Marriage, Honour Based Violence, Trafficking and Radicalisation in Knowsley

Neglect

- Review the contribution of lower intervention services to safeguarding children and hold services to account
- Children requiring early help are identified
- Children requiring early help have improved outcomes
- Children are provided with the right response at the right time

Child exploitation

- To develop a greater understanding of contextual safeguarding risks to children in Knowsley and develop systems and processes to mitigate the risk
- There is a strategic approach to tackling all forms of child exploitation in Knowsley
- Safeguarding pathways are alert and able to respond to children exposed to criminal exploitation
- Children, parents and careers, friends and communities receive the appropriate support, protection, intervention and information



Appendix B - Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership roles and responsibilities

Strategic Forum

Aims

- To provide strategic direction and governance around the development and delivery of local safeguarding arrangements
- Fulfill statutory responsibility for promoting and maintaining safeguarding and welfare of children
- To be assured early help provisions are in place that promote the welfare of children
- To provide governance to sustain continuous improvement in performance

Objectives

- To develop policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in our area

- To develop clear thresholds for intervention
- To ensure multi-agency training and development
- To ensure organisations have policies and procedures in relation to the recruitment and supervision of persons who work with children
- To develop policies and procedures in relation to investigations of allegations against persons working with children
- To develop policies and procedures in relation to the safety and welfare of children who are privately fostered
- To ensure cooperation with children's services in neighbouring authorities and their partners, to ensure the wellbeing of children who move between local authorities
- To build on the success of the Improvement Board by providing rigour

and governance to sustain continuous improvement in performance

- To monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the multi-agency partnership, individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and identify opportunities for improvement
- To commission and oversee serious child safeguarding reviews or if appropriate reflective reviews and identify case reviews

Governance

- The Strategic Forum will be chaired by an Independent Chair who will be appointed by the three safeguarding partners
- The Deputy Chair will be the appointed by the three safeguarding partners
- The Strategic Forum will consist of three safeguarding partners and relevant

partners who are responsible for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Knowsley

- Members will be nominated by their agencies and should be able to speak with authority for the agency they represent, commit their agency on policy and practice matters and hold their own agency and others to account
- In exceptional circumstances a nominated deputy may attend although this should not be a regular occurrence
- Strategic Forum members are expected to contribute to the work of the partnership and to disseminate information and decisions made at partnership to their respective agencies
- 75% attendance is expected, an attendance log will be maintained and persistent failure to attend will be reported to the relevant Chief Officer
- The Strategic Forum will meet three times per year
- Each meeting will have a strategic theme based on each of the strategic priorities
- Each meeting will allow the respective thematic lead to report on the progress of their relevant strategic priority
- The Strategic Forum and Core Business

Group will be supported by the Business Manager and the administrator

- The safeguarding partners should agree the level of funding required from each partner, which should be equitable and proportionate

Effectiveness

The Strategic Forum will provide strategic oversight and focus around the following areas:

- Performance
- Serious case reviews
- Policy
- Delivery of business plan
- Emerging strategic issues (local / national)
- Multi-agency inspections
- Improvement Board
- Review Group updates
- Multi-agency learning
- Section 11, section 175 reviews
- Front-line visits

Membership

- Independent Chair
- Children's Services
- Clinical Commissioning Group
- Police
- Education
- Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
- Public Health
- Youth Offending Service
- Knowsley Housing Trust
- Council Member
- Lay Members
- CAFCASS
- Chair of Health Forum (currently NWBH)
- National Probation Service
- Community Rehabilitation Company
- Knowsley Community College
- Head Teacher secondary schools
- Head Teacher primary schools
- Knowsley Youth Mutual
- Knowsley Adult Social Care
- Merseyside Safeguarding Adults Board

Core Business Group

Aims

- To support Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership Strategic Forum in the development and delivery of local safeguarding arrangements
- To support the delivery of the KSCP business plan 2018/2020 through a robust governance structure

Objectives

- To provide leadership and strategic focus on the priority of neglect / domestic abuse, child exploitation
- To review and drive activity contained within the business plan, ensuring activity is scrutinised and challenged
- To implement and review action plans, within the parameters of the local business plan
- To hold people to account in delivering the business plan

- To implement measures that reduce risk and promote the safety of wellbeing of children
- To identify good practice and share learning
- To commission research to enhance performance

Governance

- The Chair of the Core Business Group will be appointed by the three safeguarding partners
- The Deputy Chair will be the appointed by the three safeguarding partners
- Three thematic leads for each of the strategic priorities will be members of the group. They will be accountable for driving activity set out in the business plan for 2019/2020
- The thematic leads are:
 - i. Child exploitation (Merseyside Police)
 - ii. Domestic abuse (Knowsley Council)
 - iii. Neglect (CCG)

- Members will be nominated by their agencies and should be able to speak with authority for the agency they represent, commit their agency on policy and practice matters and hold their own agency and others to account
- In exceptional circumstances, a nominated deputy may attend although this should not be a regular occurrence
- Members of the group are expected to contribute to the work of the Partnership and to disseminate information and decisions made by the Partnership to their respective agencies
- 75% attendance is expected, an attendance log will be maintained and persistent failure to attend will be reported to the relevant Chief Officer
- The Core Business Group will meet at least every two months and may meet more frequently if its workload so demands

Effectiveness

The Core Business Group will provide governance and drive activity around the following areas:

- Delivery of business plan
- Performance
- Serious child safeguarding case reviews
- Policy
- Emerging strategic issues (local / national)
- Multi-agency inspections
- Improvement Board
- Group updates
- Multi-agency learning
- Section 11, section 175 reviews
- Front-line visits

Membership

- Chair
- Children's Services
- Clinical Commissioning Group
- Police
- Education
- Thematic lead for child exploitation
- Thematic lead for domestic abuse
- Thematic lead for neglect
- Community Safety Partnership
- Group Chairs
- Business Manager
- Performance unit representative



Safeguarding Review and Learning Group

Aims

- To facilitate the effective management of serious child safeguarding review cases, which in their opinion raises issues of importance in relation to their area
- To act as the conduit at a local level for the delivery of serious child safeguarding review cases, which are undertaken by the National Child Safeguarding Review panel
- To develop and drive the implementation of a training plan, influenced by the strategic priorities of the local safeguarding arrangements and from learning identified within serious child safeguarding review cases

Objectives

- To ensure an effective child-focused referral and assessment process is in place
- To implement a robust governance structure that quality assures the review process
- To develop effective means of communication with internal and external stakeholders to promote an ethos of sharing good practice and learning from 'near misses'
- To implement an evaluation process that considers the impact of multi-agency training

Governance

- The Chair of the Core Business Group will be appointed by the three safeguarding partners
- The deputy chair will be the appointed by the three key safeguarding partners

- The group will consist of representatives of the three safeguarding partners and relevant partners who are responsible for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Knowsley
- Members will be nominated by their agencies and should be able to speak with authority for the agency they represent and hold their own agency and others to account
- Members of the group will undertake the functions of serious child safeguarding review criteria panel
- The group will review and monitor the progress of an action plan developed as a consequence of recommendations arising from the serious child safeguarding reviews
- The group will meet at least every two months and may meet more frequently if its workload so demands
- The group will be supported by the Business Manager and the administrator

Effectiveness

The Safeguarding Review and Learning Group will provide governance and drive activity around the following areas:

- New serious case review referrals
- Current serious case review cases
- Review of actions
- Learning from serious case reviews
- Emerging issues (national / local)
- Development and review of training plan
- Evaluation and quality assurance of training
- Review of Review Group work plan

Membership

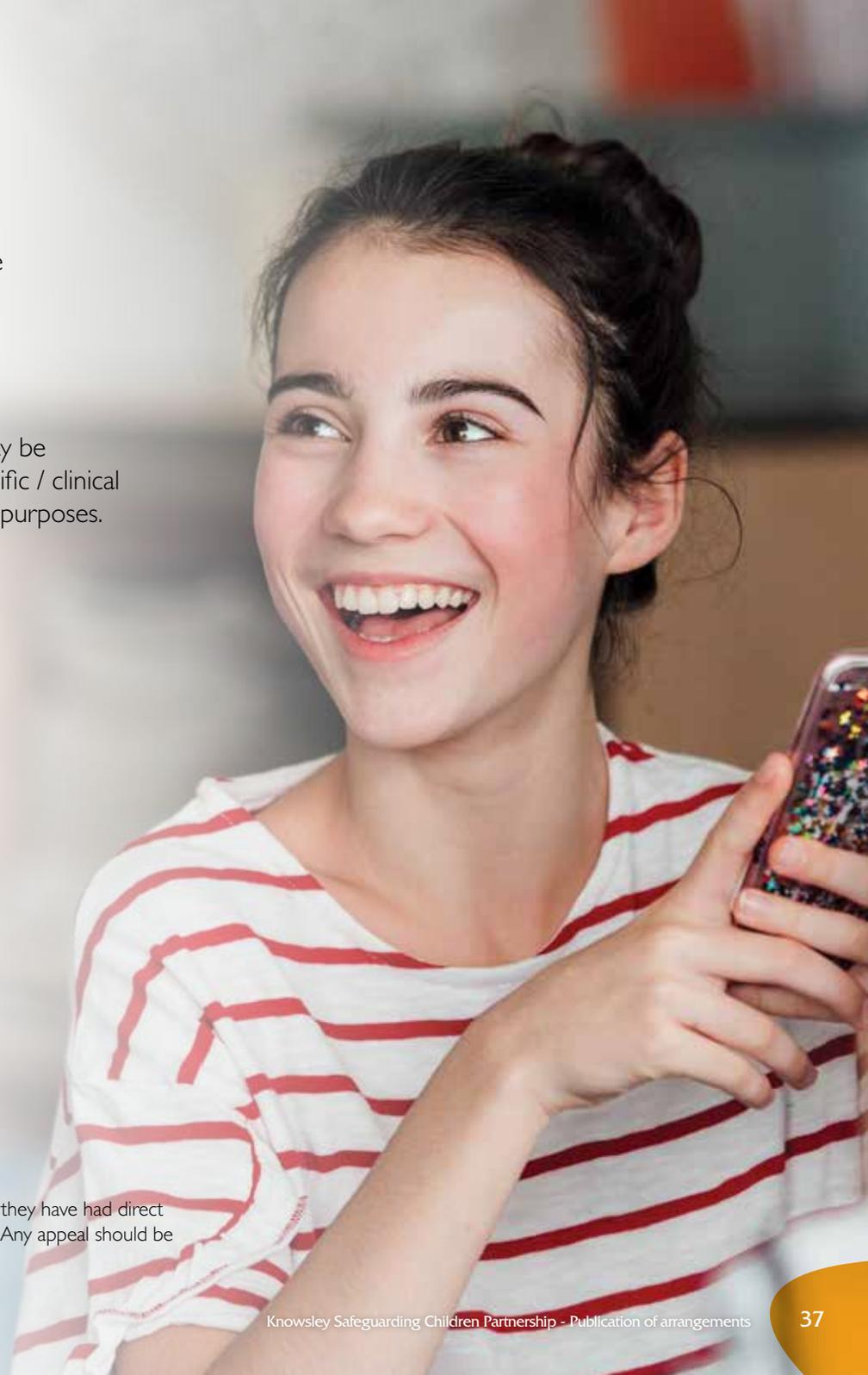
Members of the group will be drawn from the following key agencies:

- Clinical Commissioning Group
- Children's Services
- Safeguarding & Quality Assurance Unit
- Merseyside Police
- Education
- KSCP Business Manager

Members should not have had direct involvement in the case and will be expected to declare an interest should they have had direct involvement for panel consideration. The Panel will make a recommendation about potential conflict of interests. Any appeal should be made to the independent Chair.

- KSCP Training Officer
- Legal Services Representative
- NWBH
- Youth Offending Service
- Public Health

Additional member agencies may be co-opted onto the group if specific / clinical expertise is required for review purposes.



Policy and Performance Review Group

Aims

- To deliver a performance framework that is focused on improving outcomes for children
- To develop and implement appropriate thresholds, policies and procedures (including guidance and protocols) that is focused on improving outcomes for children and families
- To support the Local Safeguarding Partnership in providing strategic direction and governance that is focused on promoting the safeguarding and welfare of children

Objectives

- To develop and implement an effective performance framework that is focused on the strategic priorities of the Local Safeguarding Partnership
- To ensure accountability by scrutinising and challenging performance

- To reflect the responsibilities of the previous Improvement Board (that was in place between 2014 to 2017, when Children's Social Care had an 'inadequate' rating by Ofsted) by providing scrutiny and challenge to Children's Social Care to ensure that it continues to provide effective safeguarding services to vulnerable children
- To develop and publish thresholds guidance
- To develop multi-agency audits processes to identify good practice and areas for improvement
- To inform the partnership on the progress of performance and highlight areas of risk
- To identify and acknowledge good practice, establish how it's been achieved and share learning and good practice
- Where areas for development are identified, to commission research to be undertaken to enhance performance
- To develop and communicate effective multi or joint agency policy and procedures
- To oversee the implementation of recommendations from reflective reviews

Governance

- The Chair of the Core Business Group will be appointed by the three safeguarding partners
- The Deputy Chair will be the appointed by the three key safeguarding partners
- The group will consist of representatives of the three safeguarding partners and relevant partners who are responsible for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Knowsley
- Members will be nominated by their agencies and should be able to speak with authority for the agency they represent and hold their own agency and others to account
- The group will review and monitor the progress of an action plan developed as a consequence of recommendations arising from the serious child safeguarding reviews
- The group will meet at least every two months and may meet more frequently if its workload so demands
- Group will be supported by the Business Manager and the administrator

Effectiveness

The Policy and Performance Group will provide governance and drive activity around the following areas:

- Review of core data set
- Thematic review of performance
- New / review policies
- Emerging strategic issues (local / national)
- JTAI
- Improvement Board
- Section 11, section 175 reviews
- Front-line visits
- Multi-agency audits
- Reflective reviews

Membership

Membership of the group will be drawn from:

- Clinical Commissioning Group
- Children's Services
- Safeguarding & Quality Assurance Unit
- Merseyside Police
- Community Safety Partnership
- KSCP Business Manager

- NWBH as chair of health forum
- Youth Offending Service
- Education
- Public Health

KSCP - thematic lead - Roles / responsibilities

To support the delivery of the partnership's business plan 2019/2020 by:

- Providing leadership and strategic focus on the priority of neglect / domestic abuse, child exploitation
- Scrutinising and challenging performance
- Holding people to account in delivering the strategy
- Promoting an ethos of partnership working
- Informing the partnership on the progress of performance and highlighting areas of risk
- Taking action to reduce risk and promoting the safety of wellbeing of children
- Identifying good practice and sharing learning
- To commission research to enhance performance



