



SOUTHAMPTON SAFEGUARDING  
CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP

# Southampton Safeguarding Children Partnership Arrangements 2022

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# FOREWORD

Our aim is that the children of Southampton are safe and well, that they grow up to be happy and successful adults that contribute positively to the city. We have a unified commitment to protecting our children and young people and our partnership working is one of the most important factors that will help us achieve this.

Our partnership arrangements detailed in the document that follows, allow a clear focus on influencing practice to ensure we are improving outcomes for our children and their families. To do this, we are committed to the following principles,

## Our Principles

That through our partnership working, we will:

- Enable a culture of transparency and mutual respect – supporting bold challenge and support of each other
- Continuously learn from both challenging and positive practice – and implement improvements as a result
- Proactively seek the views of children, families and the workforce to ensure their voice is at the centre of our work and that our practitioners and partnership understand the lived experiences of children in all that we do.

This document has been agreed by the Safeguarding Partners in Southampton to demonstrate how we will deliver the statutory requirements incumbent on us and that we are able to positively influence outcomes for the children of our city.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

Children in Southampton can only be truly safeguarded if services come together as a partnership. An effective safeguarding partnership requires every individual and agency to be fully engaged and committed to actions that will improve the safeguarding outcomes for children. This document describes the practical arrangements through which the statutory safeguarding partners and those named as relevant agencies in the city will work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. To complement this local arrangement the safeguarding partners in Southampton have joined with our neighbouring authorities to form a Hampshire and Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton safeguarding children partnership arrangement known as 'HIPS' to enable larger scale strategic collaboration of partnership working beyond our city boundaries and improve our ability to influence practice and positive outcomes for children across local borders.

The details of how the arrangements will operate and be governed are detailed in the pages that follow, this also acts as the terms of reference for the SSCP.

## National Changes

Under the Children Act 2004, as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017, the three safeguarding partners, who are the senior leaders of local authorities, the police, and clinical commissioning groups (now Integrated Commissioning Systems) must make arrangements to work together with relevant agencies (as they consider appropriate) to safeguard and protect the welfare of children in the area<sup>1</sup>. The Act requires that these arrangements should identify and respond to the needs of children in the area; and also identify and review serious child safeguarding cases, including those which raise issues of importance to the local area.

"Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018" statutory guidance, gives some more detail as to the safeguarding partners role as does guidance from the National Panel for Safeguarding Children Practice Reviews, referred to later in this document. Within Working Together 2018, the lead representatives from of the Safeguarding Partners are defined as *"the local authority chief executive, the accountable officer of the clinical commissioning group and a chief officer of police"*<sup>2</sup>. Working Together also states that these lead representatives are able to delegate their functions although they retain accountability for any actions taken on behalf of their agency. The following text details how the safeguarding partners will implement their representation and accountabilities.

## Governance and Approvals

This document has been reviewed and agreed by the internal governance arrangements of the three safeguarding partners as follows:

|                                             |                                          |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Rob Henderson Executive Director Wellbeing  | Southampton City Council Chief Executive |
| Maggie Maclsaac, Chief Executive of the ICB | HIOWS ICS, Accountable Officer           |
| Phil Lamb District Commander                | Hampshire Constabulary, Chief Officer    |

<sup>1</sup> Source: Working Together to Safeguard Children and Young People, 2018

<sup>2</sup> IBID

The safeguarding partnership governance arrangements are represented in Diagrams 2 and 3 that follow, reporting lines are apparent within these. The accountability for the representatives attending the Southampton Safeguarding Partnership and the subgroups, sits within each of the partner organisations own structures, and this will be agreed by each of safeguarding partners within their respective agencies

## 2. PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

Southampton's Safeguarding Partners have agreed the following partnership arrangements as set out in the text and diagrams below, in order to ensure that local organisations and agencies work together to ensure the following objectives are met:

- *Children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted*
- *Partner organisations and agencies collaborate, share and co-own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children*
- *Organisations and agencies challenge appropriately and hold one another to account effectively*
- *There is early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues and emerging threats*
- *Learning is promoted and embedded in a way that local services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice*
- *Information is shared effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and families<sup>3</sup>*

It is also clearly set out in statutory guidance that the responsibility for join-up of local organisations and agencies locally, rests with the three 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.

### Local Safeguarding Partners

In Southampton the following senior officers from the three safeguarding partner agencies are delegated by their Chief Officer as detailed in Working Together, to have responsibility and authority for ensuring full participation with the Southampton and HIPS arrangements:

|                    |                                                      |                            |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Robert Henderson   | Executive Director, Children and Learning Service    | Southampton City Council   |
| Matthew Richardson | Deputy Director of Quality and Nursing - Southampton | HIOW Integrated Care Board |
| Phil Lamb          | District Commander                                   | Hampshire Constabulary     |

Their delegated authority includes the ability to make decisions on behalf of their organisation as well as to commit them to policy, resourcing, or practice matters. They are delegated also to hold their own organisation and others to account on how effectively they safeguard children in Southampton. The named individuals above will represent their organisation and collectively the three safeguarding partners in Southampton in attendance at the HIPS executive group. This will have strategic oversight of the safeguarding issues across the HIPS area, as detailed below.

<sup>3</sup> Source: Working Together 2018

## Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton (HIPS)

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (WT2018) allows more flexibility for safeguarding arrangements to operate across larger areas/multiple local authority boundaries. Each local authority area retains responsibility for their own local safeguarding arrangements, under the auspices of the three new safeguarding partners (local authority, police and health via the ICS).

It is acknowledged that for many agencies and professionals who work across more than one of the local authority areas, there is benefit in greater joined-up working on strategic issues and common themes. Therefore, there is a Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton (HIPS) Executive Group, supported by some specific four-area subgroups, to work alongside the four local partnerships.

### Desired outcomes

The overarching outcome of the arrangements is that children in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight should be safeguarded from harm and based on the following principles:

- Be designed to ensure that services are delivered in the best interests of the child.
- Not duplicate existing work but provide strategic direction and challenge to enable enhanced co-ordination of activity and understanding of impact.
- Provide a clear route for escalation of any system-wide issues and an agreed forum for the Safeguarding Partners to collectively fulfil their statutory duties.
- Ensure that we make the best use of collective resources.
- Be established within the existing resources (both financial and in people hours terms) and should not incur additional cost to agencies.
- Local partnerships to identify their own priorities in addition to any identified at a strategic level by the HIPS Executive.
- Local areas ensure that the voices of children and families are clearly represented in local partnership work.

### Role of HIPS arrangements and relationship with Local Safeguarding Children

#### Partnership

The role of the HIPS Executive Group is to provide strategic direction and collaboration in respect of safeguarding activity across the pan Hampshire and Isle of Wight area, to promote best practice, implement local and national learning and identify issues requiring strategic intervention by the Safeguarding Partners across the HIPS area.

#### Membership and frequency of HIPS Executive

To support this role and relationship of mutual accountability, the membership of the HIPS Executive is the three Safeguarding Partners across each of the four LSCP areas, namely:

- Directors of Children’s Services from each of the represented local authorities. Directors of Children’s Services will represent education establishments (those who are maintained by the Local Authority) including Early Years services.
- Hampshire Constabulary, represented through the Chief Superintendent with lead safeguarding responsibility.
- Health, HIOW Integrated Care Board. They will ensure dialogue with other health commissioning bodies across the HIPS area and providers.
- The Safeguarding Partners have also invited the Regional Schools Commissioner to attend the group to represent Academy educational establishments.

The Safeguarding Partners will act as the conduits and facilitate the flow of information and business between the HIPS Executive and the local Safeguarding Children Partnerships.

### Chairing of HIPS Executive

The HIPS Executive is chaired by an Independent Chair

### Related groups

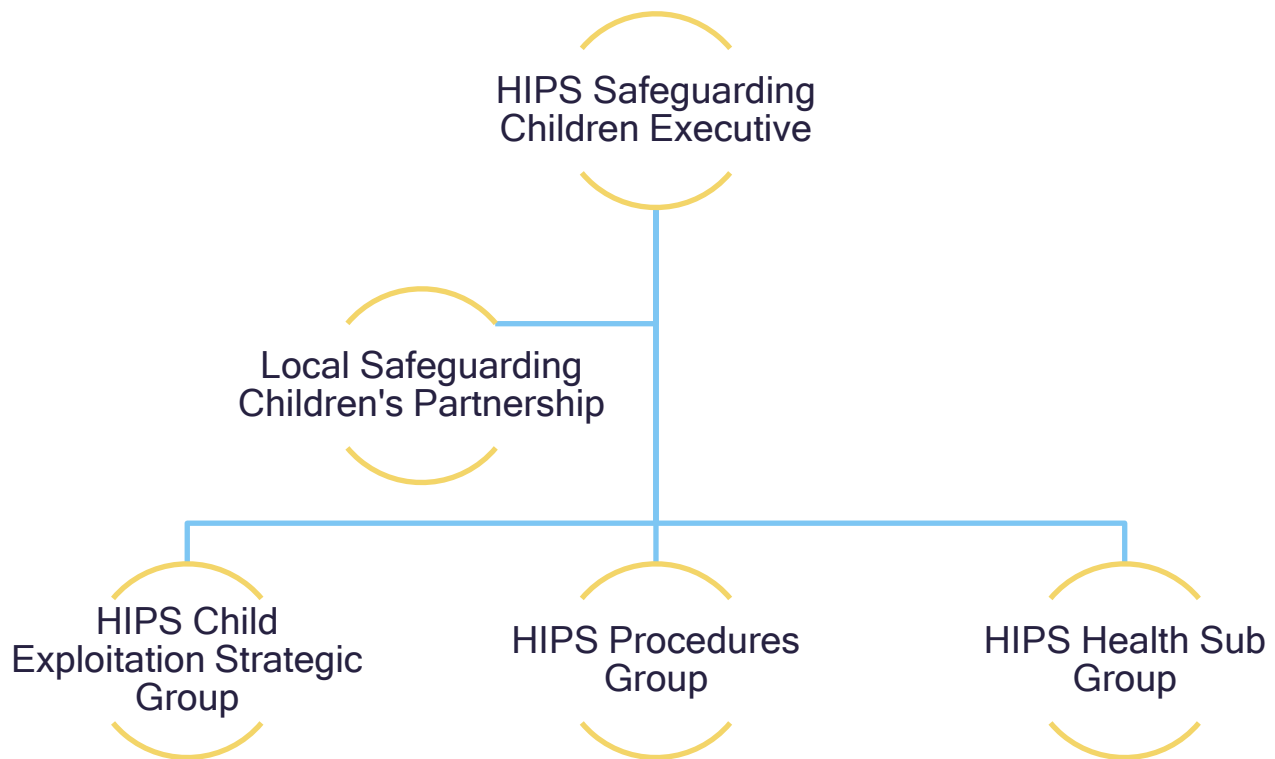
The HIPS Executive has three standing subgroups where there is a clear benefit to coordinating specific areas of business across the HIPS area:

- Health group – This group will coordinate safeguarding business across the health economy across the HIPS area. It will take the lead on the promotion and implementation of any best practice and learning for the health sector. It should be noted that the Isle of Wight will continue to hold its local Health Subgroup across Children and Adults but core members from that group, including the Chair, will attend the HIPS Health Group to ensure alignment and cross-communication of health themes.
- Strategic Child Exploitation group – The purpose of this group is to develop a shared understanding of the threat/need in respect of child exploitation, including patterns of activity that may reflect the organised exploitation of children; identify risks requiring strategic intervention and operational issues that can be dealt with more appropriately through the existing local structures; to drive forward the response to child exploitation through a tasking system that maximises the specialist skills and experience of staff across the pan-Hampshire and Isle of Wight area; to ensure that the vulnerabilities and risks associated with children who go missing are understood and incorporated within a consistent and robust multi-agency response.
- Procedures group – This group develops/reviews all common multi-agency policies and procedures that inform single agency policy and practice across the HIPS area.

The Partnership Managers and teams play a pivotal role in ensuring strategic collaboration and this includes leading on the Keeping Children Safe, S11 Self-Assessment audit and sharing learning from Case Reviews. Please note LSCPs commission and carry out their own local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews. Other work streams, e.g., Quality Assurance, Workforce Development, and specific areas of business will be undertaken via Task and Finish, or project focussed groups.



## Diagram 2: HIPS Partnership Arrangements



### Southampton Safeguarding Children Partnership

The Safeguarding Partners in Southampton will form a city focussed Safeguarding Children Partnership to; co-ordinate Southampton's safeguarding services, act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others and to implement local and national learning including from serious child safeguarding incidents.

#### Relevant agencies

The strength of local partnership working relies on safeguarding partners working collaboratively together with relevant agencies, whose involvement the safeguarding partners consider is required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The SSCP arrangements will engage local organisations and agencies to collaborate and provide targeted support to children and families. The local approach also enables joint identification of, and response to, existing and emerging needs, and to agreeing priorities to improve outcomes for children.

The relevant agencies for the SSCP arrangements are named as:

1. All mainstream, special, independent, academies, and free schools based in the Southampton unitary authority area (see a) below)
2. All early years settings (see b) below)
3. Post-16 education and training providers (see d) below)
4. NHS Providers (see d) below)

5. Non-NHS Health Providers (see e) below)
6. NHS England
7. Southampton City Council – Public Health, ICB, Housing, Regulatory Services, Adults Services.
8. Independent Residential Units (see f) below)
9. Southampton Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education (SACRE)
10. Southampton Voluntary Services and other community organisations
11. National Probation Service
12. Hampshire and Isle of Wight CRC
13. CAFCASS
14. Sports and activities clubs' representation

To note:

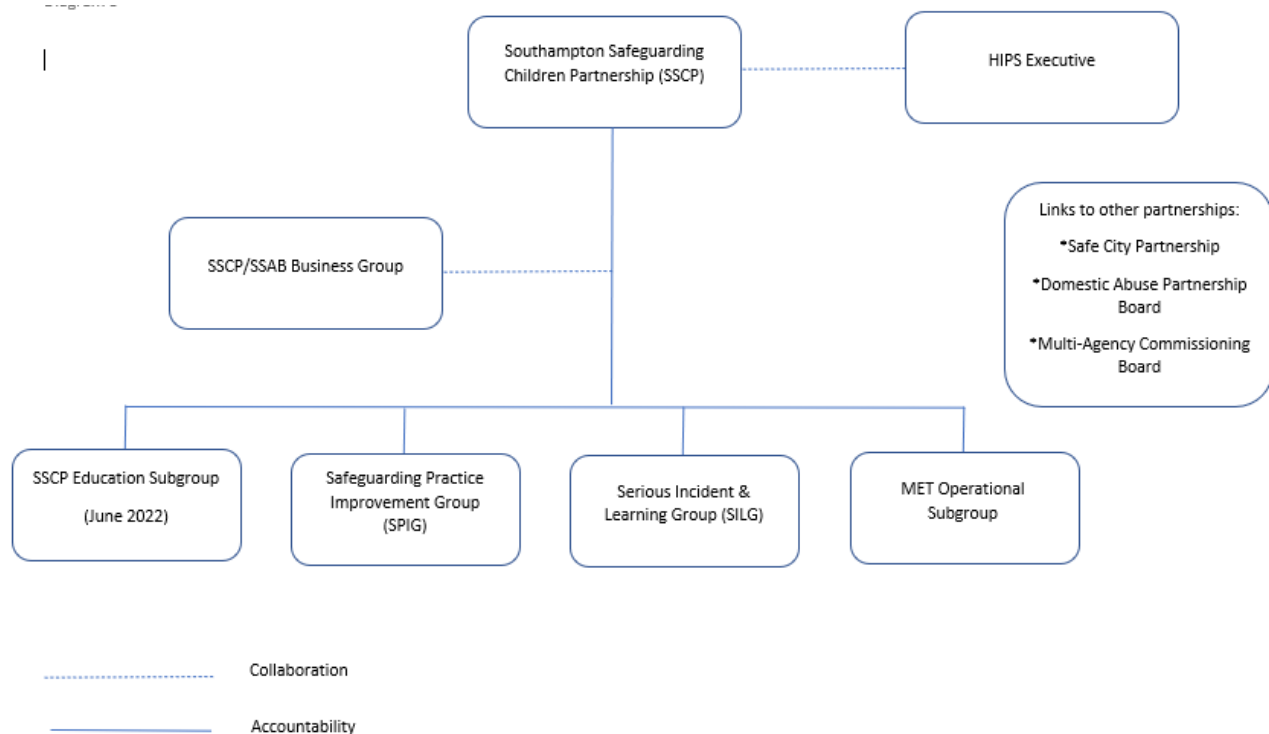
- a) All schools are named as relevant partners. Education representation at the SSCP will be provided via:
  - an agreed local authority Education Services representative for mainstream and special schools
  - Links to schools, with the independent chair and partnership team via Head Teacher Forums and Designated Safeguarding Lead
  - For academies, independent and free schools' representation via the local authority Education Services representation will be agreed.
- b) All Early Years settings will be represented via a Local Authority education / early years representative
- c) Post 16 education and training providers will be represented via a Local Authority representative
- d) NHS providers will be represented via their Chief Nurse / Head of Safeguarding
- e) Non-NHS Providers of Health Services will be represented via the ICS representative
- f) Independent Residential Units will be represented via the Local Authority and ICS representatives
- g) There are no youth custody facilities within the geographical boundaries of the partnership.
- h) The Lead Member for Children and Families (Southampton City Council) will be a participating observer of the SSCP. This includes routinely attending meetings as an observer and receiving all its written reports.
- i) The SSCP will recruit two lay members to attend meetings and provide a lay person's viewpoint
- j) The Safeguarding Partnerships team will also attend meetings.

The Southampton Safeguarding Children Partnership will form as represented in the diagram below:

## Diagram 3: Southampton Safeguarding Children Partnership

### Safeguarding Children Partnership

Diagram 3



This group meets formally four times per year. It is made up of a membership from 3 safeguarding partners and 'relevant agencies' representatives as detailed previously. The SSCP has an independent chair and scrutineer. Meetings of the partnership and its subgroups are quorate providing the three safeguarding partners are present. The Partnership is developing established links to existing children and young people forums and networks gathering views from children and families, as well as links to communities in relation to safeguarding. In addition, the links to existing Education and Early year's networks are included to ensure two-way communication directly with providers of these services.

The partnership will take a leadership role in:

- Receiving findings and recommendations from child safeguarding practice reviews and other learning reviews
- Reviewing relevant city qualitative and quantitative assurance information from local services
- Coordinating responses to local safeguarding children's issues
- Having oversight of multi-agency safeguarding children workforce development in the city
- Agreeing the local safeguarding children priority themes each calendar year
- Reviewing progress of SSCP subgroup activities
- Developing the SSCP annual report and business plans.

## Independent Scrutiny

The HIPS Safeguarding Partnerships have jointly recruited an independent chair to provide the role of Independent Scrutineer for all partnerships and the HIPS Executive. The chair will be accountable to the Chief Executives of the Local Authorities. The vice chair will be one of the three safeguarding partners. This role:

- Ensures that the partnership and subgroups operate effectively in improving the safeguarding and wellbeing outcomes of children and young people.
- Provides strong and independent leadership for the partnership, enabling the statutory safeguarding partners in each area to discharge their duties effectively
- Provides effective challenge where appropriate to the statutory partners and all relevant agencies named in the HIPS LSCPs arrangements.
- Ensures that that the local Partnerships play a constructive role within the Hampshire wide safeguarding system.
- Champions the safeguarding of children in Southampton

The chair role will fulfil the role of independent scrutineer in the following ways:

- Ensuring safeguarding performance by all agencies is rigorously reviewed and monitored by the Partnerships.
- Ensuring appropriate agency membership and attendance is achieved as set out in the respective statutory arrangements for Southampton.
- Promoting effective working relationships between agencies and individual members of the Partnership.
- Overseeing the development and monitoring of the business plans of the Partnerships.
- Overseeing the development and promote dissemination of annual reports
- Providing opportunity for joined up priorities as well as constructive challenge between SSCP and Safe City partnership, Local Safeguarding Adult Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

### Business Group

This will be a shared business group with the local Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB). This group will be chaired on rotation by the Independent Chair of the SSCP and the SSAB. The group will meet every 6 months to oversee joint strategic work and projects in the city, particular remit of this group includes a role to:

- Provide oversight for family approach project work in Southampton
- collaborate around cross cutting safeguarding issues
- Consider and contribute to developments that impact both partnerships
- Allow space for statutory partners to highlight emerging safeguarding threats and risks which impact children and adults.

## Serious Incidents and Learning Group

According to Working Together 2018, serious child safeguarding cases are those in which:

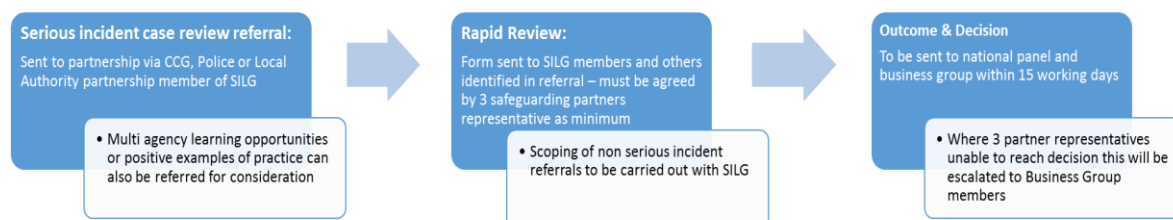
- *abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected and*
- *the child has died or been seriously harmed*

*Serious harm includes (but is not limited to) serious and/or long-term impairment of a child's mental health or intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development. It should also cover impairment of physical health. This is not an exhaustive list. When making decisions, judgment should be exercised in cases where impairment is likely to be long-term, even if this is not immediately certain. Even if a child recovers, including from a one-off incident, serious harm may still have occurred.*

A subgroup is in place in Southampton to oversee the work in this area on behalf of the safeguarding partners. This group will oversee all work relating to Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews that meet the above criteria, as well as cases that will benefit from review to improve practice or to highlight good practice. This group is chaired by the Designated Doctor for Southampton.

- Coordinate the process of case reviews from initial referral to approval and publication. This will include rapid review of serious incidents, scoping of agency involvement, decision regarding level and type of review and commissioning of reviewers, through to presentation of findings to the partnership
- Oversee improvement plans following review conclusion and publication of reviews
- Monitor the implementation of improvement and action plans in response to learning gained.

### Diagram 4 Case Review Referral Process:



Rapid Reviews in response to serious incidents follow the guidance issued by the National Panel, within 15 working days. Where possible this will be delivered via the Serious Incidents and Learning Group. Rapid review discussions (by phone or in person) will only take place if all three safeguarding partners are present.

Decisions relating to the outcome of a Rapid Review rests with the three safeguarding partners and is delegated to the representative of the Safeguarding Partner at the group. Should there be disagreement regarding decision in this and concerns require escalation due to inability to resolve at the group, the group member for each safeguarding partner will escalate this to either their own senior safeguarding partner representative or the SSCP Safeguarding Partners Executive including the Independent Chair.

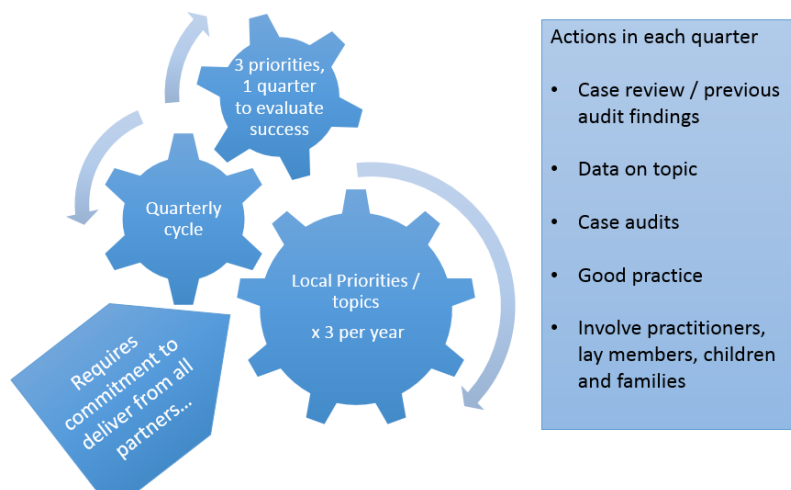
## Safeguarding Practice Improvement Group

The purpose of this group is to ensure that learning gained from self-evaluation, case reviews and audit work carried out within the partnership influences practice development and improvements to outcomes for children in Southampton. This group is chaired by the Head of Service for Quality Assurance in Children and Families Service, Southampton City Council, with core membership representing the three safeguarding partners and relevant agencies as agreed in the terms of reference for this group.

The group utilises a 'learning hub' approach focussing on priority themes agreed by the SSCP at the start of each financial year. These are addressed in focussed activity delivered by the group, for each theme including:

- Scoping of existing work and information, including learning and data related to the theme.
- Case audit work as needed on the theme
- Gaining feedback from children, families, professionals and communities
- Agreeing recommendations for further work on the topic with the SSCP to ensure learning is acted upon.

## Diagram 5 Local Learning and Assurance:



In addition, this group has oversight of the Keeping Children Safe, Self Organisation Self-Assessment (section 11) work for Southampton services and the HIPS Keeping Children Safe section 11 activity for cross border partner agencies.

This group reviews key safeguarding data on priority themes as part of its 'learning hub' approach, and considers safeguarding data as supplied to the group as agreed as part of the SSCP quarterly data set.

### (Southampton) Operational Child Exploitation Group

This group will coordinate local operational service responses to child exploitation – including those at risk of going missing from home or care, those at risk of exploitation, including County Lines and those at risk of being trafficked. It will feed issues of cross county interest for consideration directly to the HIPS Child Exploitation Group, with regular direct reporting of local trends and issues to the SSCP. This group is chaired and coordinated by the Local Authority and includes membership of relevant operational services including the three safeguarding partners.

### Multi-Agency Safeguarding Workforce Development

Working Together 2018 states that “the three safeguarding partners should consider what training is needed locally and how they will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of any training they commission”.

The SSCP will ensure a calendar of multi-agency safeguarding training is operational using dedicated resources and coordination

Within this the work, the SSCP considers and ensures delivery of multi-agency training in terms of:

- Local learning themes from case review and audit work
- Priority themes identified by SSCP at the start of each financial year
- Voices of children, young people, and their families
- Emerging / new safeguarding themes identified nationally
- Training needs identified in multi-agency training needs analysis and linked to partnership developments, including relating to service thresholds.

Analysis of need based on each of the partners workforce evaluation and review of the training and development opportunities will take place annually. Within this there will be an assessment of the success of multi-agency training to address the priority areas that the partnership has identified through learning work. The success of the training in ensure the voice of the child and families is at the heart of local work is assessed.

In order to ensure best value and opportunity for practitioners and managers to receive training the SSCP ensures that all SSCP organised training is free at the point of delivery.

## Funding and Resources

The SSCP will be funded by the safeguarding partners using the formula agreed in the pooled budget arrangement between them. The Local Authority provides legal, communications, HR and financial support and advice to and for the SSCP where required.

The Southampton Safeguarding Partnerships Team are funded by this budget, to jointly coordinate, manage and administer the activities stated in this report for SSCP with that of the LSAB in Southampton. They are based within Southampton City Council Children and Learning Service for their line management and payroll.

For annual budget figures please see the SSCP Annual Report.



### 3. ANNUAL REPORT AND REVIEW

The SCCP publishes a report every year to ensure transparency about the safeguarding children partnership activity undertaken as described above. This details the activities undertaken by the partnership. It includes any learning from child safeguarding practice reviews undertaken and what has been done to influence practice development by the partnership. It will also include:

- evidence of the impact of the work (including training) on outcomes for children and families from early help to looked-after children and care leavers
- an analysis of progress on agreed priorities
- a record of decisions and actions to implement the recommendations of child safeguarding practice reviews, including improvements
- ways in which the partners have sought and utilised feedback from children and families to inform their work and influence service provision
- Any changes to these arrangements that are planned by the safeguarding partners.

Annual reports are published on the SSCP website and will be shared with local governance bodies for the three safeguarding partners, the Health and Wellbeing Board, Safe City Partnership, LSAB and other relevant partnerships.