

**Wandsworth Safeguarding Children
Partnership Executive
Terms of Reference
May 2022 – April 2023**



INTRODUCTION

Safeguarding for children in Wandsworth is led by three named statutory partners. Legislation states that the lead representatives from each of the three safeguarding partners are “the local authority chief executive, the accountable officer of the clinical commissioning group, and a chief officer of police” (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, p74).

The guidance allows the lead representatives to delegate their functions, although they retain accountability for any actions or decisions taken on behalf of their organisation. Each of the safeguarding partners has delegated to senior officers the authority to speak on behalf of the lead officer they represent. The delegates can make decisions on behalf of their organisation and commit them on policy, resourcing, and practice matters, and hold their own organisation to account on how effectively they participate in and implement the local arrangements.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 recognises the importance of schools and colleges in safeguarding arrangements. The Executive works closely with all the borough’s schools, further education colleges, early years providers, alternative providers, and special schools and Headteacher representatives from primary and secondary schools. On the Executive, there is one primary school place (shared between two headteachers) and one secondary school representative as Advisory Standing Members.

1. PURPOSE

1.1 The main purpose of the Wandsworth safeguarding Children Partnership is to provide the necessary oversight, leadership, and accountability of the work of the WSCP and to ensure that local arrangements are working effectively in line with Working Together 2018 guidance.

1.2 Protecting children from harm, abuse, neglect, and exploitation and promoting their welfare. Developing the arrangements for safeguarding children and the prevention and effective strategic oversight of child abuse and neglect

2. FUNCTIONS OF THE WSCP EXECUTIVE

2.1 The Executive needs assurance that the safeguarding work in the borough is effective.

The Executive will be responsible for:

- Making sure an effective quality assurance framework will provide a clear understanding of safeguarding delivery, based on the three core elements of performance data, multi-agency quality audit findings and feedback from the children and families in the borough.
- Developing and overseeing the overarching strategic aims of the Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Partnership
- Setting safeguarding priorities for the Partnership and overseeing the delivery of its local business plan
- Financial planning and resourcing of the new arrangements
- Considering wider opportunities to improve efficiency and performance, such as working in collaboration with other boroughs.
- Ensuring development and maintenance of strong links with fellow strategic boards, with a focus on joint working and a holistic approach to safeguarding. These include, the Safeguarding Adults Board, Community Safety Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- Publishing an annual report.

2.2 The Executive will be responsible for naming relevant agencies to work with the partnership. The Executive will be assured that the relevant agencies have appropriate, robust safeguarding policies and procedures in place and that there is clear communication across all parties.

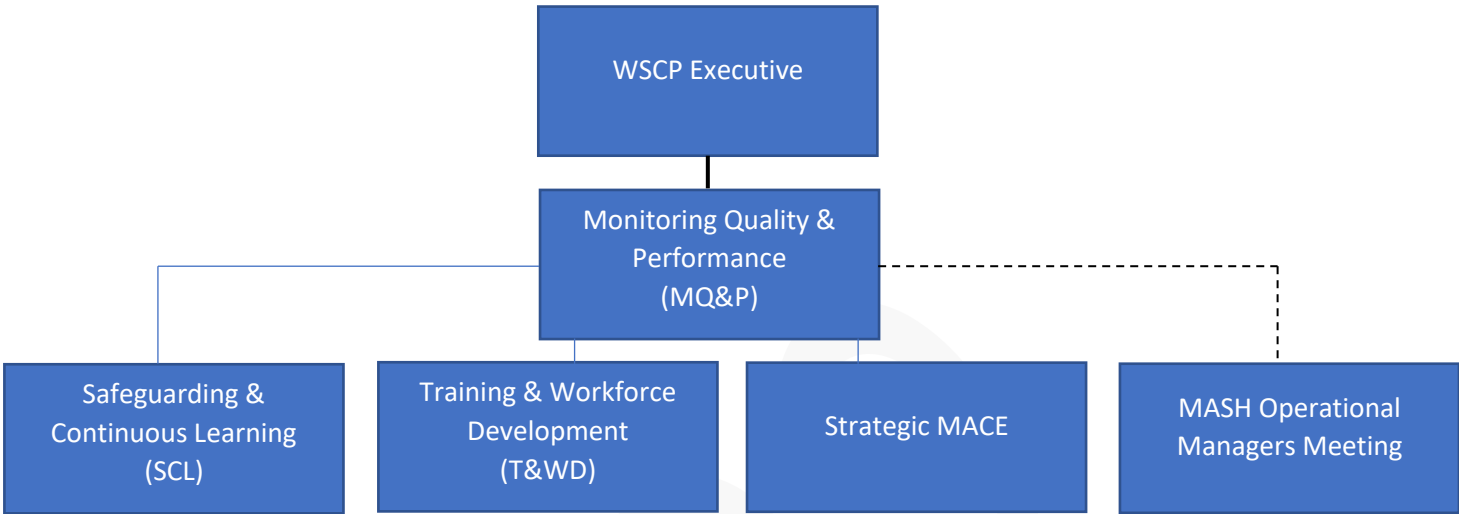
3. MEMBERSHIP

The Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive is:

Local Authority		
Mark Maidment Chief Executive Wandsworth Council	<i>authority delegated to</i>	Ana Popovici Director Childrens Services Wandsworth Council
Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG/ICS)		
Sarah Blow CCG/ICS Accountable Officer SW London CCG/ICS	<i>authority delegated to</i>	Justin Roper Director of Quality South West London Health & Care Partnership
Police		
Elisabeth Chapple BCU Commander SW London Metropolitan Police	<i>authority delegated to</i>	Andrew Wadey Detective Superintendent, Head of Public Protection Metropolitan Police
Advisory Standing Members		
Ruth Hudson Patricia Andre-Watson	Headteacher Headteacher	Co-chairs of Primary Heads Safeguarding Forums Rep
Andre Bailey	Headteacher	Chair of Secondary Schools Forum rep

4. ACCOUNTABILITY GOVERNANCE

4.1 The Executive is accountable to the Chief Executive of the Local Authority, the Chief Officer of Police, and the Accountable Officer of the Clinical Commissioning Group.



4.2 The Monitoring, Quality and Performance subcommittee will report to the Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive on a quarterly basis. All other subcommittees will report to the WSCP via the Monitoring, Quality and Performance Group, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Tasking of work from the WSCP will be via the Monitoring, Quality and Performance subcommittee which contains within its membership each of the subcommittee chairs.

4.3 The safeguarding partners and relevant agencies will be responsible for the communication of the WSCP business as required within and relevant to their individual organisations.

5. CHAIRING

5.1 The WSCP Executive will be chaired by a statutory partner on a rotational basis. It is the role of the Independent Scrutineer to bring critical challenge and appraisal to the safeguarding arrangements, including those of the relevant agencies, and this should be evident within the Executive group meetings.

6. ATTENDANCE / FREQUENCY

6.1 The Executive will meet quarterly , with fortnightly 30-minute meetings for statutory partners. Partners may be recalled for an extraordinary meeting at any stage as required.

6.2 Members of the Executive are responsible for attending regularly, this will be reported on in the WSCP annual report. Any members who fail to attend regularly will be asked to locate an interim / permanent substitute.

6.3 The WSCP will be quorate when one representative from each of the three safeguarding partners is present. In the event of a meeting not being quorate the Chair will decide whether to reconvene the meeting or proceed, mindful that decision making, and approval of papers and reports is compromised by the absence of members.

7. PROCESS

7.1 Working collaboratively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people leading to better outcomes is at the heart of our local arrangements. Wandsworth's children and families have a system which responds to their needs and interests. This is a system where the people who work with, or make decisions affecting, children and families are clear about what is required of them as individuals, and how they need to work together in partnership with others.

8. DECISIONS AND ESCALATION MAKING / DISPUTE RESOLUTION

8.1 Through effective leadership, openness, transparency and professional challenge, there is a commitment to resolving any disputes locally between the safeguarding partners, selected relevant agencies and other organisations and agencies in a timely fashion.

8.2 Where there is no consensus between the statutory partners, based on the best interests of children, then the final decision will be reached by way of voting on a simple majority, with each of the three safeguarding partners having one vote.

8.3 In exceptional circumstances, where consensus cannot be reached, issues can be exculpated to the chief accountable officers of the statutory partners

9. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

9.1 All Executive members must declare at the start of the meeting any issue that may present as conflict of interest e.g., where bias may affect decision making, member representing and having scrutinising role for their own agency, lack of independence. In such situations the conflict will be recorded for the minutes and the panel/chair if not person in question will agree how to progress and mitigate against the conflict.

10. VOICE OF THE CHILD

10.1 Safeguarding children is every body’s priority and the voice of the child is centre to the work and therefore the executive through the participation lead will receive feedback from children and young people and seek advice through focused strategic items.

11. ANTI-RACIST / DISPROPORTIONATE PRACTICE - EQUALITY /DIVERSITY

11.1 The Executive and all sub committees will address and reassure each other what is happening in each agency and as a partnership will act as appropriate

12. REVIEW

12.1 These arrangements will be reviewed annually, and the next review is May 2023

13. BUSINESS PROCESS

13.1 The business team is responsible for all aspects of administration to ensure smooth running of the partnership. Additional resources to be identified, as necessary. Meetings will be recorded, and minutes of the meeting, agenda, and papers will be circulated to all members following each meeting for consideration at the next meeting.

14. EXPECTATION OF MEMBERS

- To prepare for the meeting by reading the papers in advance.
- To bring copy of papers distributed prior to the meeting.
- Send papers and reports in a timely manner for inclusion in the agenda
- To attend all meetings, but when unable to attend, to send apologies in advance and arrange an appropriate deputy to attend
- Follow up actions arising from meetings in a timely way.
- Keep up to date with relevant research, policy, and legislative changes

Date Signed off: 10th May 2022

Date for review: May 2023