



Lambeth
Safeguarding
Children
Partnership

Safeguarding Arrangements

Lambeth Safeguarding Children Partnership

2023/2024

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Issue Date	Review Date	The LSCP Executive
Version1 Jan 2024	<p style="color: red;">Pending consultation and revisions to statutory guidance (Working Together 2023)</p>	<p>Corporate Director of Children's Services Lambeth. Chief Nurse (NHS South East London) Central South BCU Commander (The Metropolitan Police) Director of Education (Lambeth Council)</p>

Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSP)

Interim CEO

Lambeth Council

Corporate Director of Children's

Lambeth

CEO

NHS SEL ICB

Commander

Central South BCU (MPS)

Independent Safeguarding Children and Young People's Commissioner

1 Introduction

1.1 The Lambeth Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) was created under the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017) and follows the national guidance provided in "Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018." The LSCP brings together key agencies and organisations in Lambeth to protect children. It outlines how these partners collaborate to safeguard children, including how they:

- Identify and respond to children's needs.
- Conduct and publish reviews of child safeguarding practices.
- Ensure independent oversight and scrutiny of safeguarding work.

1.2 These arrangements are specifically tailored to Lambeth, providing a clear local focus on child protection. It's important to note that some partners, like the South East London Clinical Commissioning Group (which oversees health services across a number of boroughs) and the Metropolitan Police Service's Central South Basic Command Unit have broader responsibilities beyond Lambeth.

2 Vision of the LSCP

2.1 To ensure that all children in Lambeth are seen, heard, and helped; effectively safeguarded and properly supported so that their lives are improved by everyone working together.

Guiding Principles of the LSCP

2.2 The Lambeth Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) is dedicated to collaborating with partners to enhance the safety and well-being of children. This commitment involves:

- **Protection from harm:** Shielding children from abuse and neglect.
- **Healthy development:** Preventing impairment to their physical and emotional development.
- **Effective care:** Ensuring they receive safe and effective care.
- **Nurturing environment:** Providing a secure and supportive environment for them to thrive.

Every Child Seen, Heard, and Helped

2.3 The LSCP believes that safeguarding children should be a central priority for everyone working with them in Lambeth. This means ensuring every child is:

- **Seen:** Understood within the full context of their lives, including their home, family, relationships, health, education, and social environments (both online and offline).
- **Heard:** Professionals actively listen to children and young people, empathize with their perspectives, and strive to understand their lived experiences.
- **Helped:** Professionals remain curious and responsive to children's needs, implementing timely, effective, and creative solutions to enhance their safety and well-being.

Core Principles Underpinning Our Work

2.4 The LSCP aims to ensure that safeguarding practices and outcomes for children

are consistently good. This requires all staff and volunteers, across all agencies and levels, to understand their role in child protection and communicate effectively.

Our work is guided by these key principles:

- **Shared Responsibility:** Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. The LSCP champions the most vulnerable children and promotes a unified child-centered culture.
- **Crucial Context:** The LSCP maintains a steadfast focus on understanding both family-related (intra-familial) and external (extra-familial) safeguarding concerns within Lambeth.
- **Active Anti-Racism:** The LSCP is committed to anti-racist practice. This commitment goes beyond words and is reflected in our leadership, practices, and outcomes for children, young people, and families.
- **Child and Family Voice:** The LSCP actively engages with children, young people, and their families, valuing their lived experiences to shape our work and improve our safeguarding arrangements.
- **Community Voice:** The LSCP seeks to understand the diverse communities within Lambeth. We regularly communicate with, listen to, and involve local communities in our work, using their insights to inform and enhance our safeguarding efforts.
- **High-Quality Practice:** The LSCP promotes awareness, enhances knowledge, and encourages a culture of constructive professional challenge to ensure high-quality safeguarding practice.
- **Continuous Improvement:** The LSCP fosters a culture of transparency, learning, and continuous improvement. We learn from children's lived experiences and strive to enhance the quality of multi-agency safeguarding

practices.

3 The LSCP's Commitment to Active Anti-Racism

3.1 The Lambeth Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) unequivocally condemns racism in all its forms. We acknowledge the historical and ongoing impact of racism on Black and Global Majority children and families. For far too long, they have faced disproportionate challenges and systemic inequalities in various areas of life, including education, health, social care, and the justice system. This is unacceptable and must change.

3.2 The LSCP is committed to not only being anti-racist but actively anti-racist. This means actively working to dismantle systemic racism, discrimination, and injustice within our multi-agency system. We believe this is crucial to effectively safeguarding all children and young people in Lambeth.

3.3 Our commitment to active anti-racism will be demonstrated through:

- **Leadership:** Our collective leadership will model anti-racist values and promote a working culture that prioritizes equity and inclusion.
- **Strategies and Decisions:** Our strategies, decisions, and recruitment practices will reflect our commitment to anti-racism.
- **Staff and Volunteers:** Our staff and volunteers will be expected to demonstrate anti-racist behaviours, set a positive example, and challenge any form of discrimination.

3.4 Our ultimate goal is to create tangible change that goes beyond words. Through continuous improvement and a persistent focus on challenging inequality, we aim to ensure that Black and Global Majority children and families experience a real and positive difference in their interactions with our services.

4 The Purpose of the LSCP

4.1 The purpose of our safeguarding arrangements, as set out in Working Together 2018 under (Chapter 3, para 3), is to support and enable local organisations and agencies to worktogether in a system where:

- Children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted.
- Partner organisations and agencies collaborate, share, and co-own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children.
- Organisations and agencies challenge appropriately and hold one another to account 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 accurate and timely decision making for children and families.

4.2 Working Together 2018 also sets out that the safeguarding partners, with other local organisations and agencies, should develop processes that:

- Facilitate and drive action beyond usual institutional and agency constraints and

boundaries.

- Ensure the effective protection of children is founded on practitioners developing lasting and trusting relationships with children and their families.

4.3 To achieve the best possible outcomes, children and families should receive targeted services that meet their needs in a co-ordinated way. The responsibility for this join-up locally rests with the statutory safeguarding partners of the LSCP 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.

5 The Safeguarding Partners

5.1 The organisations responsible for safeguarding children in Lambeth work together under the Lambeth Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP). These partners collaborate to:

- Coordinate safeguarding services.
- Provide strategic leadership and engage others.
- Implement local and national learning from safeguarding practice.

Who are the Safeguarding Partners?

5.2 The official safeguarding partners in Lambeth are:

- **Lambeth Council**
- **South East London Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)**
- **Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)**

Leadership and Representation

5.3 Each partner organisation has appointed a senior leader as their Lead Representative for safeguarding:

- **Lambeth Council: Interim Chief Executive**
- **NHS SEL ICB: CEO Designate**
- **MPS: Commander of the Central South Basic Command Unit**

5.4 These Lead Representatives play an active role in the LSCP, meeting formally twice a year to oversee progress and address key safeguarding risks. They are accountable for their organisation's actions and decisions related to safeguarding.

5.5 To ensure effective day-to-day participation in the LSCP, each Lead Representative has also appointed a senior officer as their delegate. These delegates form the **LSCP Executive**, which includes:

- **Lambeth Council: Corporate Director of Children's Services and Director of Education**
- **NHS SE London CCG: A designated senior representative**
- **MPS: Commander (Central South BCU)**

5.6 Both Lead Representatives and their delegates have the authority to:

- **Speak on behalf of their organisation.**
- **Make decisions on policy, resources, and practice.**

- **Hold their organisation accountable for implementing safeguarding arrangements.**
- **Working Together Across Agencies**

5.7 The LSCP Executive works closely with other multi-agency forums in Lambeth, such as the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Safer Lambeth Partnership. This collaboration ensures a joined-up approach to safeguarding children and promoting their well-being.

5.8 When single-point leadership is needed on a specific safeguarding issue, the LSCP Executive decides which partner will take the lead. Any disagreements that cannot be resolved at the Executive level are escalated to the Lead Representatives.

5.9 It's important to remember that all departments within these partner organisations, not just those with a specific focus on children and young people, have a responsibility to cooperate with these safeguarding arrangements.

6 Geographic Area

6.1 The geographic footprint covered by the LSCP is defined by the boundaries of the London Borough of Lambeth.

6.2 It may also be necessary for partners to work with another area's arrangements, for example during a child safeguarding practice review commissioned by another

area. Operationally, the London Child Protection Procedures include guidance for circumstances where a child and / or their family is living in another area or moving between areas.

7 Relevant Agencies

7.1 Safeguarding partners are obliged to set out which agencies are required to work as part of the LSCP's arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children. These agencies are referred to as *relevant agencies* and have a statutory duty to cooperate with the LSCP's published arrangements.

7.2 A defined number of relevant agencies will meet regularly with safeguarding partners through the **Lambeth Safeguarding Children Partnership**.

7.3 The relevant agencies to which the LSCP's safeguarding arrangements apply includes all those agencies defined in [part 4 of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Relevant Agency \(England\) Regulations 2018](#) (Appendix 1). They include:

- Hospitals NHS Foundation Trusts
- All schools (including independent schools, academies, and free schools), colleges and other educational providers.
- The Probation Service (London Division)
- Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)
- Voluntary Services (HCVS)

- London Ambulance Service (LAS)
- London Fire Brigade (LFB)
- NHS England
- All registered charities within the geographic area of the LSCP whose staff / volunteers work with or come into contact with children and their families.

7.4 It is important to note that all services and departments within safeguarding partner agencies also have a responsibility to cooperate in the context of these arrangements.

8 Schools, Colleges, Educational and Early Years Settings

8.1 The Lambeth Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) emphasises the crucial role of all educational settings in safeguarding and promoting the well-being of children and young people. This includes:

- Independent schools
- Academies
- Free schools
- Colleges
- Early years settings

8.2 These settings are designated as 'relevant agencies' within the LSCP's safeguarding framework and are legally obligated to collaborate with safeguarding partners. To ensure full engagement and contribution, the LSCP has implemented

the following:

- **Leadership Involvement:** The Director of Lambeth’s Education serves as a permanent member of the LSCP Executive, providing expert insight into safeguarding practices within the education sector.
- **Support and Collaboration:** Schools and Children’s Centres in Lambeth receive ongoing support through the Designated Safeguarding Leads Forum, Head Teacher briefings, and the Education Safeguarding Advisory Committee. Private, Voluntary, and Independent Early Years settings benefit from dedicated support and forums.
- **Active Participation:** Educational settings are actively involved in the LSCP’s Learning and Improvement Framework and other relevant activities, including representation in LSCP Sub-Groups and Thematic Groups.
- **Comprehensive Resources:** A range of support and services is available for schools and colleges [[link to resources HERE](#)].

9 Named Organisations

9.1 Safeguarding partners can also include in their arrangements any other organisation not named in the relevant agency regulations. Whilst not under the same statutory duty, there remains an expectation of cooperation, with compliance being supported by defined legal powers. For example, [Section 16H of the Children Act 2004](#) contains a wider power exercisable by the safeguarding partners to

request a '*person or body*' to provide information to them¹. There is no limitation or definition of '*person or body*' therefore the request can be made to anyone.

9.2 Local organisations named by the LSCP are set out in Appendix 2 and include:

- All Out of School Settings (OOSS) providing tuition, training, instruction or activities without the supervision of parents or carers.
- Social Housing providers

10 Independent Scrutiny: Ensuring Effective Safeguarding in Lambeth

10.1 The Lambeth Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) prioritises robust independent scrutiny of its safeguarding arrangements, recognising its vital role in driving continuous improvement and achieving positive outcomes for children and young people. This commitment aligns with the principles outlined in Working Together 2018.

Key Foundations

10.2 The LSCP's approach to independent scrutiny rests on two core principles:

- Effective multi-agency working requires active coordination and independent challenge. It cannot be assumed that collaboration will occur naturally.
- Independent scrutiny is embedded within the LSCP's operational culture,

¹ pursuant to enabling or assisting the performance of functions conferred to safeguarding partners by [Section 16E of the Children Act 2004](#), i.e. to assist safeguarding partners to make arrangements to safeguard children and work together to identify and respond to the needs of children.

encouraging cross-agency challenge and support for continuous improvement.

This local scrutiny complements the broader system of independent inspections conducted by relevant authorities.

Focus on Outcomes

10.3 Independent scrutiny in Lambeth focuses on achieving positive and safe outcomes for children and young people through the following mechanisms:

- **External Inspection and Improvement:** Agencies undergo external inspections and actively address any findings and recommendations to enhance their safeguarding practices.
- **Empowered Independent Commissioner:** An Independent Safeguarding Children and Young People's Commissioner (ISCYPC) is appointed by safeguarding partners with the authority to coordinate independent scrutiny of local safeguarding arrangements. This includes granting the ISCYPC unrestricted access to relevant information and the freedom to assess the effectiveness of the LSCP's safeguarding measures.
- **Independent Leadership:** The ISCYPC provides independent leadership through active engagement, commentary, and advocacy on local safeguarding matters.
- **Accountability:** The ISCYPC holds both safeguarding partners and relevant agencies accountable for their effectiveness in safeguarding children and young people, ensuring alignment with statutory arrangements for safeguarding adult boards.

- **Integrated Oversight:** The ISCYPC actively engages with statutory safeguarding partners in routine meetings, chairs the LSCP Executive to ensure independent oversight, and chairs the Safeguarding Children Partnership Boards to hold relevant agencies accountable for their performance against defined priorities.
- **Independent Case Review:** The ISCYPC chairs the Case Review Sub-Group to ensure independent decision-making regarding the initiation and oversight of case reviews.
- **Dedicated Support:** A Professional Advisor (ProfAd) is appointed by safeguarding partners to lead the LSCP support team on behalf of the ISCYPC.
- **Annual Assessment and Reporting:** The ISCYPC provides an objective and independent assessment of the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements through an annual reporting cycle.
- **Dispute Resolution:** The ISCYPC is actively involved in resolving operational disputes through the LSCP's escalation process.
- **Collaborative Networks:** Safeguarding partners, relevant agencies, and the ISCYPC work together to strengthen networks and create opportunities for local peer review and sector-led support. This includes seeking independent support from other local authorities and organisations like the Local Government Association and the pan-London Safeguarding Children Partnership.
- **Commissioned External Scrutiny:** The LSCP commissions external scrutiny as part of its Learning and Improvement Framework to provide independent assurance on the quality of safeguarding practices.
- **Strategic Oversight:** A Scrutiny Oversight Panel (SoP), chaired by the ISCYPC, meets twice yearly to provide strategic insight, collective oversight, and

coordination of all scrutiny activities related to safeguarding children in Lambeth.

11 Lead Members

11.1 Lead Members will maintain their active involvement in the Lambeth Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP). They will participate in Safeguarding Children Partnership Board meetings alongside safeguarding partners and relevant agencies as 'participant observers' without voting rights.

12 Lay Member Participation in Safeguarding

12.1 Lay members play a valuable role in the Safeguarding Children Partnership Boards. Their involvement strengthens the connection between the Lambeth Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) and local communities. They contribute by:

- **Building bridges:** Facilitating stronger links between the LSCP and community groups.
- **Encouraging public engagement:** Promoting greater public involvement in child safety issues within the community.
- **Raising awareness:** Improving public understanding of local safeguarding arrangements.

13 The LSCP Structure

13.1 The structural arrangements supporting the LSCP have been developed to ensure that strategy can swiftly translate into the tangible actions required to maintain and improve local safeguarding practice.

Lead Representatives - Maintaining Oversight and Accountability

13.2 To ensure ongoing oversight and accountability in safeguarding, key leaders will participate in Safeguarding Reassurance Meetings at least twice per year. These meetings, chaired by the Independent Safeguarding Children and Young People's Commissioner (ISCYPC), will provide a platform for:

- **Strategic Oversight:** Leaders with statutory responsibility for safeguarding children will remain informed about key areas of progress and risk within the safeguarding system.
- **Direct Communication:** The ISCYPC will chair these meetings and maintain regular contact with safeguarding partners through one-on-one sessions to facilitate ongoing dialogue and address any emerging concerns.

13.3 This structure ensures continuous communication and collaboration among key stakeholders, promoting a proactive and responsive approach to safeguarding children in Lambeth.

The LSCP Executive: Leading Safeguarding in Lambeth

13.4 The LSCP Executive plays a crucial role in overseeing and directing safeguarding efforts in Lambeth. Here's a summary of its key functions:

- **Membership:** The Executive is composed of lead representatives or

- designated delegates from the statutory safeguarding partners.
- **Meeting Frequency:** The Executive convenes at least four times per year to ensure ongoing collaboration and oversight.
 - **Independent Leadership:** The Independent Safeguarding Children and Young People's Commissioner (ISCYPC) provides impartial leadership by chairing the Executive. A rotating representative from one of the safeguarding partners serves as Vice-Chair, with the position changing annually.
 - **Strategic Direction:** The Executive is responsible for fulfilling statutory and local safeguarding requirements. It provides overarching leadership, develops strategies, and establishes a robust governance framework for the LSCP's safeguarding arrangements.
 - **Planning and Monitoring:** The Executive leads the development of the partnership's business plan, setting priorities, monitoring progress through formal updates, and maintaining a risk register to proactively address potential challenges.

13.5 This structure ensures that the LSCP Executive operates with a clear focus on accountability, strategic planning, and effective implementation of safeguarding measures.

The Safeguarding Children Partnership Board: Collaborative Action in Lambeth

13.6 The Safeguarding Children Partnership Boards in Lambeth serve as vital forums for collaboration and action on child protection issues. Here's a summary of their key functions:

- **Diverse Membership:** The Boards bring together representatives from

- safeguarding partners, relevant agencies, and designated professionals, ensuring a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach to safeguarding.
- **Inclusive Participation:** To address specific concerns or areas of expertise, other relevant agencies are invited to participate in the Boards as needed.
 - **Regular Meetings:** The Boards meet at least once every three months to maintain momentum and address emerging challenges.
 - **Independent Leadership:** Similar to the Executive, the Independent Safeguarding Children and Young People's Commissioner (ISCYPC) chairs the Boards to ensure impartiality, with a rotating representative from a safeguarding partner acting as Vice-Chair.
 - **Operational Focus:** The Safeguarding Children Partnership Boards are responsible for putting the LSCP business plan into action and mitigating any identified risks, ensuring that safeguarding strategies translate into effective practice.

13.7 This framework ensures that the Safeguarding Children Partnership Boards function as dynamic and responsive bodies, driving collaborative action and promoting the safety and well-being of children in Lambeth.

Subgroups / Thematic Groups / Task & Finish Groups

13.8 .. Safeguarding partners will create (and dissolve) sub-groups as necessary. Safeguarding partners will also create (and dissolve) thematic or 'task and finish' groups to manage key pieces of development work. The LSCP will operate with the following core subgroups:

- Case Review

- Performance, Challenge and Impact
- Learning & Improvement
- Education Safeguarding Advisory Committee
- Contextual Safeguarding Strategic Oversight Group
- MASH Strategic Oversight Group
- Early Help

13.9 Each group will work to agreed terms of reference and be chaired by a safeguarding partner representative, the ISCYPC or the ProfAd. The frequency of meetings will depend upon the nature of the work being undertaken, but it is generally expected that groups will meet between six to eight times a year and no less than three.

14 Funding

14.1 Funding arrangements for the LSCP are reviewed and set annually by safeguarding partners.

15 Annual Reporting: Transparency and Accountability in Safeguarding

15.1 Safeguarding partners are accountable for producing and publishing a comprehensive annual report that provides transparency and demonstrates the effectiveness of their safeguarding arrangements. This report will align with the

improvement recommendations from the What Works Centre and the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel.

15.2 Key areas covered in the report:

- **Impact and Effectiveness:** The report will present evidence of the impact of the Children's Safeguarding Partnership's work, including training initiatives, on outcomes for children and families across the spectrum of needs, from early help to looked-after children and care leavers.
- **Progress on Priorities:** It will include an analysis of areas where progress on agreed priorities has been limited or absent, allowing for critical reflection and adjustments to strategies.
- **Implementation of Recommendations:** The report will document decisions and actions taken (or planned) to implement recommendations from local and national child safeguarding practice reviews, highlighting any resulting improvements in practice.
- **Feedback from Children and Families:** It will demonstrate how partners have actively sought and used feedback from children and families to inform their work and shape service provision, ensuring that their voices are central to safeguarding efforts.

16 Learning and Improvement Framework

16.1 The Lambeth Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) utilises a comprehensive learning and improvement framework to ensure that all agencies understand their safeguarding responsibilities, learn from past experiences, and continuously enhance their practices.

Oversight and Transparency:

16.2 The Independent Safeguarding Children and Young People's Commissioner (ISCYPC) oversees the implementation of this framework through the Performance, Challenge and Impact Group. This approach guarantees transparency in the analysis of key safeguarding information, facilitating meaningful challenge and driving improvements in performance and practice.

Key Components

16.3 The framework incorporates a variety of elements to achieve its objectives:

- **Child, Family, and Community Voice:** Actively capturing and incorporating the perspectives of children, families, and the wider community.
- **Practice Reviews:** Learning from in-depth reviews of safeguarding practice.
- **Auditing:** Conducting audits to assess the effectiveness of safeguarding measures.
- **Data and Intelligence:** Utilising data and intelligence to monitor performance and identify areas for improvement.
- **Frontline Insights:** Gathering and valuing intelligence from frontline practitioners.

- External Learning: Drawing on external learning and best practices to enhance local safeguarding efforts.

17 Capturing Voices: Informing and Improving Safeguarding Practice

17.1 Effective learning in safeguarding relies on capturing the insights and experiences of those directly or indirectly involved with local services. This valuable intelligence informs and enhances safeguarding practices.

Leveraging Existing Information:

17.2 Recognising that safeguarding partners and relevant agencies already gather a wealth of information from children, young people, families, and communities, the LSCP will avoid duplication. Instead, it will systematically collect and analyse this existing intelligence to shape the design and delivery of services related to safeguarding children and young people.

Understanding Lived Experiences:

17.3 Central to this approach is understanding the perspectives of children and families. The LSCP seeks to learn what could have made a positive difference in their lives had agencies operated differently, as well as identifying and sustaining effective practices.

Collaborative Engagement:

17.4 All organisations involved in these safeguarding arrangements are expected to facilitate access to children and young people for any targeted engagement activities approved by the LSCP. This collaborative approach ensures that the

voices of children and families are heard and contribute to ongoing improvements in safeguarding.

18 Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

Identification and Notification of Incidents

18.1 The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (the Panel) must be notified by a local authority when it is known or suspected that a child has been abused or neglected and either:

- the child dies or is seriously harmed in the local authority's area, or
- while normally resident in the local authority's area, the child dies or is seriously harmed outside England.

18.2 The duty to notify the Panel rests with the Lambeth Council. However, any person or organisation with statutory or official duties or responsibilities relating to children can recommend a case be considered for a child safeguarding practice review.

18.3 The relevant local authority must notify the Panel of any incident that meets the notification criteria within five working days of becoming aware that the incident has occurred. Notification will be undertaken using the approved online notification process.

18.4 The LSCP ISCYPC will facilitate collective agreement on cases that are brought forward as a potential Serious Incident Notification.

18.5 The local authority will also report the event to all the safeguarding partners in their

area (and in other areas if appropriate), the LSCP support team and the ISCYPC within five working days.

18.6 The local authority must notify the Secretary of State and Ofsted where a looked after child has died, whether or not abuse or neglect is known or suspected.

The Rapid Review

18.7 Following formal notification to the Panel or the raising of a case for consideration by another agency, the LSCP's ProfAd will lead on the completion of a Rapid Review. The Rapid Review will be overseen by the ISCYPC. The ISCYPC has locally delegated authority from the safeguarding partners to independently determine whether a local child safeguarding practice should be instigated. Safeguarding partners ratify the decision of the ISCYPC. These arrangements promote a system that maintains transparency at its heart, without diluting the statutory accountability of safeguarding partners.

18.8 If a child or young person has died, the Rapid Review process may form part of the Joint Agency Response (JAR) meeting held following the unexpected death of a child. This will only take place where the SPA is chairing the JAR meeting.

18.9 The Rapid Review will address the following:

- The facts about the case, as far as they can be readily established at the time.
- Whether there is any immediate action needed to ensure children's safety and share any learning appropriately.

- The potential for identifying improvements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- What steps they should take next, including whether or not to undertake a child safeguarding practice review.

18.10 The content of the Rapid Review will be agreed by the ISCYPC, shared with safeguarding partners and submitted to the Panel within 15 working days. The Rapid Review will include the decision about whether a local child safeguarding practice review is appropriate. It will set out an opinion as to whether a national review may be appropriate.

18.11 Any disagreements about the decision to instigate a review will be managed via an extraordinary meeting of the LSCP and safeguarding partners. Where one or more safeguarding partner disagrees with the decision to instigate a review, this will be managed via an extraordinary meeting with the ISCYPC and the LSCP Executive. This meeting will be held within the 15-day timescale for submitting the Rapid Review report to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel.

Guidance on decision making

18.12 In determining whether or not a local child safeguarding practice review is required, the following criteria must be considered:

- The case highlights or may highlight improvements needed to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, including where those improvements have been previously identified.
- The case highlights or may highlight recurrent themes in the safeguarding and

promotion of the welfare of children.

- The case highlights or may highlight concerns regarding two or more organisations or agencies working together effectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- The case is one which the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel have considered and concluded a local review may be more appropriate.

18.13 The following circumstances should also be considered:

- Where the safeguarding partners have cause for concern about the actions of a single agency.
- Where there has been no agency involvement, and this gives the safeguarding partners cause for concern.
- Where more than one local authority, police area or clinical commissioning group is involved, including in cases where families have moved around.
- Where the case may raise issues relating to safeguarding or promoting the welfare of children in institutional settings².

18.14 Some cases may not meet the definition of a 'serious child safeguarding case', but nevertheless raise issues of importance to the Lambeth. This might include cases where there has been good practice, poor practice or where there have been '*near-miss*' events. In these or other circumstances, whilst a notification is not needed, a local child safeguarding practice review can be initiated. Such cases can be

² Includes children's homes (including secure children's homes) and other settings with residential provision for children; custodial settings where a child is held, including police custody, young offender institutions and secure training centres; and all settings where detention of a child takes place, including under the Mental Health Act 1983 or the Mental Capacity Act 2005

brought to the attention of the Case Review Sub Group by submitting a *case for consideration* form.

The Panel Response to the Rapid Review

18.15 The response of the Panel to the Rapid Review will be reported back to the ISCYPC and safeguarding partners. Should the Panel disagree with the decision of the Rapid Review, the ISCYPC and safeguarding partners will consider the Panel's rationale and review the initial decision.

Engaging the Child / Family

18.16 The outcome and rationale for any decision on whether or not to conduct a local child safeguarding practice review will be communicated in writing to the child/family concerned by the LSCP support team. Where possible this will also be provided in person through the practitioner currently working with the family (social worker/police officer).

18.17 Where there are ongoing criminal investigations or pending criminal proceedings, the decision about how and when to notify the family needs to involve both the police and the Crown Prosecution Service as appropriate.

Timescales

18.18 Reviews will be completed and published within six months unless there are extenuating circumstances such as an ongoing criminal investigation, inquest, or future prosecution.

18.19 Any delay to the completion or publication of a review recommended will be approved by the ISCYPC and LSCP Executive. The reasons will be notified to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and Secretary of State.

Publication

18.20 Where publishable, final reports should be sent to the Panel, the Secretary of State for Education and Ofsted no later than seven working days before publication.

18.21 In some circumstances, it may be inappropriate to publish a review report. In such circumstances. The ISCYPC will set out for the Panel and Secretary of State the justification for any decision not to publish either the full report or information relating to improvements.

18.22 Publication of local child safeguarding practice review will be via the LSCP's website. The report will also be submitted to the NSPCC's national case review repository, where case reviews remain available electronically for five years.

Embedding Learning: Cultivating a Culture of Continuous Improvement

18.23 Sharing and embedding learning is essential for fostering a culture of continuous improvement in safeguarding. Senior leaders across all organisations are expected to champion this culture, ensuring that key learning is effectively disseminated and integrated into the daily practices of frontline staff.

Mechanisms for Delivering Learning:

18.24 The LSCP employs a variety of methods to share and embed learning:

- **Formal Training:** The LSCP training programme and annual conference provide structured learning opportunities. This is complemented by single-agency training sessions that address specific needs.
- **Communication and Engagement:** Regular newsletters, LSCP briefings, and single-agency briefings keep stakeholders informed. Targeted campaigns and promotional materials raise awareness about key safeguarding issues. The LSCP also utilises its website and social media platforms to disseminate information and engage with the wider community.
- **Sharing of Findings and Best Practices:** The LSCP publishes reviews and hosts learning seminars to share insights and best practices. The annual report provides a comprehensive overview of progress and learning.
- **Policy and Practice Development:** Learning is embedded into policy and protocol development, ensuring that safeguarding practices are continuously refined.
- **Reflective Practice:** Reflective practice and supervision of staff and volunteers are encouraged to promote critical thinking and continuous learning.
- **Team-Based Implementation:** Service team meetings focus on how identified improvements will be implemented, ensuring that learning translates into tangible changes in practice.

19 Auditing

19.1 Having a systematic auditing process in place allows the LSCP to monitor the quality

of practice and judge where there is a need to target areas for development. Auditing provides one of the best learning opportunities for both workers and organisations. It both assesses and measures the quality of professional practice and tests:

- Whether the child / young person's voice has been heard through intervention.
- Whether multi-agency practice is making a difference for children, young people, and their families.
- Whether practice is actively anti-racist and demonstrates practitioners recognising racism, doing something about it, improving outcomes for children and identifying whether any further response is needed.
- Whether or not what is happening ought to be happening
- Whether current practice meets required standards, procedures, and published guidelines
- Whether current evidence about good practice is being applied.

19.2 As a minimum, the LSCP will engage the following auditing processes:

Multi-Agency Case Audits: Driving Improvement through Collaborative Review

19.3 Multi-Agency Case Audits (MACAs) are a vital tool for identifying key learning points and informing the Lambeth Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) about the effectiveness of frontline safeguarding practices.

Continuous Process:

19.4 The LSCP maintains an ongoing MACA programme throughout the year. These audits are formally scheduled and involve a multi-agency team reviewing several cases or themes using a structured approach. The selection of themes is guided by local intelligence, including professional knowledge and feedback from children, families, and communities, to pinpoint potential areas for improvement.

Collaborative and Child-Centred:

19.5 MACAs actively involve frontline practitioners, managers, and, wherever possible, parents and young people. The process focuses on the child's lived experience and the quality and impact of interventions. It incorporates "appreciative elements" to highlight both successful practices and areas requiring action.

Sharing Learning and Recommendations:

19.6 Key lessons and recommendations for practice improvement identified through MACAs are reported to safeguarding partners and relevant agencies via the Performance, Challenge and Impact Sub-Group, ensuring that learning translates into concrete action.

19.7 This systematic approach to case audit ensures that the LSCP remains informed about frontline practice, learns from both successes and challenges, and continuously strives to improve outcomes for children and young people.

Single-Agency Audits

19.8 Multi-agency audits are complimentary to single agency case auditing undertaken

by safeguarding partners and relevant agencies as part of their internal assurance processes. Relevant findings and recommendations are reported to the Performance, Challenge and Impact Sub-Group.

External Auditing

19.9 .The LSCP may, on occasions, commission external auditing as part of its approach to independent scrutiny.

Safeguarding Self-Assessments

19.10 The LSCP's Safeguarding Self-Assessment Framework is structured on several minimum standards to help organisations make children safer. It replaces the Section 11 audits and Section 157 / 175 audits and is intended to make the process easier to access and update.

19.11 Whether an organisation is a safeguarding partner, a relevant agency or named organisation, there is an expectation that a self-assessment is undertaken when one is requested by the LSCP.

19.12 The Safeguarding Self-Assessment process involves the completion of an on-line tool. There are three different formats depending on the size and type of organisation.

Child Safeguarding Statements: Reinforcing Organisational Commitment and Transparency

19.13 To further strengthen safeguarding leadership and accountability, the Lambeth

Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) requires all organisations to complete a Child Safeguarding Statement.

Process for Developing Statements:

19.14 Organisations must first conduct a self-assessment to identify any practices or features that could potentially put children at risk. This risk assessment exercise does not require a specific format. Based on the findings of this assessment, organisations then develop a Child Safeguarding Statement, a written declaration that includes:

- **Organisational Context:** The nature of the organisation and the services it provides.
- **Commitment to Safeguarding:** A clear statement of the organisation's commitment to safeguarding children.
- **Protective Measures:** An overview of the measures in place to protect children from harm, with reference to more detailed policies available upon request.
- **Risk Mitigation:** Identification of any potential risks to children and the actions taken to mitigate those risks.

Leadership Endorsement and Public Accessibility:

19.15 Child Safeguarding Statements must be signed by the Chief Executive Officer or equivalent, demonstrating leadership commitment. In schools, both the Headteacher and Chair of Governors must sign, while for charities, both the CEO and the Chair of Trustees must sign. These statements must be shared with all staff and volunteers, prominently displayed, and made readily available to parents, guardians, and the public upon request.

Regular Review:

19.16 Statements are reviewed within 24 months or sooner if there is a significant change in any relevant matter. This ensures that they remain current and accurately reflect the organisation's safeguarding practices.

19.17 By requiring direct engagement from senior leaders and public display of these statements, the LSCP promotes transparency and reinforces the message that protecting children and young people is a priority. This process strengthens accountability and provides reassurance to the community about the commitment to safeguarding within organisations.

20 Data

20.1 The LSCP will oversee an agreed dataset that monitors key points in the 'journey of the child'. Its use allows for the identification of themes, patterns and trends relating to safeguarding activity. This information is used to support and challenge both safeguarding partners and relevant agencies in respect of their performance, on both an individual and multi-agency perspective.

20.2 The LSCP data set utilises the Children's Safeguarding Information Framework and other locally defined safeguarding metrics. The Quality Assurance Sub Group is responsible for reviewing this data alongside other qualitative information as part of a rolling cycle.

21 Strategic Threat Assessment

21.1 The analysis of data by safeguarding partners has always formed a key element of our local learning and improvement framework. However, as with many other areas, we have historically looked at data through the traditional methodology of maintaining a multi-agency dataset. On a quarterly basis, this is examined for any themes, patterns or trends that suggest action is required or further scrutiny and challenge warranted.

21.2 Whilst this process has accrued several benefits to the partnership, we have found that both the time-lags in the provision of data and the restrictions in collation itself (based on the defined dataset) have somewhat limited the usefulness of this approach. We often find ourselves looking too far back in respect of data history, commenting on what has been as opposed to what might be. Contemporary intelligence is difficult to access in a timeframe to influence rapid strategic decision making, support scrutiny and steer the tactical deployment of resources to prevent harm, minimise risk and provide help and protection when and where it is needed most.

21.3 To address this problem, the LSCP will introduce a schedule of Safeguarding Strategic Threat Assessments. These assessments will use contemporary data, open-source material and professional judgement to help focus on immediate and emerging safeguarding issues identified by the partnership. They are delivered at 6 monthly intervals (or if the need arises)

22 Front-Line Intelligence

22.1 Engagement with front-line staff and their managers helps the LSCP understand their experiences of what is working well and what isn't. This is key for the LSCP in gaining a transparent understanding about the realities of front-line child protection / safeguarding work.

22.2 The LSCP will facilitate such engagement through front-line visits / listening events, feedback through training / conferences, auditing, reviews and staff surveys.

23 External Learning

23.1 Opportunities for learning from national reviews, feedback from corporate structures and other forums external to the LSCP are equally relevant to how the local safeguarding systems in Lambeth improve.

23.2 The LSCP takes account of such learning and ensures it is appropriately disseminated or included in related action plans targeting service improvement.

24 Training, Learning and Development

24.1 The LSCP provides a range of inter-agency training and development opportunities for staff and volunteers working within Lambeth. These are designed to meet the diverse needs of staff at different levels across the wide range of agencies that work with children or adult family members.

24.2 Training and development sessions delivered by the LSCP address generic skills around recognition and response to possible abuse, alongside focussing on areas of practice prioritised by the LSCP at any given time. Learning from local and national reviews is always fully integrated in course material.

24.3 The LSCP's approach to training and development is underpinned by:

- A clear strategy for commissioning.
- A defined programme for delivery.
- A robust framework for monitoring and evaluation supported by an electronic Learning Management System.

25 Thresholds Tools

25.1 Consistent with Working Together 2018, safeguarding partners have approved and published guidance which sets out the local criteria for action in a way that is transparent, accessible, and easily understood.

25.2 This guidance is set out within the relevant threshold tools covering Lambeth. These documents cover:

- The process for the early help assessment and the type and level of early help services to be provided.

- The criteria, including the level of need, for when a case should be referred to local authority children's social care for assessment and for statutory services under:
 - Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 (children in need).
 - Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 (reasonable cause to suspect a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm).
 - Section 31 of the Children Act 1989 (care and supervision orders).
 - Section 20 of the Children Act 1989 (duty to accommodate a child).

25.3 Clear procedures and processes for cases relating to the abuse, neglect and exploitation of children, children managed within the youth secure estate and disabled children are set out in the Pan-London CP Procedures.

26 Information Requests

26.1 Safeguarding partners may require any person or organisation or agency to provide them, any relevant agency for the area, a reviewer or another person or organisation or agency, with specified information. This must be information which enables and assists the safeguarding partners to perform their functions to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area, including as related to local and national child safeguarding practice reviews.

26.2 The person or organisation to whom a request is made must comply with such a request and if they do not do so, the safeguarding partners may take legal action against them. As public authorities, safeguarding partners should be aware of their

own responsibilities under the relevant information law and have regard to guidance provided by the [Information Commissioner's Office](#) when issuing and responding to requests for information.

27 Dispute Resolution

27.1 Safeguarding partners and relevant agencies in Lambeth must act in accordance with these arrangements and will be expected to work together to resolve any disputes locally. For any professional disputes, all agencies are expected to follow and promote the use of the LSCP's escalation policy.

27.2 Public bodies that fail to comply with their obligations under law are held to account through a variety of regulatory and inspection activity. In extremis, any non-compliance will be referred to the Secretary of State.

28 The LSCP Support Team

28.1 The LSCP retains a dedicated team of staff to support all aspects of the partnership's work.

29 Amendments to the Safeguarding Arrangements

29.1 The safeguarding arrangements will be reviewed annually by the safeguarding partners or at a time prescribed by changes in legislation and/or statutory guidance

Appendices

30 Appendix 1: Relevant Agencies

The agencies listed under [part 4 of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Relevant Agency \(England\) Regulations 2018](#) are relevant agencies for the purposes of section 16E(3) of the Act, to the extent that their activities are carried out in England.

Education and childcare

- The proprietor of an Academy school within the meaning given by section 1A of the Academies Act 2010(1).
- The proprietor of a 16-19 Academy within the meaning given by section 1B of the Academies Act 2010.
- The proprietor of an alternative provision Academy within the meaning given by section 1C of the Academies Act 2010.
- The governing body of a maintained school within the meaning given by section 20(7) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998(2).
- The governing body of a maintained nursery school within the meaning given by section 22(9) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.
- The governing body of a pupil referral unit within the meaning given by section 19(2) of the Education Act 1996(3).
- The proprietor of an independent educational institution registered under section 95(1) of the Education and Skills Act 2008(4).
- The proprietor of a school approved under section 342 of the Education Act 1996(5).
- The proprietor of a Special post-16 institution within the meaning given by section 83(2) of the Children and Families Act 2014(6).
- The governing body of an institution within the further education sector within the meaning given by section 91(3) of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992(7).
- The governing body of an English higher education provider within the meaning of section 83 of the Higher Education and Research Act 2017(8).
- Any provider of education or training—
 - (a) to which Chapter 3 of Part 8 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006(9), and
 - (b) in respect of which funding is provided by, or under arrangements made by, the Secretary of State.
- A person registered under Chapter 2, 2A, 3 or 3A of Part 3 of the Childcare Act 2006(10).
- The provider of a children's centre within the meaning given by section 5A (4) of the Childcare Act 2006. (11)

Health and Social Care

- The National Health Service Commissioning Board (known as NHS England) as established

undersection 1H (1) of the National Health Service Act 2006(12).

- An NHS trust established under section 25 of the National Health Service Act 2006.
- An NHS foundation trust within the meaning given by section 30 of the National Health Service Act 2006(13).
- The registered provider of an adoption support agency within the meaning given by section 8(1) of the Adoption and Children Act 2002(14).
- The registered provider of a registered adoption society within the meaning given by section 2 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002(15).
- A registered provider of a fostering agency within the meaning given by section 4 of the Care Standards Act 2000(16).
- A registered provider of a children's homes within the meaning given by section 1 of the Care Standards Act 2000(17).
- A registered provider of residential family centre within the meaning given by section 4(2) of the Care Standards Act 2000.
- The registered provider of a residential holiday schemes for disabled children within the meaning given by regulation 2(1) of the Residential Holiday Schemes for Disabled Children (England) Regulations 2013/1394(18).

31

Local Government

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

Criminal Justice

- The Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass) as established under section 11 of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000(20).
- A governor of a prison in England (or, in the case of a contracted-out prison, its director)
- Providers of probation services as defined by section 3(6) of the Offender Management Act 2007(21).
- The principal of a secure college.
- The governor of a secure training centre (or, in the case of a contracted out secure training centre, its director).
- The governor of a young offender institution (or, in the case of a contracted out young offender institution its director) (22).
- Youth offending teams as established under section 39 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998(23).

Police and Immigration

- The British Transport Police as established under section 18(1) the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003(24).
- Port Police Forces as established under an order made under section 14 of the Harbours Act 1964(25), under Part 10 of the Port of London Act 1968(26), or under section 79 of the

Harbours, Docks and Piers Clauses Act 1847 (c.27)(27).

- Any person or body for whom the Secretary of State must make arrangements for ensuring the discharge of functions under section 55 of the Borders Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009(28).

Miscellaneous

- Charities within the meaning given by section 1 of the Charities Act 2011(29).
- Religious Organisations as set out in regulation 34 of, and Schedule 3 to, the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012(30).
- Any person or body involved in the provision, supervision or oversight of sport or leisure.

32 Appendix 2: Named Organisations

Other organisation that are expected to work within the LSCP's arrangements

- All out of school settings providing tuition, training, instruction, or activities without the supervision of parents or carers. The following is a non-exhaustive list of what is considered to be an out-of-school setting:
 - ³³
 - Tuition or learning centres (which may be used to support mainstream, or home education) e.g. in term time or holiday courses in key stage 1-4 curriculum.
 - English and mathematics skills; examination preparation (i.e. SATs, GCSE, A Level and 11 plus / School entry exams) etc.
 - Extracurricular clubs or settings, e.g. ballet classes, gymnastic training, sports tuition, instrumental music tuition, martial arts training, drama classes, etc;
 - Uniformed youth organisations, e.g. the Scouts and Guides.
 - Open access youth providers, e.g. centre-based and detached youth work.
 - Supplementary schools or what are sometimes called complementary schools, e.g. those offering support or education in addition to the mainstream, or core learning, and which operate after school hours or during the weekend.
 - Private language schools, including those for children coming from abroad.
 - Religious settings which offer education in their own faith, e.g. Jewish yeshivas and chedarim, Muslim madrassahs, Hindu OOSS, Sikh OOSS, Christian Sunday schools, etc.
 - Social Housing providers

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Date of Publication: 01/01/24

Version: 1.0

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