

WORKING TOGETHER 2023

CHAPTER 2: MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS



Statutory Safeguarding Partners:

- Sandwell MBC
- Sandwell Children's Trust
- West Midlands Police
- Black Country Integrated Care Board

Lead Safeguarding Partners:

- Sandwell MBC Chief Executive
- West Midlands Police Chief Officer
- Black Country Integrated Care Board Chief Executive

Delegated Safeguarding Partners:

- Sandwell MBC Director of Children's Services
- Sandwell Children's Trust Chief Executive
- West Midlands Police Chief Super Intendant
- Black Country Integrated Care Board Chief Nursing Officer

Introduction

'Protecting children from abuse, neglect and exploitation requires multi-agency join up and cooperation at all levels.'

The way in which we work together in Sandwell to ensure the safety of children and young people and support for families at every level across the continuum of help and support is called Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements. These arrangements help to ensure that we are sharing information in the right way, correctly identifying risk and support needs, and that children and families received coordinated and tailored support.

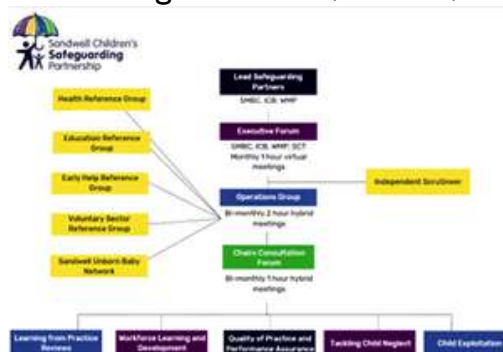
Leadership and accountability

'The purpose of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements is to ensure that, at a local level, organisations and agencies are clear about how they will work together to safeguard children and promote their welfare...there is a clear shared vision for how to improve outcomes for children across all levels of need'

Lead Safeguarding Partners set the strategic direction and vision and foster the culture of local safeguarding arrangements. They are accountable for the effectiveness and outcomes of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

Delegated Safeguarding Partners deliver on and monitor the multi-agency priorities and procedures to protect and safeguard children and young people. Partner discussions should be facilitated and work completed with the Independent Scrutineer to ensure that procedures work for all partners and that the priorities set in Sandwell are the correct ones.

Independent Scrutiny provides safeguarding partners with independent and effective support and challenge at both a strategic and operational level. This role should drive and support continuous improvements and proved assurance that local arrangements are working for children, families, and professionals.



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Useful Links

You can find the full Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 document here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

You can find Sandwell's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements on the SCSP website here: <https://www.sandwellcsp.org.uk/about-us/>

You can find the full Keeping Children Safe in Education document here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

You can find the full Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2>

You can find the full to Keeping Children Safe in Out of School Settings document here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-out-of-school-settings-code-of-practice>

Working with education providers

The insight and cooperation of all education providers is vital to the delivery of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. People working in education settings have an important role in relationship building, identifying concerns and supporting children and families. They may be the first trusted adult that the child talks to about their worries.

In Sandwell we have education representation at the Operations group as well as all Subgroups to ensure the voice of those that work closely with our children and young people is heard at all levels. Despite this we are always looking for more representatives from across education so if you would be interested in joining us please get in touch scsp_business@sandwell.gov.uk Education providers have their own statutory guidance that should be understood alongside Working together 2023. Keeping Children Safe in Education and Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework

Voluntary, charity, social enterprise and sports clubs

Many of these organisations provide education and activities for children. Staff and volunteers working in these settings will often form good relationships with children and families and play an important role in identifying concerns and offering support. They may be the first trusted adult that the child talks to about their worries.

In Sandwell we have representation from across this sector at the Operations group as well as all subgroups.

Providers in this sector have their own statutory guidance that should be understood alongside Working Together 23. Keeping children safe in out of school settings.

What's coming...

May 2024 Chapter 3-

Providing help, support, and protection across the continuum of support of support

June 2024 Chapter 4-

Organisational Responsibilities

July 2024 Chapter 5-

Learning from serious child safeguarding incidents

August 2024 Chapter 6-

Child Death Reviews