

Wigan Safeguarding
Children's Partnership

**Multi Agency
Safeguarding
Arrangements
(MASA)**

July 2023



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Introduction

Welcome to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements for Wigan. Wigan Safeguarding Children Partnership (WSCP) operates in accordance with the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 statutory guidance. It provides the safeguarding arrangements under which the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies work together to coordinate their safeguarding services, identify, and respond to the needs of children in Wigan, commission and publish Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, and provides scrutiny to ensure the effectiveness of the arrangements.

Helping and protecting children through a coordinated approach to safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility. Through collaborative efforts across agencies who work with children, young people, and families. The ambition of our arrangements is that everyone can recognise, respond, and fulfil their responsibilities to ensure that children, young people, and families are effectively safeguarded, and their welfare is promoted.

At the heart of these arrangements is a commitment from us, as safeguarding partners, to work together effectively, encourage constructive challenge where needed, and to foster a culture of professional curiosity and continual learning to drive improvement.

National reviews undertaken in the past year by the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and by Ofsted have highlighted the impact of the pandemic, on children and young people which makes effective partnership working even more important to safeguarding.

We are proud of the way our partners work together adapting and responding to local need and risk. As a partnership, we recognise the key role that the safeguarding arrangements will play in coordinating a response that places the best outcomes for children and families at its centre.

Safeguarding continues to change with new and emerging risks and our safeguarding approach and interventions must develop in tandem with the pressures and challenges within our communities. To face these new safeguarding challenges, we will work together across the public services, voluntary sector and community assets, to build sustainable contextual safeguarding interventions for whole populations.

Whilst recognising our joint approach to safeguarding children and families we also celebrate those areas of individuality and strength within our organisations such as the work of the Integrated Care Board to ensure that Safeguarding is firmly embedded within the core duties of all organisations across the health system. It is the responsibility of every NHS-funded organisation, and all staff working in the NHS, to ensure that the principles and duties of safeguarding children and adults are holistically, consistently, and conscientiously applied.

The Council continues to develop its Children's workforce to deliver on its vision of earliest help, working in an asset-based way in line with the agreed principals of Be Kind, Be Courageous, Be Positive and Be Accountable.

We want all children in Wigan to be happy, healthy, and safe; to feel listened to and to have the maximum opportunities to be ambitious. If children or their families need help and support it should be at the right time, by the right person and in the right place for them.

Wigan Safeguarding Children's Partnership Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA)

Greater Manchester Police (GMP) have as one of its priorities the “safeguarding of our children in Wigan, GMP will work in partnership we will exercise our duties to protect those most vulnerable, arrest those who offend against children and work in partnership for better outcomes for children and families. GMP strive to ensure children and families feel safe and that their Police Force are approachable and listen to their needs”.



Stephanie Whitelaw
NHS GM Integrated Care



Colette Dutton
Director of Children's Services
Wigan Council



Emily Higham
Chief Superintendent, Wigan Division
Greater Manchester Police

WSCP Vision and Values: Our Vision

Reducing harm through the delivery of Early Help that addresses the issues that will make greatest impact and difference to children, young people, and their families - Wigan Children's Safeguarding Partnership September 2022

Our values illustrate the approach the partnership will take in delivering its vision:

- Children have the right to live their lives free from violence, abuse, and neglect and the feel safe in their homes and communities.
- All children and young people should have the opportunity to grow up safely and be protected from abuse and neglect, crime, and anti-social behaviour.
- The individual, family and community should be at the heart of safeguarding practice, and we should value and actively seek their views and experiences to shape future practice and policy.
- High quality multi-agency working based on consensus, equality, respect, and collaboration is essential to good safeguarding outcomes.
- There is a commitment to continuous improvement and learning across the partnership.

Strategic Intent

This following section outlines the way in which the three safeguarding partners will work together, and with other agencies, to deliver the new arrangements. The new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements described in this plan cover the geographical area of Wigan.

We will ensure that our arrangements incorporate a strategic understanding of need, risk, and vulnerabilities in the borough, whilst having an acute focus on multi-agency practice, and a small number of key priorities where we can make a real and tangible difference to the lives of children and young people living in Wigan.

Our focus on multi-agency practice will ensure we can be responsive to learning and ensure that our strategic leadership and priorities are focused on outcomes that result in a swift and proportionate response to vulnerability, risk, and needs.

Whilst maintaining this focus on practice, we will work towards a strategic approach to safeguarding, prevention and early intervention across children and young people as represented by a strengths-based approach where the whole family is taken into consideration.

To be effective, these arrangements will link to other strategic partnership work happening locally to support children and families, as governed by the Health and Wellbeing Board, Safeguarding Adults Board, Community Safety Partnership, the Domestic Abuse Board, the Local Family Justice Board and Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements.

Legislative Context Background to the New Safeguarding Arrangements

These multi-agency safeguarding arrangements originate from the following key policy and legislative areas:

- Children and Social Work Act 2017
- Working Together 2018 (updated 2020)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023
- Care Act 2014

In Wigan, we have continued to develop, agree, and review the effectiveness of our model and its governance from October 2019, revised in 2021. We believe we are taking an innovative approach to our safeguarding arrangements but within the context of the wider public service reform in place within the Borough. The Children's and Adults Safeguarding Partnership were previously integrated, but these arrangements have now separated to allow sufficient focus on children and adult safeguarding adult agendas separately.

We will describe within our arrangements how our core safeguarding functions will complement and collaborate with connected areas of work such as:

- Health and Social Care Integration
- Start Well Model
- Place Based Integration

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 provides the legislative and policy framework through which these Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements have been developed.

In Wigan, the Strategic and Lead responsibilities associated with the safeguarding partners have been delegated as follows:

Strategic Leads

In Wigan the Strategic Leads are as follows:

- Chief Executive Wigan Council – Local Authority
- Chief Nurse Greater Manchester Integrated Care – NHS GM Integrated Care, Wigan locality
- Chief Officer Greater Manchester Police

The above Strategic Lead representatives delegate their functions to officers within Wigan, but they remain accountable for any actions or decisions taken on behalf of the Wigan Safeguarding Children Partnership. The Strategic Lead safeguarding partner for each agency has identified and nominated a senior officer to have responsibility and authority for ensuring full participation with these arrangements – these will be referred to as the Lead Partners throughout this document.

Delegated Lead Partners

<i>Delegated Lead</i>	<i>Local Agency</i>	<i>Lead Representative</i>
Colette Dutton	Wigan Council	Director of Childrens Services
Stephanie Whitelaw	NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care	Associate Director Quality, NHS GM Integrated Care - Wigan locality
Emily Higham	Wigan Greater Manchester Police	Chief Superintendent Borough Commander

The senior officers have delegated authority to speak on behalf of the safeguarding partner they represent, make decisions on behalf of their organisation or agency and commit them on policy, resourcing, and practice matters, and hold their own organisation or agency to account on how effectively they participate in and implement the local arrangements.

All three safeguarding partners have an equal and joint responsibility for the effective delivery of local safeguarding arrangements, including ensuring full participation of relevant agencies within the arrangements – that is, those whose involvement may be required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children – and they must set out how they will secure this. They also have the responsibility for ensuring equitable and proportionate funding, including through any contributions from relevant agencies. The purpose of the local arrangements is to support and enable local organisations and agencies to work together in a system where:

- Children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted
- Partner organisations and agencies collaborate and own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children
- Organisations and agencies challenge appropriately and hold one another to account effectively
- 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
- Local data from all agencies is developed to strategically identify and respond to the underlying conditions and factors that lead to the need for help and protection.

The Business Unit

The WSCP will be supported by a Business Unit comprising of a Business Manager, Learning and Improvement Officers, A Workforce Development Officer, and Administrators.

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

Cross partnership working has contributed to key transformational change:

- The development of our place-based integration is driving collaboration between the statutory and the community / voluntary sector. Part of this work has included working with our GP clusters in innovative ways to improve the experience of individuals accessing health and social care settings, as well as placing schools at the heart of how place-based integration needs to work.
- Our commissioning frameworks and processes are coming together under the Integrated Care Board / Local Authority Single Commissioning Function.
- The Wigan Education Partnership provides accountability regarding standards and provision. It oversees accountability for use of resources and impact against agreed priorities and reporting takes place through respective Headteacher associations. It has a key function to liaise and connect with other Wigan partnerships including this Safeguarding Partnership, this will be achieved through the Safeguarding Forum.

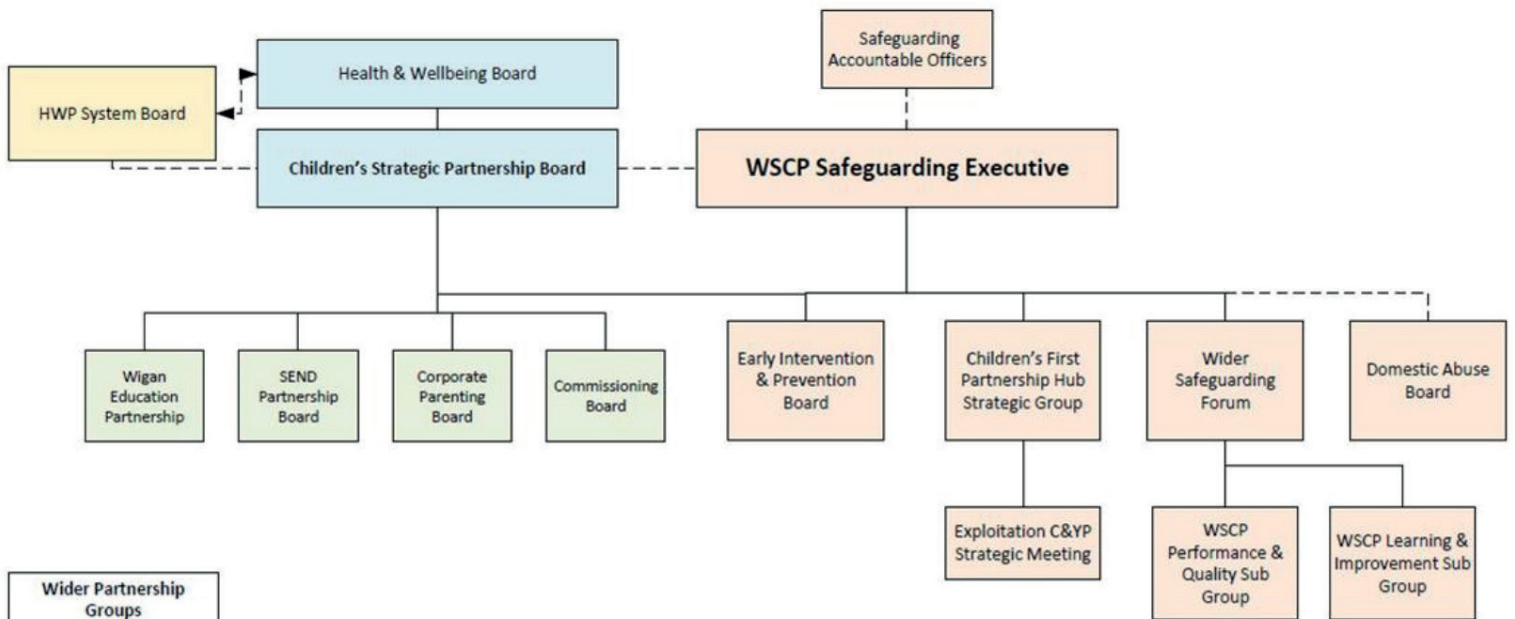
Under the guidance of an Executive Group, a set of partners will be key to putting in place the work programmes for the Partnership and its Sub-Groups.

This approach will assist us in achieving our collective ambitions and objectives and is in line with our principles. It also reflects and complements the wider partnership and reform landscape. The structure diagram on Page 10 highlights the new safeguarding partnerships links with wider partnership groups central to achieving safeguarding outcomes, it also shows lines of governance and responsibility. The partnership will continue to review and evaluate the operation of the Safeguarding Children Partnership on an annual basis.

Our three-year Business Plan will outline the key priorities, outcomes and objectives expected for Wigan Safeguarding Children's Partnership for the period on a biannual basis.

The Structure and governance for the Partnership

The following structure diagram outlines our approach and how this partnership will link across to other strategic partnerships and work areas. There is a MASA 'Accountable Officers' takes place biannually. This ensures that relationships at the most senior level are maintained and that there is effective triangulation in terms of accountability and responsibility across the three Strategic partners and the three Lead partners.



Wider Partnership Groups
Community Safety Partnership
Mental Health Programme Board
Adults Safeguarding Board
YOT Management Board



The following outlines the Roles and Responsibilities of the Executive and Subgroups:

Wigan Safeguarding Children's Executive Partnership

- Oversees the production and delivery of the local safeguarding strategies and plans and ensure that partner agencies have clear and effective strategic and operational responses to safeguarding the people of Wigan and that they discharge their responsibilities effectively.
- Ensures robust systems and processes are in place to hold partner agencies to account in relation to safeguarding policy and practice and to ensure that serious incidents and/or breaches in policy and practice are fully investigated and lessons learned.
- Delivers and ensures the provision of guidance, support, and workforce development to partner agencies to enable them to discharge their safeguarding responsibilities effectively.
- Produces an annual report and a business plan to monitor and review the effectiveness of our arrangements.
- Ensures compliance with all statutory requirements for monitoring and reporting safeguarding activity at strategic level (e.g., reporting of performance management information, compliance with inspections)
- Ensures an appropriate and effective infrastructure is in place to support the Board in delivering the local safeguarding strategy and business plans.
- Oversees the commitment of resources to support safeguarding in Wigan including income generation and financial support to the partnership.
- Ensure that there is timely and effective communication between the Partnership, its partner agencies in the statutory and independent sectors, wider partnerships within Wigan Borough and the people of Wigan to support safeguarding across the borough.
- Ensure safeguarding issues are appropriately considered and actioned within the wider partnership commissioning framework and regarding the deployment of resources.
- Ensure that appropriate links are in place with other local, regional, and national bodies and to maximise opportunities to develop co-operative and collaborative relationships to safeguard local people.

Wider Partnership Safeguarding Forum

- Provides senior leadership and oversight of systems, processes, policies, and practice in relation to improving safeguarding outcomes for Children, Young People, and their families in the Borough. It will ensure that partnership collaboration drives improved outcomes and experience and that partners are fulfilling their statutory requirements in an effective and efficient way.
- To develop an understanding of the improvement work undertaken and as a key member fulfilling independent oversight and advice to the group and wider partnership (and to enhance Working Together 2018 requirements), the group commissioned an Independent Scrutineer.
- The Wider Partnership Safeguarding Forum, whilst maintaining and embedding an overall assurance function for the children's element of the partnership, will also oversee the key priorities named in this document, as well as key operational and practice improvement programmes.

Learning And Improvement Subgroup

- To further develop the workforce through targeted, high-quality training which takes into consideration the needs of the workforce and the learning that has risen from Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPR).
- Support and strengthen our learning culture, enabling the WSCP to make important links between review learning and training needs, ensuring that the right training is offered, at the right time, to the right people to enable the best outcomes for children and families.
- Demonstrate effective multi-agency safeguarding work which ensures our children and young people are kept safe from harm.
- Identify areas of good partnership working with positive outcomes.
- Captures the Voice of the Child so that we can ensure that our practice improvements are informed by their lived experience.
- Capture the Voice of our professionals on practice.
- Ensuring that appropriate feedback and action from multi agency audits is disseminated and acted upon across the Partnership.
- Critically review actions and recommendations from LCSPRs and Rapid Reviews to ensure they have been implemented and embedded in practice.

Performance Subgroup

Regular and detailed scrutiny of performance data is at the heart of ensuring that we understand the quality and effectiveness of the safeguarding services that the Partnership oversees. Scrutiny of this data should drive the improvement activity of individual organisations and the wider Partnership. The performance group will support and strengthen our learning culture, enabling WSCP to make the links between performance, practice and improvement activity helping us to demonstrate impact on the lives of children and families and continually improve services.

- Monitor and evaluate the safety and wellbeing of children in Wigan
- Monitor and evaluate what is done by partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- Provide a line of sight to front line practice and the experiences of children and families
- Advise on ways in which improvement in safeguarding practice and outcomes can be made, including celebrating good practice
- Identify current and emerging challenges to influence the development of safeguarding arrangements and practice.
- Agree areas where performance and practice need to improve and identify areas of good practice.
- Evaluate how the voice of child informs decision making and service delivery
- Commission in-depth analysis from partner agencies where it is identified performance needs to improve.
- Have oversight of regulators reports.

What are the geographical boundaries of the new safeguarding arrangements?

These multi agency safeguarding arrangements refer to the Borough of Wigan, which is one of ten local authorities within the Greater Manchester Combined Authority family. Whilst the responsibility of delivering the legislative requirements of Working Together and the Care Act is solely the responsibility of Wigan Council, NHS GMIC Wigan and Greater Manchester Police, wider collaboration across Greater Manchester and the wider Northwest region is in place to support the implementation of our arrangements.

As part of the changes required in Working Together 2018, the ten authorities, and Greater Manchester Police established an overarching GM Standards Board. This group operates as the GM Safeguarding Alliance. The main function of the group is to work together to support the improvement of safeguarding across the Greater Manchester footprint with the shared aims of:

- Securing a journey of continuous improvement to achieve the best possible outcomes for children and young people.
- Building on existing capability with partners to identify and share good practice, diagnose improvement challenges, and identify risks to performance.
- Systematically sharing evidence and research about what works across the sector and ensuring that there is effective dissemination of best practice approaches.

The GM Safeguarding Alliance takes the lead on the following areas:

- Supporting local areas in the development of their new safeguarding arrangements to ensure they are appropriate.
- Take the lead for GM Policy and Procedure
- Assist in evidencing, developing, and implementing core standards in safeguarding governance in Greater Manchester.
- Identifying and sharing approaches and practices that will support the local safeguarding arrangements.
- Establishing mechanisms for the effective communication of the work of the Standards Board and its key learning and messages.

NHS Designated Professionals attend the Greater Manchester Safeguarding Children Network and Greater Manchester Safeguarding Adult Network. This specialist networks brings together Greater Manchester's NHS Designated Professionals for safeguarding and is accountable to the Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership (GMH&SCP) via the GM Quality Board and GM Directors of Nursing. The Network also interfaces with the following groups:

- Greater Manchester Safeguarding Alliance
- Greater Manchester Local Safeguarding Partnerships
- Greater Manchester Named Professional Safeguarding Children Groups
- Greater Manchester Designated and Named Doctors Network

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

Our Learning and Improvement Subgroup will lead on managing both local case learning reviews and within that process consider cases that might meet the criteria for both national and local learning reviews (statutory guidance calls the latter local child safeguarding practice reviews). The delivery group will agree the terms of reference for each local review, monitor progress with the review, and oversee leading on the implementation of action plans.

The WSCP Executive will undertake those functions set out in Chapter 4 of Working Together, namely:

- Purpose of child safeguarding practice reviews
- Decisions on local and national reviews
- Rapid review
- Commissioning a reviewer or reviewers for a local child safeguarding practice review where appropriate
- Local child safeguarding practice reviews
- Expectations for the final report
- Actions in response to local and national reviews.

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

The Learning and Improvement Subgroup is responsible for identifying and overseeing the review of serious child safeguarding cases which, in its view, raise issues that are complex or of national importance. The Subgroup will also maintain oversight of the system of national and local reviews reporting to the Executive.

Where a local authority in England knows or suspects that a child has been abused or neglected, Wigan Safeguarding Children's Partnership (WSCP) will notify the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (The Panel) if:

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

National and Local review criteria

The panel will consider whether the case meets National or Local Review criteria (refer to Working Together to Safeguard Children Sections 15- 19)

The Learning and Improvement Subgroup will manage the arrangements for commissioning and publishing on our website national and local Safeguarding Practice Reviews. The purpose of reviews of serious child safeguarding cases, at both local and national level, is to identify learning and improvements to be made to better safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Locally, WSCP will plan to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases which, in their view, raise issues of importance in relation to the area. They will commission and oversee the review of those cases, where they consider it appropriate for a review to be undertaken.

The Panel and the Local Safeguarding Partners have a shared aim in identifying improvements to practice and protecting children from harm and should maintain an open dialogue on an ongoing basis. This will enable them to share concerns, highlight recurring areas that may need further investigation (whether leading to a local or national review), and share learning that could lead to improvements elsewhere.

The Rapid Review

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

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

- Gather the facts about the case, as far as they can be readily established at the time.
- Discuss whether there is any immediate action needed to ensure children's safety and share any learning appropriately.
- Consider the potential for identifying improvements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- Decide what steps they should take next, including whether to undertake a Child's Safeguarding Practice Review

On completion of the Rapid Review, WSCP will respond within 15 days of becoming aware of the incident, advising the panel of their decision about whether a local child safeguarding practice review is appropriate, or whether they think the case may raise issues which are complex or of national importance such that a national review may be appropriate. As soon as they have determined that a local review will be carried out, they will inform the Panel, Ofsted and the DfE, including the name of any reviewer they have commissioned.

Our Learning and Improvement Sub-Group will lead on managing both local case learning reviews and within that process consider cases that might meet the criteria for both national and local learning reviews (statutory guidance calls the latter local child safeguarding practice reviews). The delivery group will agree the terms of reference for each local review, monitor progress with the review, and oversee leading on the implementation of action plans.

Relevant Agencies

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility both across society and in any service or setting serving children, families, and communities. Strong effective multi-agency arrangements are responsive to local circumstances and engage the right people. For local arrangements to be effective, they must reflect local needs and engage agencies who can provide targeted support to children and families at the earliest opportunity.

The list of relevant agencies in Wigan reflects both the published statutory instrument The Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Relevant Agency (England) Regulations 2018, current LSCB membership – established to reflect local need; agencies which provide a statutory service or are locally commissioned; agencies which support Early Help services; and agencies which locally support children in need of help and protection.

Where agencies provide specific support for an identified vulnerable cohort of children in Wigan young carers for example, they are also included as relevant agencies.

The three safeguarding partners in Wigan have agreed which local relevant agencies they must engage to ensure effective local arrangements. The list of Wigan relevant agencies is included at Appendix One.

Each relevant agency has been provided with details of their ongoing responsibilities and the expectations placed on them by the new arrangements in Wigan. The local arrangements in Wigan have been developed in consultation with as wide a breadth of partner agencies as possible and the arrangements now adopted reflect their commitment to improving outcomes for children and young people.

The Strategic partners reserve the right to include any other agencies as relevant agencies and add them to the published list at any time.

How will we independently scrutinise the effectiveness of the arrangements?

Working Together 2018 states that the purpose of the independent scrutiny is to provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases. WSCP has chosen to develop the role of an Independent Scrutineer with the aim of providing independent rigour and scrutiny of arrangements in Wigan. This role has been in place since October 2020.

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

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

- To ensure Wigan has robust and effective safeguarding children's arrangements in place that are owned and delivered by key partners and all relevant bodies.
- To ensure that the plan is subject to regular constructive challenge throughout the year and that the three key partners address identified weaknesses

WSCP will seek to establish a framework to benchmark our effectiveness:

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

The following areas will be considered for review:

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

The Independent Scrutineer will provide written reports routinely to the Wigan Safeguarding Children's Executive Board, highlighting areas of good practice and areas for development in Wigan's children safeguarding arrangements and will scrutinise the WSCP's Annual Report.

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

On behalf of the Safeguarding Partnership, the Wider Safeguarding Forum will provide a forum for discussion, co-ordination and development of safeguarding policies and practice across the Education sector (including Early Years Settings). This group is the conduit to schools and educational settings regarding information from the other safeguarding work streams and in some cases be the primary delivery group for delivery of safeguarding interventions and processes within educational settings. It will:

- Promote best practice amongst all education settings.
- Embed the role of education settings in safeguarding.
- Ofsted Inspection – provide feedback responses & action.
- Use of the Escalation Policy if/where appropriate.
- Develop a Training Strategy to meet the needs of education. Settings / children and young people / Governors etc. in relation to safer working practice.
- Ensure schools / education settings safeguarding includes child protection policies / procedures being in place, up-to-date and reviewed on a regular basis – year on year.
- Ensure all relevant new legislation or policies are shared and put into practice year-on-year.
- Keep an updated list of Designated Officers in schools and education settings and put in place a development programme to ensure consistency and effectiveness.
- Work collaboratively to test new ways of ensuring safeguarding messages and awareness raising within the school environment (including within PHSE settings) are efficient, consistent, and effective.

Dispute Resolution

The three safeguarding partners will aim to resolve any disagreements between them at the Executive meetings. Advice will be sought from the independent person providing scrutiny to aid in any resolution. Where disagreements remain escalation will be made to the Chief Executive of the Local Authority who will determine actions to be taken following consultation with the Accountable Officer Greater Manchester ICB and the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police

Resolution Policy

Where there is a need for Escalation and Resolution the resolutions protocol should be used via the following link <http://www.wiganlscb.com/Docs/PDF/Professional/Resolution-Policy.pdf>

How will we share information?

Organisations and agencies within a strong multi-agency system should have confidence that information is shared effectively, amongst and between them, to improve outcomes for children and their families. 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.

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.

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

A dedicated Performance subgroup has been agreed which is relevant to WSCP's strategic priorities. This subgroup is chaired by the Independent Scrutineer which is adding additional scrutiny.

Data will be collated and analysed by the Children's Strategic Business Intelligence & Improvement Lead and WSCP Business Team. The process will be robust and prioritise those areas which present the greatest risk to our ability to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

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

- Wigan CSC Achieving Excellence Board
- Corporate Parenting Board (Looked After Children)
- Early Intervention & Prevention Group
- School Collaborative Partnership Board
- SEND Partnership Board
- Strategic Education Board

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

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

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

- To keep an up-to-date training and learning opportunities accessible on the website
- To manage the Engage (Virtual College) learning platform
- To deliver required safeguarding learning to partners, with them, or supporting partners to deliver
- To identify learning and workforce improvements outcomes
- To provide practice indicators from learning outcomes from serious case reviews
- To quality assure workforce development and improvements in safeguarding practice and management across the partnership.

How will the arrangements be funded?

Partner contributions will remain in place. Wider work at the regional level is currently underway by the tripartite partners to explore further options for collaboration regarding key functions of Working Together. The three strategic partners are required to continue to make financial contributions to support the new safeguarding arrangements.

Financial support and commitment from the relevant agencies that are concerned with safeguarding is also key to successful delivery.

The voice of the child

The Wigan Safeguarding Children Partnership will continue to ensure partners demonstrate how they consultation with children and families to enable the voice of the child to be clearly heard, which helps to inform theirs and our priorities. We will continue to promote the principles, which underpin the 'voice of the child', namely:

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

How will the threshold of need guidance align with the arrangements?

The Wigan Threshold of Need Guidance was refreshed in 2021 to meet requirements of the Government's statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 and replaced all previous threshold information.

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

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

Publication of Arrangements

The Multi Agency Safeguarding arrangements will be published to the Wigan Safeguarding Children Partnership website. The arrangements will be reviewed on an annual basis or at significant points of change e.g., Publication of a Working Together to Safeguard Children – containing significant changes.

Reporting

The Wigan Safeguarding Children Partnership will produce an Annual Report outlining performance and achievement, this will be accompanied by an annual scrutiny report of the Boards activity.

Wigan Safeguarding
Children's Partnership
Multi Agency Safeguarding
Arrangements (MASA)

Appendix 1

Relevant Agencies

Greater Manchester Police Force

Wigan Local Authority

Greater Manchester ICB

Warrington, Wigan and Leigh Hospitals Trust

Greater Manchester Mental Health (CAMHS)

Early Years Settings

Further Education Colleges

Secondary Schools

Primary Schools

Wigan Youth Zone

NWAS

TYSS

Fire Service

Probation Service

