



**Wigan Safeguarding Children's Partnership
Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA)
March 2021**

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Introduction

Wigan Council

These new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements are rooted in the Wigan Deal. At its heart, the Deal is about empowering individuals and communities and enabling them to do what they do best. It is about finding out what is important to our citizens, what truly makes them happy, and focusing on their strengths and talents. It has been a new way of delivering public services where staff are positive, accountable and have courage. We do things *with* our residents is always in our minds. It has been about our organisations getting a deep understanding of local communities and working together across public services in common geographies, building relationships and getting to know each other.

Under the Wigan Deal, we have new operating principles and mechanisms in place within the Borough that will allow us to test how we work differently with individuals, and our Safeguarding Partnership is and will be an integral part of that. The Wigan Deal for Children and Young People Board was established in 2020 with the following vision agreed:

“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. To achieve this, we want to be ‘brilliant at the basics’ in our social work practice and, by having creative and collaborative partnerships. We want our staff to feel supported, confident and skilled to help our children and families achieve their aspirations.”

Key to this is the creative and collaborative partnerships, which this document sets out in detail.

Greater Manchester Police (GMP)

There can be no greater priority for public services than the protection, safeguarding and improvement of outcomes for children. GMP view the duty placed upon the three key agencies, Police, Local Authority and Clinical Commissioning Groups, as a golden opportunity to review all safeguarding arrangements across Greater Manchester. This must be with the aim of improving effectiveness, efficiency, and consistency.

These plans are simply the start of the process and GMP looks forward to working closely, with partners to develop the plans and arrangements over the coming months in a constructive and ambitious approach. The professionalism and dedication evident in partners in each of the 10 local authority areas, will be crucial in making Greater Manchester a safer place to live and an area in which the life outcomes of each child are continually improving.

Wigan Borough NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (WBCCG)

As one of the three local safeguarding partners with a duty to develop and oversee local safeguarding arrangements we welcome this opportunity to continue working with our tripartite partners, and wider stakeholders locally, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and adults at risk in the Borough.

The well-being of children, young people and adults is at the heart of everything we do in the NHS. 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.

Safeguarding continues to change with new and emerging risks and our proactive safeguarding interventions must develop in tandem with the pressures and challenges within our communities. In order 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.



Morag Olsen -
Executive Director of
Nursing & Quality,
Wigan Borough NHS
CCG



Colette Dutton
Director of Children's
Services,
Wigan Council



Mark Kenny,
Superintendent, Wigan
Division, Greater
Manchester Police

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 2018
- 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

The 3 Safeguarding Partners in Wigan

Wigan's safeguarding partnership for children and young people is led by the 3 named statutory partners, Wigan Council, Wigan Borough NHS CCG and Greater Manchester Police.

Working Together 2018 names the lead representatives from each of the 3 safeguarding partners, The Care Act 2014 likewise names the same three responsible authorities:

- The Local Authority Chief Executive,
- The Accountable Officer of a Clinical Commissioning Group, and
- A Chief Officer of Police

For Wigan, the lead representatives are:

- **Alison Mckenzie-Folan** – Chief Executive Wigan Council
- **Craig Harris** – Managing Director/Accountable Officer WBCCG
- **Stuart Ellison** – Chief Superintendent/Borough Commander Wigan GMP

As set out in Working Together 2018, the lead representatives can delegate their functions although they retain accountability for any actions or decisions taken on behalf of their agency. In Wigan, the lead representatives have identified the following senior officers in their respective agencies who have responsibility and authority for ensuring full participation with these arrangements.

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.

- **Colette Dutton** – Director of Children’s Services, Wigan Council
- **Morag Olsen** - Executive Director of Nursing & Quality, WBCCG
- **Mark Kenny** – Superintendent, GMP Wigan Division

Our partnership will be facilitated by our business Safeguarding Team Wigan Council and WBCCG Safeguarding Team which includes the statutory role of the Assistant Director Safeguarding Children/Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children & Children Looked After. These NHS Safeguarding Designated Professionals have a statutory responsibility to guide and advise the local safeguarding leadership and be actively engaged in supporting the implementation of new local safeguarding arrangements in line with the NHS England and NHS Improvement Safeguarding Accountability and Assurance Framework (SAAF) (2019).

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

Cross partnership working under The Deal has contributed to key transformational change – 8 years on and the landscape has changed considerably and positively:

- A new multi-agency collaboration known as the Healthier Wigan Partnership is bringing health and social care agencies together as one.
- 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 Clinical Commissioning Group / Local Authority Single Commissioning Function.
- The Wigan Education Partnership has been formed and 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 through the work of our Education Settings Sub-Group (see structure in this document).

Under the guidance of an Executive Group, a set of partners will be key to putting in place the work programmes under 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 second structure diagram overleaf highlights the new safeguarding partnerships links with wider partnership groups central to achieving safeguarding outcomes. The partnership will continue to review and evaluate this approach annually.

The following structure diagrams outline our approach and how this partnership will link across to other strategic partnerships and work areas. A summary of the core function of the partnership and each new sub-board which we are currently implementing follows. A summary of our new learning model follows.

Wigan's Safeguarding Children's Partnership
Tri partite Leaders: Director of Children's Services – Wigan Council, Executive Director of Nursing & Quality - WBCCG,
Superintendent - Greater Manchester Police



Wider Partnership Leader's Group (including Tri partite Leaders)
(will meet 3 times per annum)



Exploitation & Contextual Safeguarding
(Chair: Superintendent – GMP & Service Lead Practice Improvement and Quality Assurance)



Case Reviews (Chair: Assistant Director Safeguarding Children/
Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children & Children Looked After)



Early Intervention & Prevention (Chair: AD Education)



Partners Improving Practice (Chair: Practice Director)



Education Settings (Chair: Business Manager Children's and Adults Safeguarding Boards /Service Manager - Inclusion)

Wigan Safeguarding Children's 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 safeguarding plans and processes actively contribute to The Deal 2030 objectives and outcomes.
- 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 annual business plans and strategic planning documents in line with statutory requirements.
- 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 Leaders' Group

- 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 a as 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 Leaders' Group, 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.

Partners Improving Children's Practice (PiP) Sub-Group

- Ensures compliance with all statutory requirements for monitoring and reporting safeguarding activity at strategic level (e.g. reporting of performance management information; planning for and compliance with inspections).
- Oversees improvements to key practice issues with all partners as identified through the partnerships learning and improvement model / Children's Service Improvement Plan.
- Oversee the multiagency auditing programme.
- Work towards a practice system and approach that contributes to a reduction in re-presentations within children's safeguarding systems.
- Achieve a greater understanding of personal and family-based safeguarding through:
 - Development of a single practice model for safeguarding through Signs of Safety
 - Use of needs based local intelligence and problem profiles
 - Effective sharing and use of information and intelligence.
 - Evidence based practice and learning obtained from high-risk cases, service reviews, and formal case reviews
 - National best practice, academic and clinical research
 - Workforce development programs, robust training programme and approaches and opportunities to work together
 - Develop cultures and systems that genuinely promote and mandate joint working
- Ensure the family based safeguarding work programs are aligned to the development of the single all age front door arrangements, integrated place-based models and therefore embedded as part of the wider Public Service Reform program for Wigan.
- Shape the Wigan contribution to development of a coordinated Greater Manchester response to safeguarding issues.
- Oversee the local implementation of new legislation and national policy, and to arrange for the publication of relevant guidance and information.

Early Intervention and Prevention Sub-Group

- Scrutinise and challenge the quality of Early Help provision and its impact to children young people and families.
- Ensure the Voice of the Child and Families are driving Early Help development and improvement.
- Development of an integrated and effective Early Help offer that meets the needs of children, young people and their families.
- The review of Early Help Pathway, policies and procedures including the design and implementation of an Early Help Hub as part of MASH.
- Implementation of an Early Help partnership workforce development plan
- The development of the Confident Families offer.

Case Review Sub-Group

Facilitates the effective management of all safeguarding review cases (including those that do not meet threshold for rapid review), which raises issues of importance in relation to improving the safety, welfare of children and young people and the delivery of effective practice within the borough.

The group will develop, implement and monitor multi-agency actions.

Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding Sub-Group

The following areas will be overseen within this Sub-Group and all will focus on both children's adults / life course approach:

- Sexual Exploitation
- Missing People
- Organisational Crime and Abuse (Local Authority Designated Officer processes and policy)
- Criminal Exploitation
- Human Trafficking
- Modern Day slavery
- Cyber Crime

The group will also receive updates on the local Prevent Strategy, Action Plan and Channel Panel Referrals / Outcomes and Hate Crime from the Place and Community Safety Partnership.

Education Settings Sub-Group

The Education Settings Sub-Group 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 – 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.

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, Wigan Borough Clinical Commissioning Group and Greater Manchester Police, wider collaboration across Greater Manchester and the wider North West region is in place to support the implementation of our arrangements.

As part of the changes required in Working Together 2018, the ten authorities, clinical commissioning groups and Greater Manchester Police established an overarching GM Standards Board. This group has recently been reviewed and there is an agreement that the group will become the GM Safeguarding Alliance. The main function of the groups will be to work together to support the improvement of safeguarding across Greater Manchester 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 Standards Board will take 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 Case Review 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.

The newly formed 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.

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

The Case Review Sub Group 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 Panel should also maintain oversight of the system of national and local reviews and how effectively it is operating.

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 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 review criteria

The panel will consider whether the case in question:

- Highlights or may highlight improvements needed to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, including where those improvements have been previously identified
- Raises or may raise issues requiring legislative change or changes to guidance issued under or further to any enactment
- Highlights or may highlight recurrent themes in the safeguarding and promotion of the welfare of children

The Panel should also consider the following factors:

- Significant harm or death to a child educated otherwise than at school
- Where a child is seriously harmed or dies while in the care of a local authority, or while on (or recently removed from) a child protection plan
- Cases which involve a range of types of abuse
- Where the case may raise issues relating to safeguarding or promoting the welfare of children in institutional settings

Local review criteria

WSCP will consider whether the case in question:

- Highlights or may highlight improvements needed to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, including where those improvements have been previously identified
- Highlights or may highlight recurrent themes in the safeguarding and promotion of the welfare of children
- Highlights or may highlight concerns regarding two or more agencies working together effectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children

The Case Review Sub Group 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 make arrangements 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 or not 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 Case Review 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.

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 was appointed to in 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 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 Deal for Children and Young People's Board and to the Wigan Safeguarding Children's Executive Board, highlighting areas of good practice and areas for development in Wigan's children safeguarding arrangements.

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

On behalf of the Safeguarding Partnership, the Education Settings Sub-Group 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 – 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.

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

A data set has been agreed which is relevant to WSCP's strategic priorities.

Data will be collated and analysed by the Children's Strategic Business Intelligence & Improvement Lead. 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 Deal for Children & Young People's Board
- Corporate Parenting Board (Looked After Children)
- Early Intervention & Prevention Sub-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 a number of methods:

- To keep an up-to-date training and learning opportunities accessible on the websites
- 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.

Multi agency audits and case review learning:

The process of moving cases through the processes of review, learning and embedding that learning into practice is described within the Wigan Children's Safeguarding Partnership Workforce Development Strategy.



A Brief Learning Review has been developed so learning is shared quicker. 7-minute briefings are produced in relation to all completed SCR's and LSCPR's. Theme specific briefings are produced in relation to specific learning point identified in any review process as agreed in the meeting. Some theme specific briefings are produced in relation to common themes across cases, particularly where those cases are not published and are subject to ongoing processes. This allows us to take learning forward without identifying the case.

We have a multi-agency audit programme, where audit work is planned with partner agencies in line with partnership priorities, themes from review processes and specific systems issues which may have been identified via review processes or single agency audit work which highlighted a need for a wider lens on the issue.

The Partnership Team facilitate with partners an audit timetable. We have audit tools based on each individual audit and the required learning for partners to implement learning and development from these processes. The partnership facilitate the planning and completion of audits, the gathering of audit findings and production of reports for review and agreement of involved partners before wider dissemination is undertaken through relevant sub-groups and to the wider workforce. On-going work following the completion of audits will be tracked and monitored via the Learning & Improvement Outcomes tracker and will inform audit work in the future.

How will the arrangements be funded?

Partner contributions will remain in place as is for 2021/22. 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 explore ways of improving our consultation processes to enable the voice of the child to be clearly heard, which helps to inform 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

Signs of safety

Wigan is implementing Signs of safety as its overarching practice model for all its work with children and families. This will build and sustain improvements in the way we safeguard and protect children across the partnership. The overall aim is to strengthen our approach to how we deliver services and support to children and families and that we implement the model across all our services. The Signs of safety model provides a clear set of skills, values and principles for practitioners and partners to use in their practice with families in order to achieve this.

The roll out of the Signs of Safety Practice Model, led by Children's Social Care is ongoing, with training delivered to multi-agency partners since 2019. Signs of Safety is a strength-based approach and is rooted in the core principles of The Deal and will allow the partnership to use a common language across all our

core children's safeguarding processes and services. The approach also provides more effective ownership of child protection plans and a strengthened role of the family within safeguarding processes.

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

The Wigan Threshold of Need Guidance has been refreshed for 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.

[Escalation Policy](#)

The Escalation Policy is available at the following link <http://www.wiganlscb.com/Docs/PDF/Professional/Resolution-Policy.pdf>

Appendix 1:

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)

Report a Serious Child Safeguarding Incident

From 29 June 2018 local authorities in England have had to notify the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (NCSPRP) within 5 working days of becoming aware of a serious incident.

A serious incident is defined as follows:

16C(1) of the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017) states: Where a local authority in England knows or suspects that a child has been abused or neglected, the local authority must notify the Child Safeguarding Practice Review 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.

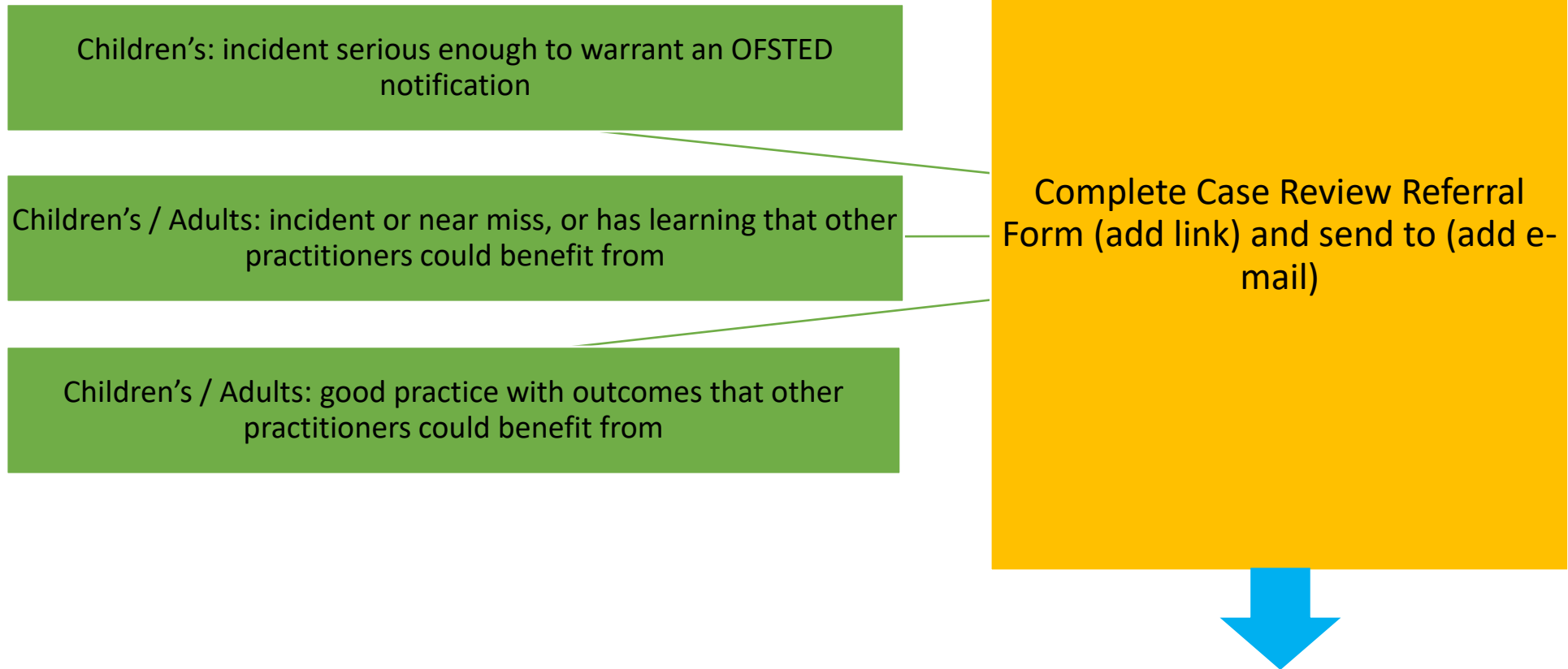
'Serious harm' as defined in the Children Act 2004 includes serious or long-term impairment of mental health or intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development.

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/report-a-serious-child-safeguarding-incident>

Wigan Safeguarding Children's Partnership must undertake a rapid review into all serious child safeguarding cases promptly and complete this within **fifteen working days** of becoming aware of the incident.

Source: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/722309/Letter_from_Edward_Timpson_Child_Safeguarding_Practice_Review_Panel.pdf

**Appendix Two – WSCP Referral Process and Learning Levels for Rapid Reviews /
Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Safeguarding Adult Reviews**



Children

Children's Non-Notifiable

Within 3 working days Tripartite Safeguarding Leads acknowledge receipt of case and consider Case for Notifiable / Non-Notifiable (and notify or discuss with referring agency).

Within 5 working days Wigan Safeguarding Children's Partnership Team begin Brief Learning Review Process, where possible this will take place with 28 days of receipt of incident and referral form

Notifiable: within 5 working days Wigan Safeguarding Children's Partnership Team notify OFSTED / NCSRSP and Rapid Review 15-day process starts
NB: if NCSRSP advise notifiable level not met, case can continue as BLR

Non-Notifiable:
Brief Learning Review process is followed

Brief Learning Review (BLR): meeting within 28 days of referral where possible

Rapid Review Meeting within 20 days of referral (see Rapid Review process); recommendation as to how the learning will take place (local v. national)

Rapid Review Report: report is sent to WSCP Exec Lead Officers

Within 20 working days from referral: report sent to National Children's Safeguarding National Review Panel

Within 28 days of receipt: NCSRSP notify WSCP of decision on Rapid Review

National Child Safeguarding Practice Review (NCSRSP led)

Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (locally led) is commissioned;
WSCP Executive to advise on methodology

Learning back into partnership and agencies

Actions agreed, activities and outcomes monitored