



## **Terms of Reference**

### **Assurance and Review Group**

#### **Role and Function of the Assurance and Review Group**

The Assurance and Review Group will assess and quality assure information coming from the reflective activities within the partnership arrangements. This includes but is not limited to:

- Case Audits
- Serious Case Review/Learning Review
- Regular Subject Reporting (LADO, Private Fostering, Children Missing Education etc.)
- Performance Datasets
- Learning from Child Death Overview Process (CDOP) in relation to safeguarding
- Inspection and Peer Review Reports
- Section 11 and Section 157/175 Audits
- Voice of the Child
- JTAI Learning
- Regional Developments
- Education and Learning
- Changes to Legislation
- Learning and Development forum
- Local Authority Scrutiny Committee recommendations

The group will identify priorities and patterns from this work and recommend key multi-agency work streams to the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP). These work streams will be based on the LSCP priorities and the associated impact on the effectiveness and efficiency of local safeguarding arrangements.

The Assurance and Review Group will therefore begin the process of a drive towards continuous improvement through the cycle of reflection and evolution of policy and service.

#### **This will be achieved by**

1. Using ongoing and regular reporting and auditing work to make informed recommendations to the LSCP regarding management and focus of the LSCP's priorities throughout all agencies within the partnership, and in

particular recommendations as to specific multi-agency work required to improve those arrangements. The priorities for 2019/20 include: Early Help, neglect, children and young people at risk of exploitation.

2. Using ongoing and regular reporting and auditing work to check whether multi-agency procedures are in line with good practice, making recommendations to the LSCP, particularly on the areas above which have been identified as LSCP priorities.
3. Internal environmental scanning of emerging themes from regular reporting and auditing work and considering whether a response to local need on specific areas of safeguarding is required. Ensuring that the LSCP is able to make informed decisions to take forward any actions.
4. Using external environmental scanning to ensure policies and procedures are informed by local, national and international research and identified best practice. Ensuring that the LSCP is able to make informed decisions to take forward any actions.
5. Oversight of the LSCP annual report, in partnership with the Response and Delivery Group.
6. Receiving referrals for potential Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews from partner organisations and requesting members of the Delivery and Response Group to undertake a rapid review of the case in line with any guidance published by the National Panel.<sup>1</sup>
7. Making recommendations, following the rapid review, to the Partnership Leads and Independent Scrutineer of the LSCP for a final decision and notification to the National Panel about whether a local child safeguarding practice review is appropriate, or whether the case may raise issues which are complex or of national importance such that a national review may be appropriate.

## **Accountability**

The Assurance and Review Group is accountable to the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership.

The Assurance and Review Group will be responsible for producing a highlight report to each Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership meeting which will present an overview of what is going well, recommendations of areas for improvement and a proposal for work required.

Each member of the sub group is responsible for both representing and holding their agency to account for its safeguarding work and responsibilities.

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<sup>1</sup> Working Together 2018 Chapter 4

**Frequency of meeting:** Three meetings per year.

### **Membership**

Chair – Assistant Director, Children, Young People and Families  
Deputy Chair – Head of Safeguarding, Birmingham and Solihull CCG

Solihull MBC Children's Social Care  
West Midlands Police  
NHS Birmingham and Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group  
NHS England West Midlands  
Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust  
University Hospitals Birmingham  
Staffordshire and West Midlands Community Rehabilitation Group  
Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust  
Solihull Community Housing  
CAFCASS  
West Midlands Fire Service  
National Probation Service Midlands - Coventry, Warwickshire, Solihull  
Voluntary Sector Representative  
South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust  
School/Education/Early Years Representative

### **Quorum**

Representation from all three safeguarding partners.