



Derby and Derbyshire
Safeguarding Children Partnership

Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements

March 2025



	Contents	Page
1	Signatories to the Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements	3
2	Arrangements for the safeguarding partners to work together to identify and respond to the needs of children in the area	4
3	The DDSCP safeguarding partners, their delegates and partnership chair	4
4	Chairing arrangements	6
5	Geographical boundaries of the Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership	8
6	Relevant agencies	8
7	Schools (including independent schools, academies, and free schools), colleges, early years and childcare settings, and other educational providers (including alternative provision)	9
8	Youth custody and residential homes for children	10
9	Information Sharing	10
10	The process for commissioning, undertaking and publishing local child safeguarding practice reviews, and the arrangements for embedding learning across organisations and agencies	10
11	Data and intelligence to assess the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families, including early help	12
12	Learning and Organisational Development: commissioning, delivering, and monitoring the impact of multi-agency training to driving forward local practice	12
13	The voice of children and families, including how to escalate concerns and how any disputes will be resolved, including whistleblowing procedures	13
14	The local threshold document	14
15	Funding arrangements	14
16	Arrangements for independent scrutiny of the effectiveness of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements	14

**Signatories to the Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership
Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements**

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Derby and Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group: Dr Chris Clayton, Chief Executive Officer



Derbyshire Constabulary: Rachel Swann QPM, Chief Constable



Derbyshire County Council: Emma Alexander, Managing Director



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2 Arrangements for the safeguarding partners to work together to identify and respond to the needs of children in the area

2.1 The purpose of the Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (DDSCP) is to support and enable organisations and agencies across Derby and Derbyshire to work together so that:

- there is a clear, shared vision for how to improve outcomes for children locally across all levels of need and all types of harm
- when a child is identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm there is a prompt, appropriate and effective response to ensure the protection and support of the child
- organisations and agencies are challenged appropriately, effectively holding one another to account
- the voice of children and families combined with the knowledge of experienced practitioners and insights from data, provides a greater understanding of the areas of strength and/or improvement within arrangements and practice
- information is sought, analysed, shared, and broken down by protected characteristics to facilitate more accurate and timely decision-making for children and families, and to understand outcomes for different communities of children
- effective collection, sharing and analysis of data, enables early identification of new safeguarding risks, issues, emerging threats, and joined-up responses across relevant agencies
- senior leaders promote and embed a learning culture which supports local services to become more reflective and implement changes to practice
- senior leaders have a good knowledge and understanding about the quality of local practice and its impact on children and families

3 The DDSCP safeguarding partners, their delegates and partnership chair

3.1 The safeguarding partners are defined under the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017). The safeguarding partners for the Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership are as follows:

- a) the Local Authority: **Derby City Council** and **Derbyshire County Council**
- b) the Integrated Care Board for an area any part of which falls within the Local Authority area: **NHS Derby and Derbyshire Integrated Care Board**
- c) the Chief Officer of Police for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area: **Derbyshire Constabulary**

3.2 An inter-agency [Governance and Accountability Framework](#) is in place and is an agreement that has been signed by each of the statutory partners to set out the legal arrangements to ensure there is effective governance and decision making. The agreement includes the role that each statutory partner has to carry out their responsibilities so that the Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership is effective and works to keep children safe from harm.

3.3 In order to ensure that the responsibilities of the partnership are being effectively discharged, a Chief Officer Group will lead the Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership and includes representation from the following:

- Derby City Council: Chief Executive **and Lead Safeguarding Partner**
- Derby City Council: Cabinet member for Children and Young People
- Derby City Council: Director of Children's Services (statutory role)
- Derbyshire County Council: Executive Director **and Lead Safeguarding Partner**
- Derbyshire County Council: Cabinet member for Children and Young People
- Derbyshire County Council: Director of Children's Services (statutory role)
- NHS Derby and Derbyshire Integrated Care Board (ICB): Chief Executive **and Lead Safeguarding Partner**
- Derbyshire Constabulary: Chief Constable **and Lead Safeguarding Partner**
- Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner
- Education Sector Representatives

3.4 The Lead Safeguarding Partners and Chief Officer Group will jointly:

- Set the strategic direction, vision.
- Lead their organisation's individual contribution to the shared priorities, ensuring strong governance, accountability, and reporting mechanisms to hold their delegates to account for the delivery of agency commitments.
- Review and sign off key partnership documents: published multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, including plans for independent scrutiny, shared annual budget, yearly report, and local threshold document.
- Provide shared oversight of learning from independent scrutiny, serious incidents, local child safeguarding practice reviews, and national reviews, ensuring recommendations are implemented and have a demonstrable impact on practice (as set out in the yearly report).
- Ensure multi-agency arrangements have the necessary level of business support, including intelligence and analytical functions, such as an agreed data set providing oversight and a robust understanding of practice.
- Ensure all relevant agencies, including education settings, are clear on their role and contribution to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

3.5 The DDSCP Executive Board is accountable to the Chief Officer Group.

3.6 The Executive Board is responsible for delivering strategic influence through the business plan and the work of the partnership groups to improve safeguarding arrangements. The Executive Board is responsible for obtaining assurance of the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements and emerging concerns across Derby and Derbyshire.

3.7 The Executive Board holds to account the work of the partnership subgroups through a programme of formal reporting delivered by the Chairs of each subgroup.

The frequency of reporting will be determined by the function and role of each group. The Executive Board, through the work of the partnership subgroups will ensure that there is a coordinated approach to improving the multi-agency responses to vulnerable children.

3.8 The Executive Board is responsible for providing evidence to the Delegated Safeguarding Partners of:

- Delivery and monitoring of multi-agency priorities and procedures to protect and safeguard children in the local area, in compliance with published arrangements and thresholds.
- Close partnership working and engagement with education (at strategic and operational level) and other relevant agencies, allowing better identification of and response to harm.
- The implementation of effective information sharing arrangements between agencies, including data sharing that facilitates joint analysis between partner agencies.
- Delivery of high-quality and timely rapid reviews and local child safeguarding practice reviews, with the impact of learning from local and national reviews and independent scrutiny clearly evidenced in yearly reports.
- The provision of appropriate multi-agency safeguarding professional development and training.
- Seeking of, and responding to, feedback from children and families about their experiences of services and co-designing services to ensure children from different communities and groups can access the help and protection they need.

3.9 The governance and terms of reference setting out the roles and responsibilities of each subgroup and its membership is available on the [DDSCP website](#).

4 Chairing arrangements

4.1 Following the initial implementation of the revised arrangements, the Chair roles will be held on a yearly basis, with the Vice Chair taking up the role of Chair in the following year. The rotation of chairing responsibilities is illustrated over the next four years as follows:

Sept 2024 - March 2026	Chair	Vice Chair
Chief Officer Group - Lead Safeguarding Partner (LSP)	Integrated Care Board Chris Clayton	Derbyshire Local Authority Emma Alexander
Executive Board – Delegated Safeguarding Partner (DSP)	Derbyshire Police DCS Gemma Booth	Integrated Care Board Michelina Racioppi
April 2026 – March 2027	Chair	Vice Chair

Chief Officer Group - Lead Safeguarding Partner (LSP)	Derbyshire Local Authority Emma Alexander	Derby Local Authority Paul Simpson
Executive Board – Delegated Safeguarding Partner (DSP)	Integrated Care Board Dean Howells	Derbyshire Local Authority Carol Cammiss

April 2027 – March 2028	Chair	Vice Chair
Chief Officer Group - Lead Safeguarding Partner (LSP)	Derby Local Authority Paul Simpson	Derbyshire Police CC Rachel Swann
Executive Board – Delegated Safeguarding Partner (DSP)	Derbyshire Local Authority Carol Cammiss	Derby Local Authority Andy Smith

April 2028 – March 2029	Chair	Vice Chair
Chief Officer Group - Lead Safeguarding Partner (LSP)	Derbyshire Police CC Rachel Swann	Integrated Care Board Chris Clayton
Executive Board – Delegated Safeguarding Partner (DSP)	Derby Local Authority Andy Smith	Derbyshire Police DCS Gemma Booth

4.2 The partnership chairs will provide greater continuity and act as the conduit between the DSPs and LSPs, providing feedback and escalating collective risk and issues to LSPs as necessary.

4.3 The partnership chairs will:

- Develop strategic links, support and hold to account all LSPs in fulfilling their safeguarding duties for children.
- Ensure that local arrangements are designed to work collaboratively and effectively by encouraging and supporting the development of partnership working between the LSPs, DSPs, independent scrutiny role and DDSCP subgroups.
- Chair the meetings of the DSPs, including any additional meetings convened as a response to specific and exceptional circumstances, with the help of the business manager and independent scrutiny role.
- Offer appropriate challenge to ensure that the partners are accountable, and that the local arrangements operate effectively.

5 Geographical boundaries of the Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

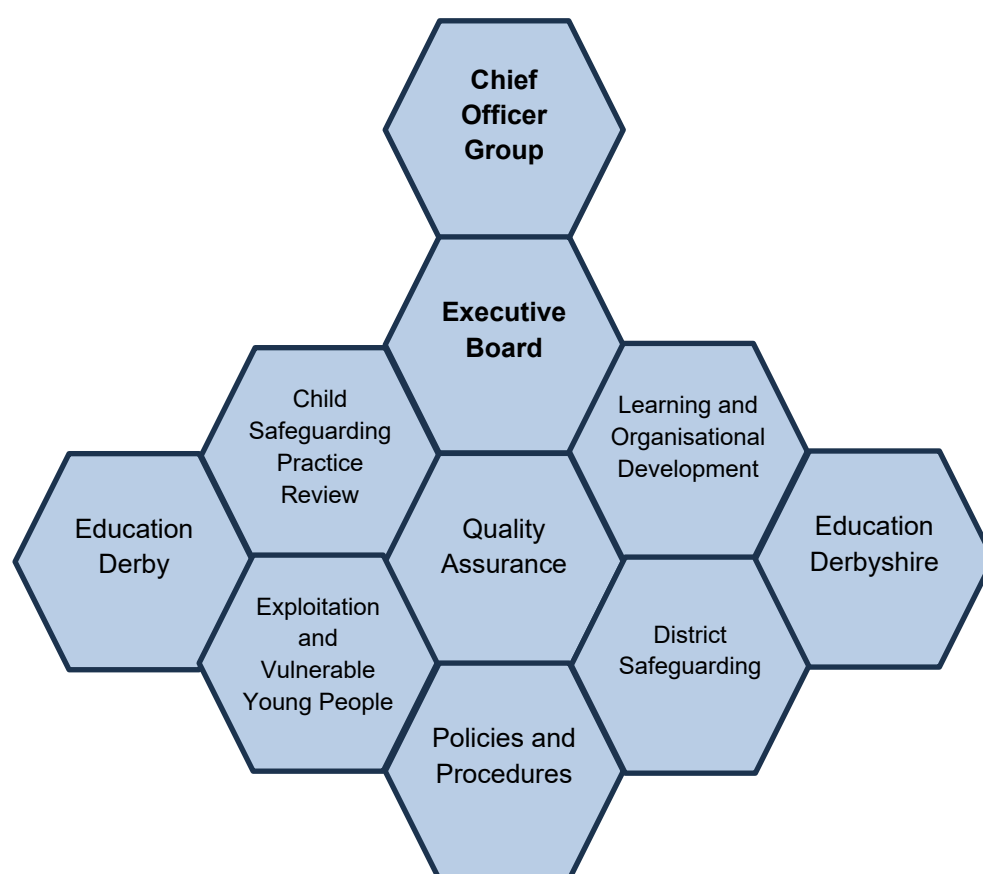
5.1 The Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership will coordinate safeguarding services and act as a strategic leadership group across the Derby City

and Derbyshire County areas. Activity by the partnership will incorporate identifying the needs of children and young people living in diverse urban and rural areas and ensuring that effective action is taken to safeguard them.

5.2 The District and Borough Councils have and will retain essential safeguarding responsibilities. In order to uphold their responsibilities, the District Councils will continue to actively participate in their existing joint arrangements to coordinate their safeguarding duties. The effectiveness of their arrangements will be reported to the Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership and they will be supported as active stakeholders in their roles to keep children safe in their local areas.

6 Relevant agencies

6.1 The Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership delivers its work through the following groups:



6.2 Relevant agencies are involved in the work of partnership groups directly depending on their role and invited to participate in stakeholder events to drive forward improvement to safeguarding arrangements across Derby and Derbyshire. Alongside the statutory partners, the relevant agencies include the following individual organisations or representatives from the sector:

- Derbyshire Community Health Services Foundation Trust

- Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust
- Chesterfield Royal Hospital Foundation Trust
- DHU Healthcare
- Probation
- Public Health
- Voluntary and Independent Sector Organisations
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- District and Borough Councils
- Education (across the sector)
- Early Years sector
- District and Borough Councils

6.3 The DDSCP will continue to work in partnership with lay members who attend different subgroups and participate different workstreams as agreed.

7 Schools (including independent schools, academies, and free schools), colleges, early years and childcare settings, and other educational providers (including alternative provision)

7.1 The Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership recognises that early years settings, schools (including independent schools, academies and free schools) and other educational establishments have an essential role identifying and supporting vulnerable children and young people.

7.2 Across our area there are 569 schools from all sectors (2024). There are two education subgroups, one for each area of Derby and Derbyshire. The chairs of each subgroup or their deputies attend all Executive Board meetings and report twice per year on the work of the subgroups. They report annually on pressures and progress across the sector following consultation with subgroups. The chairs of the Education subgroups participate at the Chief Officer Group to strengthen education sector representation.

7.3 The education subgroups enable schools (including independent schools, academies and free schools) and other educational establishments and early years representatives (as appropriate) to work in partnership with other partnership agencies to promote:

- collaboration across the education sector and the wider children's safeguarding arena to share and co-own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for school-aged children
- strengthening the safeguarding measures across the education sector so that each setting has effective assurance of its own arrangements
- embedding learning in a way that education services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice

- ensuring the education sector identifies concerns and shares information effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and families

7.4 The DDSCP continues to facilitate representation from the Education sector at a range of associated strategic groups within other partnership arrangements wherever possible.

8 Youth custody and residential homes for children

8.1 There is no youth custodial establishment within Derby or Derbyshire. The Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership will ensure therefore that there is active monitoring of the effectiveness of arrangements for local children placed in custody through the work of the Youth Offending Services. This will include monitoring of children within the secure estate on a longer term basis and monitoring of children kept overnight in police custody in Derby and Derbyshire.

8.2 There are a range of residential homes for children within Derby and Derbyshire provided by the two local authorities and independent sector organisations. The Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership will ensure therefore that there is active monitoring of the effectiveness of these arrangements through a range of sources including: reporting by the Independent Reviewing Officer services, inspection reports and direct engagement with service providers through stakeholder events and training.

9 Information Sharing

9.1 The Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership has an Information Sharing Agreement in place to ensure the statutory partners are able to discharge their responsibilities effectively and share information to enable robust multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

9.2 In addition the DDSCP has [Information Sharing Guidance for Practitioners](#) that clearly set out the processes and the principles for sharing.

10 The process for commissioning, undertaking and publishing local child safeguarding practice reviews, and the arrangements for embedding learning across organisations and agencies

10.1 Local child safeguarding practice reviews will be commissioned by the Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership following the completion of rapid reviews of serious child safeguarding incidents in accordance with national guidance.

10.2 The DDSCP Child Safeguarding Practice Review Subgroup has specific responsibilities for:

- commissioning and completing rapid reviews on cases where notifications are made by local authorities in response to Serious Child Safeguarding Incidents (as defined by Working Together 2023)
- commissioning, facilitating and publishing local child safeguarding practice reviews that are proportionate to the circumstances of the case, focus on potential learning, and establish and explain the reasons the incidents occurred as they did
- agreeing with the reviewer the method by which the review should be conducted, taking into account national guidance and the principles of the systems methodology recommended by the Munro review. All reviews will reflect both the child's perspective and the family context
- ensuring the reviewer is making satisfactory progress and the review is of satisfactory quality
- ensuring practitioners are fully involved in reviews and invited to contribute their perspectives without fear of being blamed for actions they took in good faith
- families, including surviving children (in order that the child is at the centre of the process) are invited to contribute to reviews, understand how they are going to be involved and have their expectations appropriately and sensitively managed
- communicating a decision to the (national) Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel ('the Panel') about whether a local or national child safeguarding practice review is appropriate for cases considered locally
- cooperating and supporting the work of the Panel to complete national child safeguarding practice reviews
- publishing, promoting and embedding learning from local child safeguarding practice reviews in a way that local services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice.

10.3 The process for undertaking local child safeguarding practice reviews will comply with national guidance.

10.4 Learning from local and national child safeguarding practice reviews will be used to improve safeguarding practice across Derby and Derbyshire. This learning will inform:

- improvements to local safeguarding arrangements and practice standards
- revisions to policies and guidance for practitioners from all agencies and the commissioning of new policies and guidance where needed
- revisions to training and development resources for practitioners from all agencies and the commissioning of resources where needed
- audit activity to obtain assurance that improvements identified by local child safeguarding practice reviews are having a positive impact on practice
- learning activity to be shared at stakeholder events so that learning is broadly promoted across all partners and the community.

11 Data and intelligence to assess the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families, including early help

11.1 The Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership will actively monitor the effectiveness of services being provided to children and families, including early help through a range of data and qualitative audit reports.

11.2 The DDSCP Quality Assurance group has specific responsibilities for:

- obtaining and evaluating performance data using an agreed set of performance measures which support the Partnership's strategic aims and priorities (that are published on the DDSCP [business plan on the website](#))
- obtaining and evaluating evidence from single and multi-agency audit and feedback from children and young people
- ensuring that the voice of the child is heard through practice audit and this informs strategic development
- providing analysis about the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements and areas for improvement, including consideration of the outcomes of rapid reviews and child safeguarding practice reviews that may indicate areas of practice require a particular focus for improvement
- early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues and emerging trends and threats
- promoting and embedding learning in a way that local services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice
- evaluating the impact of the work of the partnership to demonstrate sustained improvement arising from audit and assurance activity

11.3 The partnership *Quality Assurance Strategy* uses a range of data and qualitative information to understand the effectiveness and impact of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. This enables the DDSCP to have oversight of the quality and compliance of the delivery of agreed shared priorities and assurance that multi-agency practice is reviewed and operating well.

11.4 The Quality Assurance subgroup also received routine updates from partner agencies on key themes so that we can monitor trends and draw out further action as needed to improve our arrangements. This includes the evidence from self-assessments from partnership member agencies on the safeguarding arrangements in line with Section 11 of the Children Act 2004.

12 Learning and Organisational Development: commissioning, delivering, and monitoring the impact of multi-agency training to driving forward local practice

12.1 Good quality and innovative learning opportunities including training, along with effective supervision, is promoted across the partnership to create an environment in which practice can flourish. A culture of continuous development and

improvement draws from the learning arising from the other partnership groups to improve safeguarding practice.

12.2 A joint Learning and Organisational Development subgroup has specific responsibilities for:

- conducting analysis of safeguarding training needs across the workforce and taking account of learning from Case Reviews and Quality Assurance activity
- producing an annual training programme which takes account of the identified training needs of the workforce, practice findings from the annual audit cycle and the priorities of the partnership
- reviewing and updating the training course content and commissioning training as required
- promoting and embedding learning in a way that local services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice
- innovating to ensure that learning and improvement is delivered effectively
- assuring the quality of single and multi-agency training and securing evidence of the ongoing impact it has on practice and the wellbeing of children

12.3 The DDSCP has an effective and far-reaching [suite of learning and development courses and activities](#) in place. There are over 15K users registered with the DDSCP to access our learning and development programmes that include e-learning and face to face online courses.

12.4 Delegates have commented about the positive impact, demonstrating how e-learning has equipped them with confidence, knowledge and skills to attend higher level and complex courses. We have also received feedback about the impact of the accessibility of courses. Delegates who have specific learning needs have demonstrated how the good quality courses have helped them engage with the learning along with comments indicating improved access to learning outside usual office hours.

12.5 We have continued to use an evaluation system is based on the Kilpatrick's Four Levels of Training Evaluation Model to capture the effectiveness and impact of the training. Stage 2 evaluations are designed to gather data from delegates to reflect the impact of training on practice and demonstrate any increase in confidence knowledge and skills. We report back on the impact of our training on practice routinely to the multi-agency subgroup and ensure that we capture feedback to show the *impact of training on practice* linked to the key priorities for the partnership.

13 The voice of children and families, including how to escalate concerns and how any disputes will be resolved, including whistleblowing procedures

13.1 The voice of children and families is embedded in the work of the partnership groups and assurance from individual organisations about the steps they take to ensure the voice of children and families informs service development. The Derby

and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership continues to focus on the voice of children and families informing:

- audit work leading to practice improvement and service development
- participation in the work of the partnership
- participation and representation in training, learning and organisational development activity

13.2 The representation and impact of the voice of children and families will be summarised in the published Annual Report of the Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership.

13.3 The DDSCP has an Escalation policy and Dispute resolution protocol published on its [website](#) focussing on multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and enables children and families to access individual agency complaints processes.

14 The local threshold document

14.1 The Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership thresholds document is embedded within the [Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Procedures](#). The threshold document sets out the local criteria for action and sits alongside the Protocol for Assessment and Support that covers both Derby and Derbyshire. Both documents have been reviewed and updated in line with the requirements of the national guidance (2023).

15 Funding arrangements

15.1 The DDSCP has an inter-agency agreement that sets out the detail of our arrangements between the four statutory safeguarding partners. Each partner contributes an equal share of the funding for the partnership and financial reports are provided on a quarterly basis to ensure there is scrutiny of financial arrangements.

Partner	Contribution
Derby City Council	25%
Derbyshire County Council	25%
Derby and Derbyshire Integrated Care Board	25%
Derbyshire Constabulary	25%
Derbyshire Probation	Annual contribution to all LSP areas from MOJ

16 Arrangements for independent scrutiny of the effectiveness of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements

16.1 The Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership is committed to ensuring that effective independent scrutiny of the arrangements is in place to provide assurance of the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements that safeguard and promote the welfare of all children, including arrangements to identify and review

serious child safeguarding incidents through rapid reviews and conduct child safeguarding practice reviews.

16.2 Independent scrutiny drives continuous improvement and provide assurance that arrangements are working effectively for children, families, and practitioners. It also considers learning from local child safeguarding practice reviews, national reviews and thematic reports.

16.3 Scrutiny is evidence-based, and feedback will be considered and acted upon by safeguarding partners. Scrutiny will consider the impact that the Lead Safeguarding Partners and Delegated Safeguarding Partners make through their strategic oversight, if they are providing strong leadership, and the functioning of local arrangements.

16.4 Independent scrutiny contributes to the wider system of accountability which includes the independent inspectorates' single agency inspections, including Inspection of local authority children's services (ILACS), and Police Forces assessment of their effectiveness, efficiency, and legitimacy (PEEL), inspections of Health Providers carried out by CQC as well as Joint Targeted Area Inspections, National Child Protection Inspections and the DDSCP annual reporting.

16.5 The statutory safeguarding partners have a robust system of independent scrutiny so that the system in place leads to objective and rigorous analysis of our local arrangements consistent with the requirements set out in national guidance.

16.6 Statutory partners and relevant agencies will review progress against agreed priorities and identify areas for scrutiny, with a focus on achieving improved outcomes for children. Scrutiny is based on sharing and analysis of local and national data, intelligence, and information. This includes our multi-agency performance framework, joint needs assessments, multi-agency audits, reviews, and mapping of what is already being scrutinised by the statutory safeguarding partners and relevant agencies, identifying the gaps and aligning with agreed priorities. Independent scrutiny of the arrangements ensures that statutory duties are being fulfilled, quality assurance mechanisms are in place, and that local rapid reviews, child safeguarding practice reviews and national reviews are analysed, with key learning areas identified and effectively implemented across the safeguarding system.

16.7 Independent scrutiny provides statutory safeguarding partners and relevant agencies with independent, rigorous, and effective support and challenge at both a strategic and operational level. They will be able to provide advice on the commissioning of scrutiny activity in consultation with safeguarding partners.