



Right for Children, Families and Adults

# Walsall Safeguarding Partnership Arrangements Updated 2021



# Introduction

Partner agencies in Walsall have collaboratively agreed the core purpose of the Walsall Safeguarding Partnership is to:

- Provide effective and informed leadership to the local safeguarding system;
- Deliver our shared responsibility for the safeguarding of children, young people and adults at risk in the borough;
- Promote positive working relationships with each other and children, adults and families;
- Identify and act on learning
- Provide assurance to the Walsall community

Walsall Safeguarding Partnership aspires to be a virtual learning organisation in order to deliver our shared responsibility to safeguard children, young people and adults at risk.

Relationships are key to achieving our purpose and ambition and will be characterised by the following behaviours:

- Accountability
- Commitment
- Curiosity
- Openness
- Respect
- Trust
- Visibility

These behaviours will apply to everyone within our organisations. They will be exhibited throughout our individual, collective and organisational actions and responses.

The Walsall Safeguarding Partnership has agreed that its shared ambitions for 2019-22 are:

- Improving our visibility amongst local communities and across the partnership;
- Developing a stronger culture of working together to keep children, young people and adults at risk safe;
- Increasing the involvement of children, young people and adults in our work;
- Developing a confident, knowledgeable and curious workforce who are supported to work together and deliver their safeguarding responsibilities
- Acting on learning and data to improve the quality of the safeguarding response to children, young people and adults at risk

# 1. The 3 Statutory Safeguarding Partners

1.1 Walsall's safeguarding partnership for children and young people is led by the 3 named statutory partners, Walsall Council (LA), Black Country and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group and West Midlands Police. These partnership arrangements cover one local authority area, Walsall. Working Together 2018 names the lead representatives from each of the 3 safeguarding partners: "the local authority chief executive, the accountable officer of a clinical commissioning group, and a chief officer of police" (Working Together 2018, p.74). For Walsall, the lead representatives are:

- Chief Executive, Walsall Council
- Accountable Officer, BCWB CCG
- Chief Constable, West Midlands Police

1.2 Whilst the LA has lead responsibility for the Safeguarding Adult Board (SAB), the Police and CCG are also identified in the Care Act 2014 as statutory members of the Safeguarding Adults Board.

1.3 In Walsall, the lead representatives from the statutory partners have identified nominated individuals to lead the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. The nominated representatives are:

- Walsall Council – Director Children's Services (DCS)
- Walsall Council – Director Adult Social Services (DASS)
- Black Country and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group – Chief Nursing Officer, Director of Quality
- West Midlands Police – Chief Superintendent / Borough Commander

1.4 The statutory partners as set out in Working Together 2018 have joint and equal responsibility for safeguarding children arrangements.

The Care Act defines the LA, CCG and Police as statutory board partners for safeguarding adult arrangements.

The Safeguarding Partnership therefore have the responsibility to ensure effective safeguarding arrangements in the Borough, as an unincorporated partnership.

1.5 Although the lead representatives have delegated their responsibilities to those named above, they remain accountable for any actions or decisions taken on behalf of their respective agency.

# Geography of the area:

The arrangements cover 1 Local Authority Boundary – Walsall.

**Wards Map - Walsall**



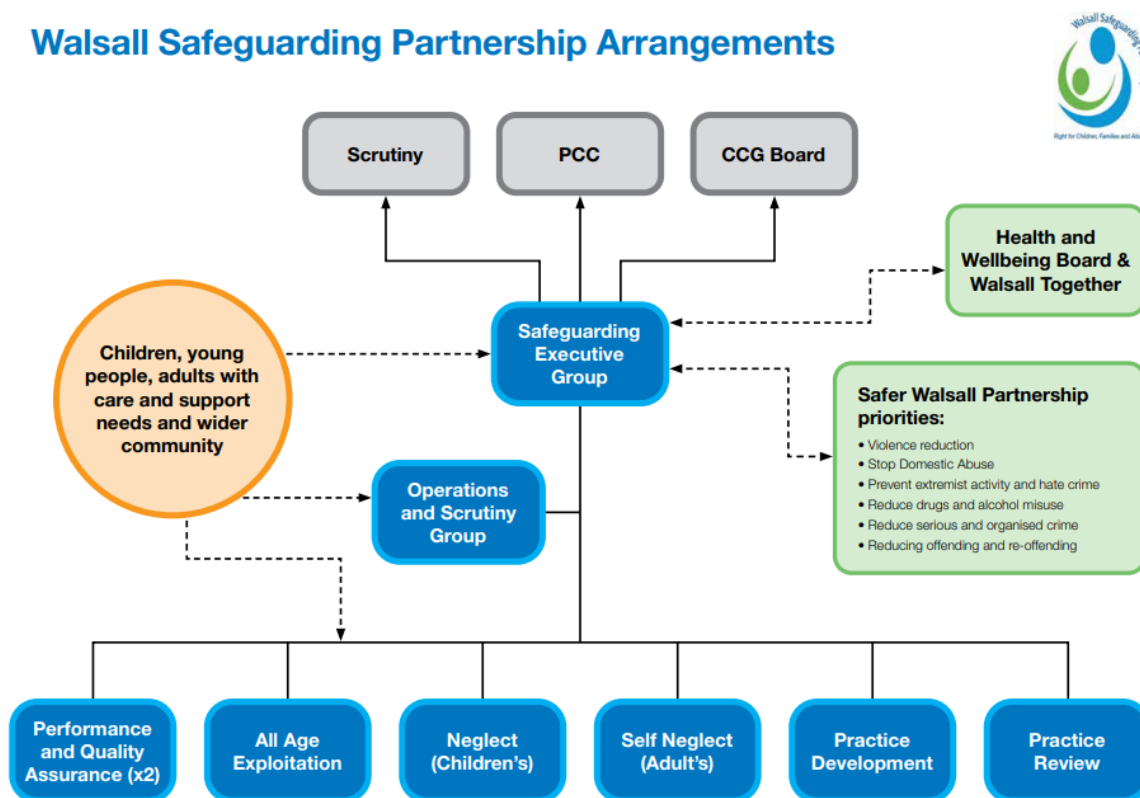
- 1.6 The area is covered by one Police Force – West Midlands Police
- 1.7 Health care is provided by one hospital trust – Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust.
- 1.8 BCWB Clinical Commissioning Group commissions healthcare across the whole Walsall area.
- 1.9 Walsall maintains close ties with colleagues in the West Midlands region and across the Black Country and works jointly on priorities and projects where relevant e.g. safeguarding procedures.
- 1.10 The statutory partners recognise the critical role that children, families and adult's with care and support needs have in informing organisations about how well they are doing and how it could be done better.

## 2. Voice of Children, Young People and Adult's with care and support needs – our fourth partner

2.1 Importantly the Walsall arrangements will add a 4th partner to the 3 required in legislation. Children, young people and adults within Walsall (including adults with care and support needs and those who do not) will be vital in holding the 3 statutory agencies to account. This engagement and contribution will take a variety of forms and our ambition is to establish regular mechanisms for delivering our Engagement Strategy work programme including inspection activity, networking via established forums and undertaking bespoke consultation activities.

## 3. Relevant Partners

### Walsall Safeguarding Partnership Arrangements



3.1 The Safeguarding Partners have agreed the above structure to deliver their safeguarding arrangements. As well as being considered a robust model for quality assurance across children and adults safeguarding, it is intended that this will strengthen the relationship and governance with other partnership Boards, such as Safer Walsall Partnership (Community Safety). It will also offer clear routes of communication with relevant partners. The Safeguarding Executive Group will be comprised of the Independent Chair of the Partnership, Executive Director of Children's Services (LA), Executive Director of Adult Services (LA), Chief Nurse (CCG), Borough Commander (Police).

3.2 Due to the complexity of engaging with a variety of maintained, independent and academy schools and early year's settings the Assistant Director for Access and Achievement will be a member of the Operations and Scrutiny group, whilst an effective model of wider engagement is established.

3.3 Membership of the Partnership (both statutory and relevant partners) is defined in the Terms of Reference as being representatives at senior leadership level with sufficient seniority to:



- Speak with authority for the safeguarding partner they represent
- Take decisions on behalf of their organisation or agency and commit them on policy, resourcing and practice matters
- Hold their own organisation or agency to account on how effectively they participate and implement the local arrangements

3.4 Anyone entrusted with attending in their place would need to have similar delegated authority

3.5 Relevant agencies in Walsall are listed in Appendix 1. Relevant agencies will participate in subgroup activity and an Operations and Scrutiny group which will report to the Safeguarding Executive Group.

3.6 The Operations and Scrutiny Group, via the Assistant Director for Access and Achievement will work with the Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Leads forums for schools and early years establishments to establish a model for regular and robust engagement with the safeguarding agenda and multi agency arrangements.

3.7 Walsall has a small number of children's Local Authority residential homes. These are within the sphere of responsibility of the DCS. They are overseen by the Corporate Parenting Board and Scrutiny. Exception reporting and safeguarding issues will be raised with the Executive Group by the DCS as appropriate.

3.8 There are no secure youth offending institutions, secure training or residential facilities within the Borough. Those which are outside of the area, but which a Walsall young person is placed in, will be required to report on arrangements as and when necessary.

3.9 The Youth Justice Service will continue to support to the Partnership via attendance at the relevant partnership meetings, such as Practice Review Subgroup.

3.10 There are no secure youth offending institutions, secure training or residential facilities within the Borough. Those which are outside of the area, but which a Walsall young person is placed in, will be required to report on arrangements as and when necessary.

## 4. Levels of need and support

4.1 The new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements does not change how partner agencies respond to identified needs and risk for children, young people or adults at risk. All those that work with children, their families or carers and adults at risk are required to work to the children's multi-agency thresholds document (Right Help, Right Time guidance) or Care and Support statutory guidance to ensure that Walsall residents get the right support at the right time.

4.2 These documents outline Walsall's criteria and guidance for action when a family (child or adult) requires support. The support offered to families or individuals should increase in line with the concern or risks, including referral to social care for assessment for statutory services where appropriate.

4.3 The Safeguarding Executive Group will hold overall responsibility for effectiveness of the safeguarding arrangements, and on their behalf the Performance and Quality Assurance and other subgroups will scrutinise the operational effectiveness of the arrangements.

4.4 Click here for Children's [Right Help Right Time](#) (Threshold) Guide. Click here for the [Care and Support Statutory Guidance](#).

## 5. Quality Assurance and Performance

The Quality Assurance and Performance Framework sets out how the partnership undertakes this critical function.

- 5.1 Members of the Performance and Quality Assurance Subgroup will be active in assessing front line practice. They will engage with front line staff and receive feedback from those who use services. This will then feed into performance reports which will be supported by data and other intelligence.
- 5.2 The multi-agency datasets include data on key aspects of safeguarding from early help through to statutory intervention.
- 5.3 In developing these and the performance reports, contributions to each data set will be received quarterly from partners who will provide the narrative behind the figures.
- 5.4 Each dataset will be scrutinised and analysed by the relevant Performance and Quality Assurance sub-group.
- 5.5 Single agency audits, inspection and performance information (by exception) will be summarised in single agency reports to the performance and quality subgroup on a regular basis or by exception when urgent.
- 5.6 Section 11, s175 / 157 and Care Act compliance audits will be undertaken on a bi-annual basis with peer challenge exercises taking place in the alternate year.
- 5.7 Reports highlighting performance, issues, exceptions, actions and recommendations for further action will then be submitted for consideration to the Safeguarding Operations and Scrutiny Group.
- 5.8 Each sub-group, will keep an action log which is reviewed and completion of each action recorded.
- 5.9 The Executive Group and the Operations and Scrutiny Group has a relationship with the Strategic Partnership Board and other strategic boards (Health & Wellbeing Board; Safer Walsall Partnership, CSP) for the mutual exchange of intelligence and data and collaboration in cross cutting issues via a coordinated work plan. The Director of Public Health will also be a member of the Operations and Scrutiny Group in order to support the inter-relationship between the meetings. The Independent Chair will be a member of the Safer Walsall Partnership.

### Multi Agency Audits:

- 5.10 A programme of Multi Agency Audits is planned on an annual basis based on partnership priorities, datasets and themes from reviews. Summary reports from these along with recommendations and action plans will be scrutinised by the Performance and Quality Assurance subgroup and shared with other subgroups as required, such as the Practice Development Subgroup.
- 5.11 The MAA (Multi Agency Audit) group use a standardised audit tool, the content of which is developed and adapted according to the theme of the specific audit. The model includes engaging with the practitioners in the case.
- 5.12 Findings and learning from audits are disseminated across the safeguarding partnership and an action plan created, reviewed and outcomes evaluated.

5.13 Our quality assurance and performance activity (including messages from children, young people and adults with care and support needs) will drive our arrangements and inform the priorities and business plan.

## **6. Arrangements for commissioning and publishing safeguarding practice reviews (Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews - CSPRs and Safeguarding Adult Reviews - SARs)**

6.1 The process for serious (child) incident notifications in Walsall has been updated by the Local Authority in line with the new guidance.

6.2 On being informed of an incident which may meet the criteria for a Child Safeguarding Practice Review or Safeguarding Adult Review, the partnership will undertake a Rapid Review (for cases notified as serious child safeguarding incidents), in line with published guidance in Working Together 2018 or an extra ordinary Practice Review Group meeting for cases which have not been notified to Ofsted and the National Panel (Children's) and as agreed by the Safeguarding Adult Board (adults), in order to make recommendations to the Executive Group who will make the final decision on commissioning reviews and for children's inform the National Panel about whether a local practice review is required. The Practice Review group will also receive notification of incidents which may meet the criteria for a Domestic Homicide Review, as defined by the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004.

6.3 The responsibility for considering cases for Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews or SAR's lies with the Practice Review Group. The final decision on whether to undertake a review will be made by the Executive Group. This decision will then be notified to the National Panel if required (following a children's Rapid Review).

6.4 Terms of Reference for the Practice Review subgroup have been written in detail to cover all requirements and timescales in Chapter 4 of Working Together 2018 (including notifications of serious incidents) and the Care Act 2014.

6.5 A process map has been created with procedures for considering notifiable incidents and non-notifiable, but serious, incidents for Safeguarding Review.

6.6 Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews or SAR's will be commissioned using regional and national information on known reviewers and their expertise. These reviewers will be assessed and selected by representatives of the partnership and/or business unit, based on previous work and experience, recommendations and/or via personal interview. The partnership are also intending joining a Dynamic Purchasing System for identifying lead reviewers, created to extend the pool of reviewers whilst also enhancing quality, consistency and value for money.

6.7 Reviews will be published as outlined in Chapter 4 of Working Together 2018 / Care Act 2014 on the partnership website.

6.8 The Practice Review subgroup will also oversee and complete any (children's) Serious Case Reviews, which were ongoing at the time the new arrangements came into being.



## 6.9 Child Death Reviews

When these arrangements became operational (Sept 2019) the responsibility for Child Death Reviews transferred to Public Health (LA) and the CCG and governance is via the Health and Wellbeing Board. Black Country Child Death Review arrangements are in place and members of the safeguarding partnership subgroups and Operations and Scrutiny Group are involved, ensuring cross referencing of shared issues, as well as the Safeguarding Partnership Business Manager who attends the Strategic CDOP meetings. CDOP annual reports will be presented to the Operations and Scrutiny Group.

## 7. Learning and Development

7.1 The multi agency learning and development activities will support the partners ambitions for 2021-23, particularly

- Developing a stronger culture of working together to keep children, young people and adults at risk safe;
- Developing a confident, knowledgeable and curious workforce who are supported to work together and deliver their safeguarding responsibilities
- Acting on learning and data to improve the quality of the safeguarding response to children, young people and adults at risk

7.2 The method of delivery of multi-agency training is based on what is most appropriate and effective and includes e-learning, face to face training, conferences, webinars, videos, podcasts, workshops, practice reflection and learning events. The Practice Development Sub Group (PDSG) will continue to be creative and innovative in developing learning interventions, working with partner agencies and other Partnerships and Boards across the region.

7.3 The training programme is based on local practice and performance needs, case studies and learning from audits and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Safeguarding Adult Reviews.

7.4 All Multi-agency training has 'golden threads' throughout to promote a consistent approach, these include:

- 'Think Family' approach.
- Professional Curiosity
- Professional Challenge

7.5 The PDSG will work closely with other Walsall Partnership sub groups, in particular the Practice Review Group so that output of one group informs the input to another. We will also support other subgroups in resolving issues which requires a practice improvement response.

7.6 Currently there is a 3 stage evaluation process: pre-evaluation, post-evaluation and 6 weekly post course evaluation. To be able to demonstrate impact on training and having an understanding that monitoring and evaluation needs a short and long term approach, the PDSG will look at embedding a 4 stage evaluation plan which will include a 6 monthly evaluation and to involve line management as part of that process.

7.7 The multi-agency training evaluation will be analysed and reported to safeguarding partnership via PDSG at regular intervals. The partners will also need to be assured that arrangements are in place across agencies to monitor the take-up of single agency

safeguarding training. In order to provide this, the practice development subgroup will require assurance from agencies by way of an annual report.

7.8 It is the responsibility of the statutory and relevant partners to ensure that staff contribute to the delivery of training and ensure staff are attending the learning and development opportunities that are relevant to their role; that they are supported to transfer learning back into the workplace, including through discussion/supervision about how they are applying the learning and support staff to use new skills, and for partners to ensure that staff contribute to the evaluation process.

7.9 The safeguarding partners have agreed a financial and resource contribution to support this which will be coordinated by the business unit.

## 8. Independent Scrutiny

8.1 The independent scrutiny function as set out in statutory guidance (Working Together 2018), will provide the critical challenge and appraisal of Walsall's multi-agency safeguarding partnership arrangements in relation to children and young people.

8.2 For the Safeguarding Adult arrangements (as set out in the Care Act 2014) the appointment of the chair is made by the local authority in consultation with the other statutory members. Therefore, the Safeguarding Executive Group has appointed a single Independent Chair for children and adults. In relation to the adult arrangement the Chair is accountable to the chief executive of the local authority and will meet with them on at least an annual basis to share the Annual Report.

8.3 The role of independent scrutiny will form part of these arrangements and do the following:

- Provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of services to protect children and adults
- Assist when there is disagreement between the leaders responsible for protecting children and adults in the agencies involved in multi-agency arrangements
- Support a culture and environment conducive to robust scrutiny and constructive challenge.

8.4 Whilst independent scrutiny of these arrangements in Walsall will be provided through commissioning an Independent Chair, as a partnership we will also promote collective responsibility and accountability, as well as responding to challenge from our fourth partners (children, young people and adults with care and support needs).

8.5 Recommendations of the Independent Chair will be considered and a decision made by the Safeguarding Executive Group (or the decision will be delegated to a relevant subgroup).

## 9. Funding and Resources

- 9.1 Working in partnership means organisations and agencies should collaborate on the resourcing and financial management of the arrangements.
- 9.2 The three safeguarding partners will make payments towards expenditure incurred in conjunction with the local arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults at risk. Funding allocations are to be agreed by safeguarding partners through the Safeguarding Partnership Executive and will be equitable and proportionate. The three safeguarding partners will also, as required, provide in kind contributions to support the work of the local arrangements e.g. training capacity.
- 9.3 Safeguarding partners have agreed their funding contributions for 2021/22. This funding will contribute to the costs associated with the implementation and ongoing development of the safeguarding partnership, including the arrangements for independent scrutiny and business support functions.
- 9.4 The relevant partners will also be required to contribute in kind or financially to the resources needed to deliver all elements of the multi agency safeguarding arrangements, given they continue to benefit from the work of the partnership.
- 9.5 Funding arrangements will be subject to an annual review and there will be further consideration and discussion regarding future funding rounds.
- 9.6 These arrangements will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Safeguarding Executive Group.
- 9.7 The arrangements will be supported by a joint funded safeguarding partnership business unit which will provide strategic and administrative support to ensure the components of the structure can deliver their responsibilities and achieve the partnership aims.

## 10. Annual Report:

- 10.1 The Partnership will publish a report annually (children and adults) giving details of activity and more importantly the impact of that activity across the safeguarding partnership.
- 10.2 It will include –
  - a) A review of:
    - The effectiveness of our relationships with each other
    - The level of contribution made by partners to safeguarding
    - The progress we are making to learn and improve
    - The difference we are making to the safety of children, young people, adults and families
  - b) evidence of the impact of the work of the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies, including training, on outcomes for children, families and adults at risk across all areas of services from early help to statutory intervention.
  - c) an analysis of any areas where there has been little or no evidence of progress on agreed priorities.

- d) a record of decisions and actions taken by the partners in the report's period (or planned to be taken) to implement the recommendations of any local and national child safeguarding practice reviews and Safeguarding Adult reviews, including any resulting improvements.
- e) ways in which the partners have sought and utilised feedback from children, young people and adults to inform their work and influence service provision.
- f) Safeguarding children partners will be expected to include a review of the use of restraint where applicable within their establishment in their annual report returns.

The annual report will be presented to the Safeguarding Partners own agency governance and accountability bodies namely the Local Authority Scrutiny Committee, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Clinical Commissioning Group.

10.3 The annual report will be shared by the independent chair at a yearly meeting with the Chief Executive of the LA, the Chief Constable and Accountable Officer for the CCG.

10.4 The report will be posted on the partnership website.

## **11. Review of Arrangements**

11.1 The arrangements outlined above will be reviewed within 12 months and annually thereafter.

# Appendix 1: List of Relevant Agencies

- Adult services
- Armed forces
- British Transport Police
- Care Quality Commission
- Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Services
- Children's Homes, Independent Fostering Agencies and Supported Housing for Young People
- Children's Services
- Community Rehabilitation Company
- Coroner
- Early Years and Childcare providers
- Fire and Rescue Service
- Healthwatch
- Housing providers
- Local Council services inc Licensing and Tourism
- National Probation Service
- NHS organisations and independent healthcare providers
- Primary Care
- Prisons
- Public Health
- Residential and Nursing Care providers
- Schools, Colleges and other Education providers
- Secure Training Centres and Secure Estate
- Sports Organisations/Groups /Associations
- UK Visa, Immigration Enforcement and Border Force
- Voluntary, Charity, Faith based organisations and community groups
- Youth Offending Service



## Appendix 2:

Walsall Safeguarding Partnership wants to be an effective partnership and wants to evaluate:

- The effectiveness of our relationships with each other
- The level of contribution made by partners to safeguarding
- The progress we are making to learn and improve
- The difference we are making to the safety of children, young people, adults and families

Our intention is to measure and reflect on the success of the above elements of our partnership.

We will develop measures to monitor this and describe it in our performance framework.

# Signatures

We the undersigned, endorse the content of these arrangements and accept our responsibility for ensuring the effectiveness of the Walsall Safeguarding Partnership.

Dr. Helen Patterson



Chief Executive  
Walsall Council

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Dave Thompson



QPM  
Chief Constable  
West Midlands Police

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Paul Maubach



Accountable Officer  
Black Country and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Gr

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