



Safeguarding Children Partnership Arrangements and Child Death Review Arrangements for Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire



Contents

Foreword	1
Purpose of the Safeguarding Children Strategic Partnership Board	4
About Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire	5
New child safeguarding arrangements for Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire	6
Structure of the Partnership	9
Sharing, Promoting & Embedding Learning	12
Assessment on the Effectiveness of Services	13
Independent Scrutiny	14
Voice of children and families	15
Professional Challenge and Escalation	16
Child Death Review Arrangements	17
Transitional Arrangements	18
Funding and Business Support	19

Foreword

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 legislated for new arrangements for the safeguarding of children. This document describes the new arrangements for Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire.

The new arrangements replace the current local safeguarding children boards with a new Safeguarding Children Partnership. The Act names the statutory partners as the local authorities, the police and clinical commissioning groups.

As the three statutory safeguarding partners we have conducted a review of current arrangements and agreed to change some of our ways of working; building on strengths within the good partnership relationships that already exist across the three local authority areas. In order to ensure we are successful we, as the statutory safeguarding partners, will be involving partners from a wide range of agencies and organisations all of whom will have a valuable part to play in safeguarding our children.

Perhaps our most significant decision was for the safeguarding arrangements across the local authority areas of Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire to be combined under one new Safeguarding Children Partnership. Whilst this does not affect the delivery of front line services in these three unique areas, it does enable the partnership to ensure a proactive and responsive approach to the needs of children, young people and families across the three local authorities and drives opportunities to shape and influence policy development leading to improved practice and outcomes. To ensure that the voice of children, young people and families is heard locally, there will be three 'tactical' groups working across the north, centre and east of the three local authorities who will drive safeguarding assurance activities locally and report to the strategic partnership group.

We are also appointing an independent scrutineer who will be independent of partners but will ensure that we are delivering on the strategic approach we have agreed. The scrutineer will provide an independent view on the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements across the three local authority areas.

As the statutory safeguarding partners, we are all in agreement that these arrangements will be adopted across agencies from the 29th of September 2019.

We believe these new arrangements will provide a solid foundation for further improvement in the way in which we safeguard children across the three local authority areas and look forward to reporting on the progress we make. As a partnership we remain committed to doing the very best to support and protect our children, young people and their families.

Denise Park

Chief Executive for
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council



Neil Jack

Chief Executive for Blackpool Council

Blackpool Council

Angie Ridgwell

Accountable Officer for
Lancashire County Council



Andy Rhodes

Chief Constable
Lancashire Constabulary



Julie Higgins

Accountable Officer for
Blackburn with Darwen Clinical Commissioning Group



Amanda Doyle

Accountable Officer for
Blackpool Clinical Commissioning Group



Denis Gizzi

Accountable Officer for
Chorley and South Ribble Clinical Commissioning Group



Julie Higgins

Accountable Officer for
East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group



Amanda Doyle

Accountable Officer for
Fylde and Wyre Clinical Commissioning Group



Denis Gizzi

Accountable Officer for
Greater Preston Clinical Commissioning Group



Jerry Hawker

Accountable Officer for
Morecambe Bay Clinical Commissioning Group



Mike Maguire

Accountable Officer for
West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group



Purpose of the Safeguarding Children Strategic Partnership Board

The Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire Safeguarding Children Strategic Partnership Board, hereafter referred to as the Safeguarding Children Partnership, has adopted the following statement of purpose to guide their work:

The safeguarding partners and all relevant agencies that work with children and families are committed to ensuring that safeguarding arrangements are of the highest quality, that they consistently promote the welfare of children and effectively safeguards them whatever their circumstances

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) outlines that the purpose of local safeguarding arrangements is to **support and enable** local organisations to work together in a system that delivers the following outcomes and working relationships:

- Children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted
- Local organisations collaborate, share and own together the vision on how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children
- Organisations hold each other to account effectively and challenge appropriately
- There is early identification and analysis of emerging local threats and new safeguarding issues
- Information sharing is effective at strategic and operational levels to facilitate accurate and timely decision making for children and families; and
- Learning is shared, promoted and embedded effectively so that organisations become reflective and are transparent about the changes to practice and services that are required; implementing the changes to practice and services to improve outcomes for vulnerable children.

In ensuring the local purpose of the safeguarding children partnership is met, all the statutory outcomes will guide and drive the work and arrangements of safeguarding partners and relevant agencies.

Some changes have been made to the way these agencies work together to keep children safe because of new government guidance. The main changes are that:

- There are now three safeguarding partners in Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire who are responsible for multi-agency arrangements for keeping children safe:
 - the three local authorities
 - Lancashire Constabulary
 - the eight NHS clinical commissioning groups (CCGs)
- The three Local Safeguarding Children Boards in Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire will be replaced by one Safeguarding Children Strategic Partnership Board
- The Safeguarding Children Strategic Partnership Board will adopt a new structure which will include three local Tactical Groups, with the Independent Scrutineer providing challenge to its work and a focus on learning.

This document sets out the detail of how the new Safeguarding Children Partnership will work. At the heart of the arrangements is a commitment from all agencies to work together to keep children safe, to continuously improve and learn how best to do this.

About Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire

Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire covers an area of just over 2,000 square miles in the north-west of England, with a total population of 1.5 million.

The area is served by one police force, eight clinical commissioning groups and the three upper tier local authorities of Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire, with twelve district councils also sitting under Lancashire County Council.

The current child population of approximately 315,500 is projected to increase until the middle of the next decade and then decline over the following 15 years. As a proportion of the overall population, 0-19 year olds are projected to decline from 24.0% (2016) to 21.9% (2041).

Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire is an area of contrasts with 20.7% of the 295 wards amongst the most deprived 10% nationally and only 6.8% amongst the least deprived 10%. The rate of children living in poverty ranges from 32% in Lancashire to 38% in Blackpool and to 47% in Blackburn with Darwen.

The area hosts around 800 schools, which educate 229,000 children and young people. In Blackburn with Darwen 54% of this population is from a minority ethnic group, compared with 19.5% in Lancashire and 12% in Blackpool. The 14.0% of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) across the three local authorities compares to 14.8% in the North West and 14.6% nationally, while the 3.0% with Educational and Health Care (EHC) plans coincide with regional and national rates.

As of the 31st March 2018, there were 12,458 children in need in Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire, of whom 1,800 were subject to a child protection plan and 2,874 were looked after. The rate of children per 10,000 of the overall population in all of these categories exceeds that seen nationally.

Map of the area covered by the Arrangements.



New child safeguarding arrangements for Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire

The three previous Local Safeguarding Children Boards of Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire will be replaced by one Safeguarding Children Partnership, under which the safeguarding partners will work together to identify and respond to the needs of children.

The three local safeguarding partners jointly leading the Safeguarding Children Partnership are:

- The three local authorities of Blackburn with Darwen Council, Blackpool Council and Lancashire County Council, represented by their respective Directors of Children's Services
- Lancashire Constabulary, represented by Assistant Chief Constable for Crime and Special Capabilities
- The eight CCGs of Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool, Chorley and South Ribble, East Lancashire, Fylde and Wyre, Greater Preston, Morecambe Bay, and West Lancashire represented by the Health Executive Group.

The Safeguarding Children Partnership will operate in line with the requirements of the statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018. The geographical area covered by the arrangements is that covered, in its entirety, by Lancashire Constabulary, and the three local authorities of Blackburn with Darwen Council, Blackpool Council and Lancashire County Council. The area coincides with that of the eight clinical commissioning groups, with the exception of the area of south Cumbria for which Morecambe Bay CCG is responsible.

The safeguarding partners and relevant agencies included within these arrangements will fulfil their statutory duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children of Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire who live in or are placed outside the area.

The strength of local partnership working is dependent on safeguarding partners working collaboratively together with agencies that work with families and children, whose involvement the safeguarding partners consider is required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. In addition to the three main statutory safeguarding partners, a number of other relevant agencies will also work as part of the Safeguarding Children Partnership, reflecting the strong partnership relationships already built up across Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire over many years. These agencies will be members of the Strategic Partnership Board, subgroups, relevant Tactical Groups and participate in the Learning Hubs.

The safeguarding partners have identified the following organisations who are required to participate in local arrangements and who must act in accordance with agreed local arrangements:

Schools, Colleges, Further & Higher Education Providers – with around 800 settings across the area, schools are a vital safeguarding partner. Schools will be engaged as part of the Strategic Partnership Board, subgroups and Tactical Groups to ensure joint working to safeguard children within a multi-agency shared approach. The Safeguarding Children Partnership will aim to build on established relationships with schools and education providers to ensure they remain a key partner agency as the landscape of school organisation continues to change. There will also be a focus on exploring how schools will participate to ensure the voices of children and young people contribute to safeguarding developments and priorities. Existing learning opportunities for Designated Safeguarding Leads in schools will mirror the Learning Hub arrangements and topics and will act as a mechanism for schools to learn, as well as an opportunity to provide feedback and participate in the work of the Safeguarding Children Partnership.

Local Universities – not a member of the current Boards, but representatives of the Universities contribute to the Learning and Development subgroup in Lancashire and this will continue in the new arrangements.

Early Years Settings & Nurseries – settings across the area include private and voluntary sector providers, childminders and after school clubs and is a large important sector to include in the approach to safeguarding children. They will be involved in the policy and planning functions of the new arrangements and the Learning Hubs.

District councils – Lancashire is a two tier authority, and has 12 district councils who are crucial for delivery of services to families and have specific responsibilities for Community Safety Partnerships. The District Council Chief Executive leads will sit on the Tactical Groups.

Lead Members for Children’s Services - will continue to be a member of the Strategic Partnership Group as they retain responsibilities under the Children Act 2004 as the political lead for Children’s Services.

CAFCASS – will remain a partner within the new arrangements and will be invited to attend the Strategic Partnership Group and Learning Hubs.

Police and Crime Commissioner – will be involved in the policy and planning functions of the new arrangements and the Learning Hubs.

British Transport Police & Border Authorities – will be involved in the policy and planning functions (as required) of the new arrangements and the Learning Hubs.

Probation & Youth Justice Services – National Probation Service, the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) and Youth Justice Services in the three local authority areas will continue to be key partners within the new arrangements and will contribute to the Strategic Partnership Board, subgroups, Tactical Groups and Learning Hubs.

Prisons, Secure Colleges, Training Centres & Youth Offender Institutions – through the three Youth Justice Service Boards in the area, the Strategic Partnership Board will be updated on the performance of safeguarding functions within these different custodial settings.

NHS Provider services including acute, community and mental health trusts, ambulance service, private organisations and primary care remain key to delivering services to children and families across the area and therefore will have representation on the Strategic Partnership Board, on the subgroups, on the Tactical Groups and on the Learning Hubs. The complexity of the health economy, within the local safeguarding arrangements, has required a health governance structure to sit alongside these arrangements led by a Health Executive Group. This will allow for appropriate representation and delegation through all operational and strategic levels of the NHS. This governance structure will equally allow for NHS England to be represented and to gain assurance. This arrangement will ensure involvement and assurance of the NHS system without saturation of the Safeguarding Children Partnership with health membership.

Public Health – will remain as a key partner and contribute to the Strategic Partnership Board, subgroups, and the Tactical Groups. The work of Public Health teams will crucially inform the planning, delivery and assurance of universal, targeted and protective services.

Blackburn With Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire Adult Social Care Services – the Safeguarding Children Partnership will share a business unit with the Safeguarding Adults Boards, recognising that effective join-up is required between the two safeguarding partnerships which share many of the same partner agencies and overall objectives. Directors of Adult Social Services will be required to contribute to the Strategic Partnership Board.

Other providers of services to children and families e.g. voluntary community faith sector organisations; drug and alcohol treatment providers; domestic abuse service providers; sexual health service providers; emotional and mental health providers; adoption agencies; fostering agencies; children’s homes, family centres; respite centres and holiday schemes for disabled children and other children; housing providers and commissioners; charities providing services to children and families will continue to be key partners within the new arrangements and will contribute to the Strategic Partnership Board, subgroups, Tactical Groups and Learning Hubs.

The relevant agencies serving children and families in the three local authority areas will be invited to contribute to specific subgroups and will be required to give regular updates and assurance about their work to ensure safeguarding is embedded in their arrangements as part of the scrutiny process. Frontline staff from relevant agencies will be involved with Learning Hubs where relevant.

In addition to being required to participate in local safeguarding arrangements and acting in accordance with the arrangements, the relevant agencies will also collaborate with the safeguarding partners and other relevant agencies in the following ways:

- Provide targeted support from prevention to early help to protective services to families and children in line with the local continuum of need framework
- Joint identification of, and response to, existing and emerging safeguarding and unmet need issues
- Agree priorities to improve outcomes for children and assist in the design of local multi-agency systems that can consistently safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- Communicate to the safeguarding partners the expectations the local arrangements and priorities place on them, including how expectations impact their organisational structure and ability to fulfil statutory obligations
- Agree with safeguarding partners what contribution and resources they will provide to facilitate and promote local safeguarding arrangements.

In order that relevant agencies can fulfil their roles and responsibilities, the safeguarding partners will undertake the following responsibilities to promote and further local safeguarding arrangements so that the statutory objectives of local arrangements, 'to support and enable agencies working together to improve outcomes for children', can be met:

- Set out in this document, and in future arrangement documents, the agencies they wish to work with in the local safeguarding partnership arrangements
- Consult with relevant agencies to develop local arrangements
- Communicate with relevant agencies the expectations placed on them from being named as a relevant agency, including how the safeguarding partners will seek assurance from relevant agencies about their safeguarding systems and how they will share information across the local arrangements.

Working with other partnerships, particularly the Health and Wellbeing Boards on the prevention and early help agenda in the three local authority areas, strong links will be developed through memoranda to undertake joint work, to delegate work, to undertake events to raise awareness and participation, and joint training where it will enable local partnerships to be more efficient, support a whole-systems approach and ensure safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's business at the highest levels.



Structure of the Partnership

By combining the areas covered by three Local Safeguarding Children Boards, the new Safeguarding Children Partnership arrangements will reduce duplication and improve integration with other strategic partnerships. Ultimately they will enable a more consistent response to meet the needs of children throughout Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire.

As a result of the new arrangements the number of subgroups across Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire will significantly reduce, with those remaining operating across the new geographical footprint. The new subgroups and local Tactical Groups will have a strong focus on holding agencies to account for their safeguarding activity and ensuring an emphasis on assurance, learning and improving practice, enabling a feedback loop across all agencies, and with the frontline.





All subgroups to provide assurances of ongoing priorities & work streams

- L&D – one joint programme but assurances re training delivery single and multi-agency
- Comms – communications through different media to all stakeholders, service user engagement, impact of communications and participation to be disseminated across sub groups
- QA & PM – Work on all categories of abuse (some overlap with other sub groups): effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements, learning hubs, standards, data and intelligence to understand overall and local prevalence/context of need, vulnerability and risk from abuser/neglect; assurance that SCR/SARs actions are completed
- Policy and Planning – will include thresholds, information sharing, prevention planning, strategy & actions for new/emerging issues. Ownership of contextual safeguarding; outputs would need local consultation, equalities assessment and strategic partner sign off
- Task & finish groups to relevant work streams when necessary
- Reviews: Consideration of cases reaching the serious child safeguarding threshold and completion of Rapid Reviews (RR) for the Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) Panel; consideration of cases referred for potential Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR)

Business Management Group – chaired by the Independent Scrutineer (ensuring the business functions across all levels of the structure are fulfilled)



Tactical Groups ensure priorities of local issues and concerns, and that work of subgroups cover the following: local implementation of strategic intent; local sensitivity/factoring local priorities; serve as local assurance mechanisms; and mechanisms to highlight local emerging priority safeguarding themes

Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire Safeguarding Children Strategic Partnership Board

The Strategic Partnership Board will have a wide-ranging membership of safeguarding partners, relevant agencies and other stakeholders, including schools. It will meet four times a year to set the strategic direction for the Safeguarding Children Partnership by reviewing learning from its activities and responding to local and national priorities. It will be responsible for ensuring that the statutory functions of the Safeguarding Children Partnership are fulfilled.

Local Tactical Groups

The Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire area has been split into three smaller areas of North, Central and East, each of which will host a local Tactical Group. Membership will be agreed locally and will include the Safeguarding Partners and relevant agencies who play a critical role in delivering services and safeguarding children in the locality. The purpose of these groups is to oversee the implementation of the Partnership Board's strategic intentions, to co-ordinate local learning and improvement activity, gather evidence on the effectiveness of arrangements in local services and to respond to local emerging threats and issues.

North aligns with Lancashire Constabulary's west division and the areas covered by Blackpool, Fylde, Lancaster and Wyre councils.

Central aligns with Lancashire Constabulary's south division and the areas covered by Chorley, Preston, South Ribble and West Lancashire councils.

East aligns with Lancashire Constabulary's east division and the areas covered by Blackburn with Darwen, Burnley, Hyndburn, Pendle, Ribble Valley and Rossendale councils.

Subgroups

Subgroups will operate on a whole area basis, reporting to the Strategic Partnership Board, while also ensuring local needs are met through the Local Tactical Groups.

Quality Assurance and Performance Monitoring subgroup

The Quality Assurance and Performance Monitoring subgroup will oversee all quality assurance activity, including self-assessment Section 11 audits of the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies, Section 175 and 157 audits of schools, the collection of performance data and intelligence, multi-agency audit activity and engagement with frontline practitioners. By doing so it will collate evidence as to the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements and ensure improvement advice and support are provided, where necessary. This group will oversee the implementation of action plans resulting from review activity so that all learning and improvement activity is co-ordinated by one group.

Policies and Planning subgroup

The Policies and Planning subgroup will be responsible for the publication of a thresholds document, information sharing arrangements and multi-agency policy and procedures. It will develop strategies and action plans for new and emerging areas of safeguarding practice, for example contextual safeguarding.

Reviews subgroup

The Reviews subgroup will be responsible for the consideration of Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPR) referrals, and oversight of CSPR and any other agreed review activity.

Learning and Development subgroup

The Learning and Development subgroup will be responsible organising the delivery of multi-agency training programmes and providing assurance in respect of the sufficiency and quality of single- and multi-agency training. It will also collate partnership wide learning and ensure that this is disseminated through the partnership's multi-agency training offer, for which it will be responsible.

Communications and Engagement subgroup

The Communications and Engagement subgroup will be responsible for identifying and delivering safeguarding messages to all stakeholders, including practitioners, the general public and children. The effectiveness of campaigns will be evaluated and used to inform future activity. The subgroup will also be responsible for engaging with children and families and ensuring that their voices are heard throughout the partnership groups.

Sharing, Promoting and Embedding Learning

Safeguarding partners and relevant agencies (including the local authority through its serious incident reporting requirements) will notify the Safeguarding Children Partnerships' secretariat of all serious child safeguarding cases and cases where organisations think that learning can be identified about practice and service provision.

Through the Reviews subgroup, Rapid Reviews will be completed and agencies will jointly decide on cases to review with decisions being scrutinised by the Independent Scrutineer. All data and decision-making details will be provided in the safeguarding children partnership's annual report.

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) allows for a pragmatic approach in deciding whether a serious child safeguarding case requires a practice review, but it requires all cases that are about a serious incident to be quickly reviewed through a Rapid Review process from which decisions can be made about a more detailed review or another form of learning opportunity.

The Safeguarding Children Partnership will continue to use and trial methods/processes that promote systems thinking and analysis in both practice reviews and other learning opportunities. In the Safeguarding Children Partnership's implementation phase, the different methodologies used across the previous three LSCBs will be revised to a consistent set of processes and methods.

Whilst the processes of completing practice reviews can be time-consuming, the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies are committed to ensuring that the learning from any type of practice review is shared across agencies, partnerships and systems. By sharing the learning, the changes required to practice and services can be promoted and implementing the changes can be embedded. The work across all the subgroups of the Safeguarding Children Partnership and across the local Tactical Groups will be linked to ensure there is sharing, promotion and embedding.



Assessment on the Effectiveness of Services

In order that safeguarding partners and relevant agencies continuously improve their safeguarding practice and services, they will need to routinely share data and intelligence so that all types of safeguarding arrangements, at individual agency level and multi-agency systems, from prevention to protection, can be scrutinised for their effectiveness to promote the welfare of children and effectively safeguard them.

The Safeguarding Children Partnership will gather intelligence directly through its subgroups and indirectly from wider partnership arrangements to inform its view on the effectiveness of services. The Independent Scrutineer (and where relevant inspectorate bodies) will also advise the Safeguarding Children Partnership on priority areas to assess and where to focus improvement initiatives, as required.

Direct intelligence the Safeguarding Children Partnership intends to gather includes:

- Quality assurance and performance monitoring declarations from safeguarding partners and relevant agencies that will include qualitative and quantitative information on performance, practice and outcomes. The declarations will be used to assess how organisations are internally compliant with their statutory safeguarding responsibilities and with local arrangements and also to assess how they are contributing effectively to multi-agency systems
- Self-assessments on the effectiveness of organisation's safeguarding arrangements in line with statutory requirements (Section 11 & Section 175/157 audits)
- Auditing of cases by safeguarding issues and multi-agency processes
- Learning Hubs involving frontline practitioners and their managers about their experiences of working in the local systems and what they think requires improvement
- Voice and experience of children and families involved in local safeguarding arrangements.



The Quality Assurance and Performance Monitoring subgroup will oversee that all data and intelligence is gathered and analysed so that required organisational, practice and service improvements and emerging safeguarding themes are identified. Organisations at the subgroup will hold each other to account and challenge to ensure the purposes of the Safeguarding Children Partnership are met to the highest standards.

The Quality Assurance and Performance Monitoring subgroup will also ensure that the analysed intelligence is used to inform the work of the other subgroups to affect improvements in local policies, strategies, training, service commissioning and communications.

Independent Scrutiny

The safeguarding partners understand the key role of scrutiny is in providing assurance, monitoring and challenging the quality of agencies' work, in order to judge the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire.

The Safeguarding Children Partnership's scrutiny arrangements are part of a wider system, which includes statutory inspection arrangements and those provided by the elected members of our local authorities.

Scrutiny in Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire is wider than any one person's role and is at the heart of all the partnership's audit review and learning activity. Scrutiny will be focussed on learning and will be positive in its approach. The Safeguarding Children Partnership will aim to build a culture where everyone involved in safeguarding children from frontline practitioners to strategic leaders welcomes and actively participates in scrutiny, trusting and learning from each other, while also taking accountability. We aim to achieve improvement by developing good practice based on what we know works well and is evidence based.

It is expected that the Safeguarding Children Partnership's assurance system will primarily assess how effectively the arrangements are working for children and families. Underpinning this will be an assessment as to the effectiveness of the leadership provided by the safeguarding partners, including decision making in respect of practice reviews, and whether the arrangements properly support practitioners.

Over the forthcoming year the Safeguarding Children Partnership will develop its system of assurance. This will involve rolling scrutiny using multiple forms, with oversight from an Independent Scrutineer, who will require assurance as to whether all agencies are fulfilling their responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

The Independent Scrutineer will be independent from the safeguarding partners, and they will have expertise in child safeguarding, an understanding of local need and of effective partnerships.

They will oversee the development of the scrutiny system and the delivery of an annual scrutiny plan. Their role will include:

- Chairing the Strategic Partnership Board and the local Tactical Groups, thereby acting as the golden thread between strategic and operational assurance arrangements
- Reviewing the Safeguarding Children Partnership's annual report and reporting on the quality of assurance the report provides on local safeguarding arrangements
- Providing oversight on all audit and review activity
- Determining the effectiveness of arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases
- Involvement in the escalation and conflict resolution process
- Having a direct line of sight to frontline practice, including through engagement with practitioners, children and families
- Ensuring the development of a culture throughout the Safeguarding Children Partnership in which scrutiny and assurance is seen as a positive process, with learning as its outcome
- Ensuring that children are at the heart of all scrutiny activity by providing challenge to partners and receiving feedback directly from children and families
- Chairing the Business Management Group to ensure all the secretariat functions are fulfilled for the safeguarding arrangements.

Voice of children and families

The Safeguarding Children Partnership will ensure the voice of the child and service users is at the heart of all aspects of scrutiny and assurance by talking with and receiving direct feedback from children, young people and families to test the interconnectedness between performance, practice and the voice of the child, young person and family.

Involving children and families is important to safeguarding across the area both in contributing to, and delivering the Safeguarding Children Partnership's purpose and in helping to scrutinise and review the partnership arrangements themselves.

The Safeguarding Children Partnership will make use of the many existing arrangements in place across areas to regularly involve children and families in its work and hear their voices. These include:

- Children in Care Council
- Young Commissioners programmes, youth inspectors, HeadStart YPEG, Voice groups, youth takeover days etc. as participation opportunities
- Health Watch
- NHS Communication & Engagement Strategies
- Service user panels
- Local Authority Participation groups across children and youth services

The Safeguarding Children Partnership will ensure children and families are involved regularly and that their views are included particularly on the following elements of its work:

- When conducting audits
- When developing new policies and procedures
- When gathering information on identified themes for the Learning Hub
- When conducting scrutiny exercises and peer reviews
- When setting annual priorities through annual engagement initiatives.



Professional Challenge and Escalation

Safeguarding partners will work together to resolve any professional challenges and disputes locally. Whilst every effort will be made to work across the partnership in a strengths-based way, there may be occasions where necessary agreement cannot be reached after escalation to the Safeguarding Children Partnership. Agencies should follow the **Pan Lancashire 'Resolving Professional Disagreements/Escalation Policy'** and supporting local Professional Challenge and Escalation Procedures and Standards.

This Safeguarding Children Partnership policy does not negate any single agency policies and it is expected that organisations will adhere to their own whistle-blowing policies as appropriate. For more information, see the **Pan Lancashire whistleblowing guidance**. The safeguarding partners and all relevant agencies will be expected to adhere to the policy.

In order to reach a resolution at partnership meetings, the Independent Scrutineer will review and make recommendations to the safeguarding partners.



Child Death Review Arrangements

Child death review arrangements will operate as a parallel group to the Safeguarding Children Partnership. The Safeguarding Children Partnership will ensure transition arrangements are put in place to transfer accountability of child death review arrangements to the Health and Well Being Board by 2020.

The local child death review partners are:

- The three local authorities of Blackburn with Darwen Council, Blackpool Council and Lancashire County Council, represented by their respective Directors of Public Health, collectively in the Directors of Public Health (DsPH) Group
- The eight CCGs of Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool, Chorley and South Ribble, East Lancashire, Fylde and Wyre, Greater Preston, Morecambe Bay, and West Lancashire represented by the Health Executive Group.

In addition to the statutory child death review partners, the following organisations should follow the procedures set out by the child death review partners:

- health service providers and commissioners
- children's social care services
- police, including regional and national forces and bodies
- coronial services
- registrars of births and deaths
- education providers
- organisations that provide, commission and inspect/regulate services for children.

The child death review partners will operate in line with the requirements of the statutory guidance *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018* and *Child Death Review: Statutory and Operational Guidance (England) 2018*.

The geographical area covered by the arrangements is that covered, in its entirety, by the three local authorities of Blackburn with Darwen Council, Blackpool Council and Lancashire County Council. The area coincides with that of the eight clinical commissioning groups, with the exception of the area of south Cumbria for which Morecambe Bay CCG is responsible.

The child death review process is defined into four stages following the death of a child:

1. Immediate decision making and notifications
2. Investigation and information gathering
3. Child death review meeting
4. Independent review of child death by the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP).

Present systems, commissions and meetings will remain in place and in the July to September 2019 implementation period the roles and responsibilities will be better defined and accountability transferred including the role of the current rota of Designated Doctors attending CDOP and their new role as Designated Doctors for Child Deaths. The Health Executive Group and DsPH Group will determine how additional systems, commissions and meetings required will be organised to ensure full compliance with the two 2018 guidance referenced above.

Assurance of the new arrangements, until transition to Health and Well Being Board, will be a function of the Strategic Partnership Board. The Child Death Overview Panel Business Group will publish, until functions are transitioned to the Health and Well Being Board, the Child Death Review public report.

Transitional Arrangements

It is recognised that change requires clear objectives and communication and having the right people and processes in place during transition are critical to achieving successful change. Transition from the Safeguarding Children Boards to the new Safeguarding Children Partnership and Child Death Review arrangements, and further improvement thereafter, will be supported by clear resources; a communications strategy; briefings for professionals; and identification and management of risks.

Publish new arrangements	29th June 2019
Transfer data and documents to new partnership	Summer 2019
Final Safeguarding Children Board meetings	August 2019
New arrangements commence	29th September 2019
Roadshows across the three areas – launch events	September 2019
Inaugural Safeguarding Children Partnership meeting	September 2019
Inaugural Child Death Review partners meeting through CDOP Business Group	October 2019
Review first six months of new arrangements including Independent Scrutineer Role	March 2020
Publication of initial partnership and child death review reports	April 2020

During the transition period there will need to be flexibility to respond to developing national expectations, regulations and changes in inspection regimes. The Strategic Partnership Board (together with the Health Executive and Directors of Public Health Group for child death review arrangements) will review the effectiveness of the arrangements annually to ensure they are fit for purpose and meet statutory requirements, with any changes to be updated in annual reports with proposed timescales for improvement.



Funding and Business Support

Funding

The safeguarding partners have an equal and joint responsibility ensure that there is sufficient and effective resourcing to support the Safeguarding Children Partnership arrangements. Relevant agencies will continue to fund the new partnership arrangements as they have with safeguarding children boards. The child death review partners also have to agree how the child death review process will be funded. The funding for the initial months of both arrangements, until 31st March 2020, will be maintained at the level provided to the three outgoing LSCBs.

Future budgets of the Safeguarding Children Partnership arrangements will be: shared and proportionate across the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies; transparent to children and families in the area; and sufficient to cover all elements of the arrangements. While the safeguarding partners are responsible for ensuring the sufficiency of funding for the arrangements, it is envisaged that relevant agencies will also continue to provide significant and proportionate support. The combination of three local authority areas into this new local safeguarding arrangement will necessitate some harmonisation of practice in terms of the agencies that are expected to contribute.

In addition to direct financial support, the support of a wide range of partners through attendance at meetings, membership of the training pool and provision of venues at no cost is acknowledged.

Where current funding for the four parts of the child death review processes exist currently, these will be maintained until transfer of accountability takes place to the Health and Well Being Board in 2020. In the interim the Health Executive Group and Directors of Public Health (DsPH) Group will agree how between the child death review partners there will be equitable and proportionate funding of the new arrangements.

Business Support

The Safeguarding Children Partnership will be supported by a Business Support Unit shared with the three Local Safeguarding Adult Boards (there are to be no changes to the LSAB arrangements) and the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP). Initially, the Business Support Unit will combine the arrangements for the three current LSCBs and LSABs, including the maintenance of the administrative function for the Child Death Overview Panel. As the new arrangements are embedded, these arrangements will be reviewed to ensure that they remain as effective and efficient as is possible. Child death review processes, before the independent case review by CDOP, are currently undertaken by a number of health providers and partner agencies and their respective business support will continue until the transfer of accountability takes place to the Health and Well Being Board in 2020.

Our aspiration for the next phase of our new arrangements is to continue to work across the three areas and with other partnerships to identify where improved efficiencies and approaches can be created.

We will know that we have successfully implemented the new arrangements when:

- Children, families and communities tell us they feel safer and able to contribute to the work of the partnership
- Professionals tell us they feel supported, know where to go for information, and they have opportunities to learn and network
- Reduced duplication across the different partnerships and boards across the three areas
- The Partnership and Operational Groups have clear work plans in place. Actions are undertaken, monitored and achieve the desired impact
- The safeguarding partners and relevant agencies demonstrate to a high quality that they continuously improve their practice and processes focusing on improving the welfare of children and effectively protecting them from maltreatment
- We can evidence that the budget allocated has been managed effectively to implement agreed priorities.



Blackpool Council

