



## LONDON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### **Aim**

The London Safeguarding Children Partnership (London SCP) seeks to enhance the safety and wellbeing of children<sup>1</sup> in London by supporting London's local safeguarding children partnerships to meet their statutory obligations<sup>2</sup> to safeguard children and ensure that work is effective in improving outcomes for children across London.

#### **Objectives**

The London SCP will manage the London Safeguarding Children Procedures on behalf of London's local partnerships/boards.

The London SCP will work in partnership with London's Local SCPs to identify where a pan London response can add value. Areas which have been identified as likely to add value include the following:

- Providing impetus and strategic leadership to all organisations in regard to their responsibilities to safeguard children.
- Supporting and sharing the development of consistent best practice across London's complex safeguarding environment which could include promoting the development of London wide protocols for the sharing of information to safeguard children and ensuring that the voices of the individual child, and children collectively, are taken into account in shaping safeguarding practice.
- Providing leadership and co-ordination in the response to vulnerable children and families who move across borough and organisational boundaries.
- Engaging with pan-London safeguarding partners including the London Ambulance Service, TfL to ensure a co-ordinated approach to tackling safeguarding issues in London.

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<sup>1</sup> Throughout this document 'children' refers to children and young people under the age of 18

<sup>2</sup> Under the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and to do this in line with the guidance set out in *Working Together to Safeguard Children (DfE 2018)*.

- Developing practice in relation to safeguarding concerns that are currently low in number at a local level, such as faith-based abuse and extremism, but when considered at a London level are likely to be significant issues.
- Identifying and developing appropriate responses to London-wide issues which impact on the safety and welfare of children.
- Influencing and informing the development of policy, practice and legislation relating to the safeguarding of children.

### **Accountability**

The London Safeguarding Children Partnership is accountable to London's local safeguarding partnerships and boards and its member organisations. As part of London's wider systems governance, the London Safeguarding Children Partnership will be mutually accountable to the three statutory safeguarding partner organisations represented by London local government (ALDCS<sup>3</sup>), the Metropolitan Police Service and the NHS (represented by each ICS in London).

### **Chairing**

The Chair will be a London Local Authority Chief Executive, as agreed at the Chief Executives London Committee (CELC).

### **Membership of the Executive**

The Executive will be attended by leaders from the three safeguarding partners named in statutory guidance and other relevant partners:

- London Local Authority officers, represented by Chief Executives and London Directors of Children's Services
- Metropolitan Police, represented by the Assistant Commissioner with a lead for safeguarding and the Commander for safeguarding
- MOPAC represented by the Director of Commissioning and Partnerships
- NHS England (London) represented by Director of Nursing Leadership & Quality
- Integrated Care Systems represented by a chief nurse from a London ICS
- London Councils (host of the London SCP)

Arrangements for attendance to be delegated will follow the arrangements set out for the local partnerships in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, as detailed below:

*Should the lead representatives delegate their functions they remain accountable for any actions or decisions taken on behalf of their agency.*

*If delegated, it is the responsibility of the lead representative to identify and nominate a senior officer in their agency to have responsibility and authority for ensuring full participation with these arrangements.*

*The representatives, or those they delegate authority to, should be able 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*

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<sup>3</sup> Occasionally issues will need to be reported directly to the Chief Executive London Committee (CELC) through the London SCP Chair.

- *hold their own organisation or agency to account on how effectively they participate and implement the local arrangements*

### **Functioning and staffing**

- The Executive will meet quarterly.
- Decisions will be agreed and signed off by the three safeguarding partners.
- London Councils will host the London SCP Co-ordinator and Support Officer, who will be responsible for admin and project support for the Executive.

### **Finance**

All member organisations are invited to make financial contributions to the London Safeguarding Children Partnership's pooled budget or to specific projects and initiatives. London Councils will hold the budget for the London SCP. All funding decisions will be agreed by the Executive.

### **Networks**

The London SCP will provide admin and project support to a limited number of multi-agency groups agreed by the Executive. Chairs of each of these networks will be invited to attend a London SCP Executive meeting annually to report back from their networks.

*Reviewed and agreed by the London Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive  
December 2022*