



Bedford Borough
Safeguarding Children Partnership

Bedford Borough Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements

Name of Arrangements: Bedford Borough Safeguarding Children Partnership

Details of how partners will work together to improve the outcomes for children, young people and their families is contained within **Appendix A - Terms of Reference for the Bedford Borough Strategic Board.**

Details of Arrangements: *(Structure/Terms of Reference, etc.)*

The Bedford Borough Multi-Agency Safeguarding arrangements consist of a Bedford Borough Safeguarding Children Strategic Board and a Bedford Borough Case Review Group followed by a set of sub-groups, which span across Bedfordshire and cover the areas of Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire and Luton.

The arrangements consist of:

- An independently chaired Safeguarding Children Strategic Board for Bedford Borough
- Bedford Borough Case Review Group
- Pan Bedfordshire Co-ordinating Group (Group overseeing work of sub-groups)

A set of Core Groups which are the standing sub-groups of the three Safeguarding Children Partnerships arrangements, these groups are:

- Pan Bedfordshire Policies and Procedure Group
- Pan Bedfordshire Voice of the Child Group
- Pan Bedfordshire Safeguarding Education Group
- Pan Bedfordshire Learning, Improvement and Training Group

A set of sub-groups which relate to the priority areas of the three Safeguarding Children Partnerships – these may change over time if the priorities change, these groups are:

- Pan Bedfordshire Neglect Group
- Pan Bedfordshire Strategic Exploitation and Missing Group
- Bedfordshire Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Network Group

A structure chart is shown below:

Bedford Borough Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements Structure:

Bedford Borough Strategic Board (x4)

Bedford Borough Case Review Group (x6)

Core Groups;

Pan Bedfordshire Co-ordinating Group
(Sub-group chairs) (x4)

Pan Bedfordshire
Learning and
Improvement and
Training Group
(x4)

Pan Bedfordshire
Policies and
Procedures
Group (x2)

Pan
Bedfordshire
Voice of the
Child Group (x4)

Pan
Bedfordshire
Safeguarding
Education
Group (x6)

Priority Groups;

Pan Bedfordshire
Neglect Meeting (x4)

Pan Bedfordshire
Strategic Exploitation and
Missing Group (x4)

Bedfordshire Mental
Health & Emotional
Wellbeing Network
Group (x4)

Geographical Area covered by arrangements:

Bedford Borough

Local Safeguarding Partners:

- Bedford Borough Council
- Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board
- Bedfordshire Police

Guiding principles:

The partnership will be driven by;

Strong, effective multi-agency safeguarding arrangements do not just happen; they demand an active commitment to collaboration and common purpose.

Effective protection of children and young people and the promotion of their well-being can only be secured through working together.

Safeguarding arrangements for children and young people being built, sustained, tested and continuously improved.

Safeguard the rights of vulnerable children consistently across the county but not losing the focus on needs of Bedford Borough children and young people.

- Duty to co-operate on **ALL** partners, including schools and colleges
- Independent challenge, authority and resource to fulfil both required statutory functions & ensure learning
- That any change is not led by austerity or cuts but by measurable improvements in the safeguarding systems that benefit children, young people and their families.

Relevant Agencies: *(Including details about why they have been chosen);*

- Independent Chair and Scrutineer
- Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board
- Local Authority, including Adult Services, Children's Services (including Education Services and Early Years) and Public Health
- Bedfordshire Youth Offending Service
- Bedfordshire Police
- Bedfordshire Hospital NHS Trust
- National Probation Service
- 2 lay members
- Schools
- Further Education providers
- East London Foundation Trust
- Cambridgeshire Community Services
- CAF/CASS (Children and Family Courts Advisory and Support Service)
- Representation from the Voluntary Sector (Voluntary Organisations for Children, young people & families, VOCypf and FACES)

The above relevant partners have been selected as they currently form part of the existing Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements in Bedford Borough. The existing arrangements are working well with all partners committed to the safeguarding of children and young people in Bedford Borough.

The Bedford Borough Safeguarding Children Partnership will continue to review the relevant agencies on an annual basis as part of its Development Day.

Details of how partners will work together to improve the outcomes for children, young people and their families is contained within **Appendix A - Terms of Reference for the Bedford Borough Strategic Board.**

Arrangements for Independent Scrutiny:

The Chair and Scrutineer of the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements in Bedford Borough is an independent appointment confirmed by the Chief Officers of the three local safeguarding partners (Bedford Borough Council, Bedfordshire Police and Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board) to whom the arrangements are accountable.

The Bedford Borough Safeguarding Partnership’s Strategic Board will continue to be chaired by an Independent Chair/Scrutineer who is responsible for scrutinising and challenging local partners. The Bedford Borough Case Review Group is responsible for taking forward local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews will also be chaired by the Independent Chair/Scrutineer and they have the authority to decide whether a case meets the criteria set out in Working Together 2018 for a Local/National Review.

The Independent Chair/Scrutineer is responsible for considering how effectively the safeguarding arrangements are working for children, families and practitioners and how well are the safeguarding partners providing strong leadership. The role is objective and acts a critical friend, promotes reflection and drives continuous improvement. The Independent Chair/Scrutineer will report into the Pan Bedfordshire Chief Executive Group and will be accountable to the Chief Executives of the three statutory safeguarding partners, who may choose to delegate their responsibility to one chief officer.

The Pan Bedfordshire Co-ordinating Group is responsible for overseeing the work of the Pan Bedfordshire Sub-Groups is chaired by one of the 3 Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership’s Independent Chair/Scrutineer rotated on an annual basis.

Arrangements for this post are compliant with Working Together 2018.

Funding Arrangements:

Agency	Amount
Bedford Borough Council	£112,180
Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board	£62,663
Bedfordshire Police	£18,300
National Probation Service	£1256
CAFCASS	£550
Total	£194,949

Reporting:

The Governance for the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements sits with the Pan Bedfordshire Chief Executive Group and overseen via the 3 Safeguarding Partner’s internal structures;

- Local Authority - Executive Committee
- Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board
- Bedfordshire Police – PEEL Board

In order to bring about transparency the Bedford Borough Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements will publish a report at least every 12 months setting out what has been done as a result of the arrangements and will include information on child safeguarding practice reviews.

The report will also include:

- Evidence of the impact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements have had including information about training and the outcomes for children and families from early help to looked after children and care leavers.
- An analysis of any areas where there has been little or no evidence of progress on agreed priorities.
- 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, including any resulting improvements.
- Ways in which partners have sought and utilised the feedback from children and families to inform their work and influence service provision.

The report will be published on the BBSCP's website and a copy will be sent to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care within 7 working days of being published.

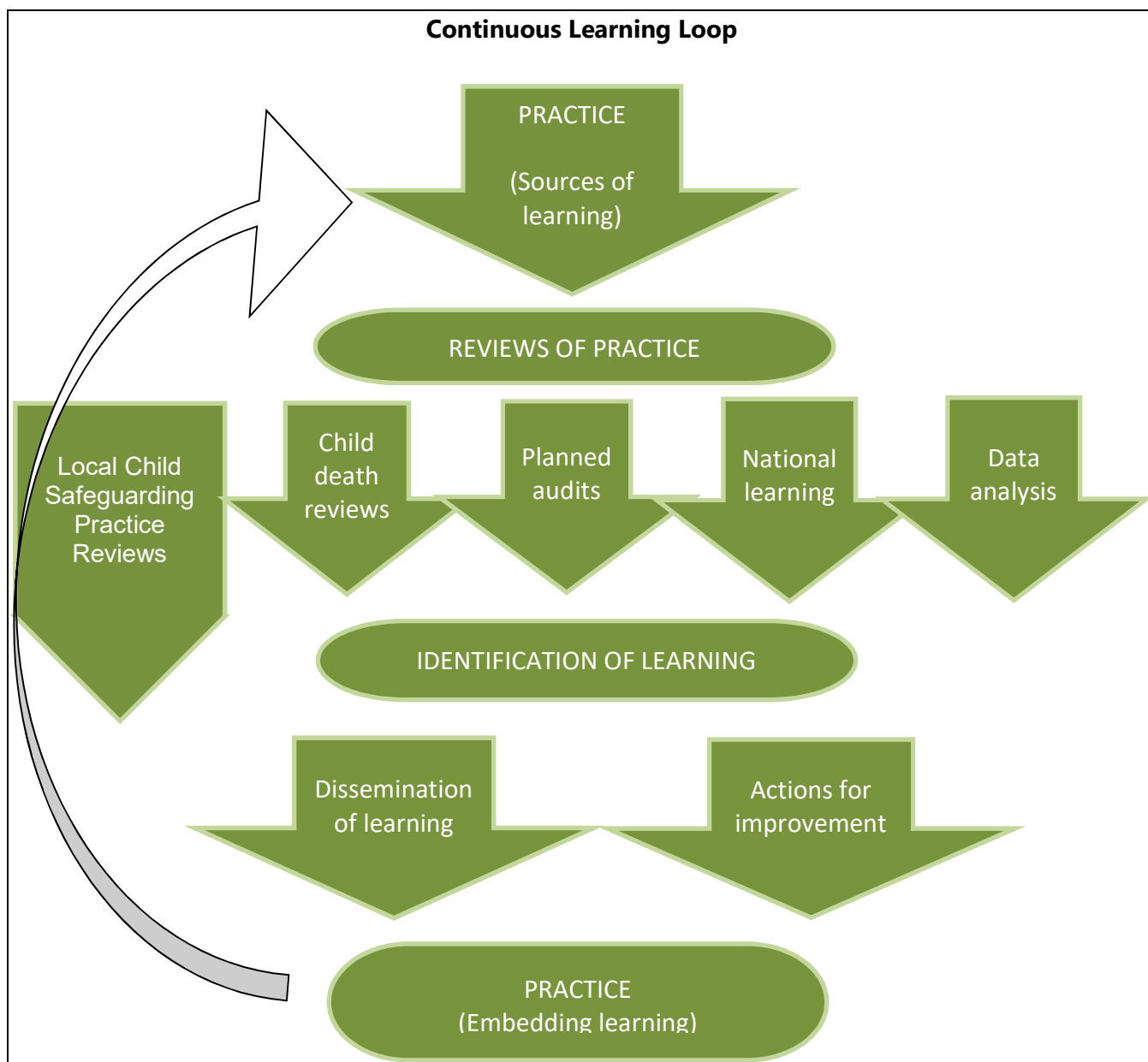
Arrangements for undertaking Multi-Agency Audits and disseminating and embedding Learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Multi-Agency Audits:

The Bedford Borough Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements has in place a Learning and Improvement Framework to help set out a process for continuously improving practice via the learning loop. (The continuous learning loop is shown below)

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements include a Pan Bedfordshire Learning and Improvement and training group which is responsible for following activities related to multi-agency audits:

- Delivering the Learning and Improvement Framework
- Developing and agreeing an annual programme of multi-agency audits
- Reviewing safeguarding related audits completed by single agencies
- Ensuring learning from Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPRs and previous SCRs) and audits are fed into training, policies, and procedures.
- Ensuring actions from multi-agency audits are implemented and where possible outcomes are measured.

Sharing up to date knowledge of relevant research findings.



Learning from the above activities (LCSPRs and audits) are disseminated using a range of methods including:

- Briefings and Conferences
- Multi-Agency Training Programme
- Newsletters and briefing documents
- Via the website
- Published LCSPRs
- Single agency training and briefings

[Link to the full Learning and Improvement Framework](#)

Arrangements for commissioning Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews: *(Process flowcharts etc.)*

Appendix B provides details of the Bedford Borough process for receiving serious incident notifications and considering and commissioning Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.

Links to Early Years and Education Settings:

In line with 'Working Together to Safeguard children' (2018), 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (2018) and the Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage (EYFS, 2017), schools, further education provision, Safeguarding Governors (bodies), Early Years providers and proprietors have a pivotal role to play in multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements will allow all schools (including multi-academy trusts) and colleges in Bedford Borough to be fully engaged, involved and included in the new safeguarding arrangements.

Schools, Further Education Establishments are named as relevant agencies and in 2022, this resulted in a Pan Bedfordshire Safeguarding Education Group being formed following the work of a Project Group as part of some DfE Funding to make Education our 4th Safeguarding Partner.

The Bedford Borough Learning Exchange (known as the 'BBLE') is a collaborative of over 100 local head teachers and leaders of education across Bedford Borough. They will be asked to identify representation across the school tiers to attend BBSCP meetings and engage as required in work streams of the BBSCP. As members of the Strategic Board the school representatives are responsible for facilitating information between the Strategic Board and schools in a 2-way process.

Within the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements there will also be education representatives from the Council's School Improvement Team or from education settings who are members of several sub-groups.

Local Schools and Further Education Establishments are also invited to take part in audits and case reviews where they are relevant. The BBSCP also communicates with all schools via its own newsletter and also a local newsletter 'Aspire' dedicated for schools.

The Early Years Reference Group is a collaboration of private, voluntary and independent (PVI) providers, schools and partners that work with children in the Early years. Through the Early Years Strategy 2018-2021 the reference group will be tasked to ensure children under 5 are safe and that providers have robust safeguarding procedures in place. This work will be supported by the Achieving Continuous Excellence ACE contacts for the providers and monitored through the Early Years Safeguarding audits.

Links to Youth Custody and Residential Homes:

There are no Youth Custody establishments located in Bedford Borough (or Bedfordshire) however; a number of young people from Bedford Borough are placed in Juvenile Secure Custody across England and Wales. The manager of Bedfordshire Youth Offending Service is a member of the Bedford Borough Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements.

In relation to residential private children's homes or 16 plus units the Bedford Borough Council Chief Officer for Children's Services who is responsible for the Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children's Service is a member of the Bedford Borough Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements.

Within Bedford Borough there are within the Bedford Borough Council Commissioning Team attend regular forums throughout the year with the local residential homes and 16+ providers which the safeguarding arrangements the BBSCP use as a link to local residential homes when needed.

Performance Monitoring Arrangements:

The Bedford Borough Safeguarding Arrangements has made a decision not to establish a Bedford Borough Performance Group, as it is felt the existing structure above provides the opportunity to scrutinise data and impact on practice and outcomes for children and young people. Performance indicators linked to the Partnership's priorities are developed by the priority area Pan Bedfordshire groups for discussion and scrutiny within these individual groups.

Arrangements for Inter-Agency Training:

(Including commissioning, delivery, evaluation and monitoring the impact)

[Multi-agency training across Bedfordshire](#) is organised and commissioned via a Pan Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership's Training Unit funded by the 3 Local area Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements.

The Pan Bedfordshire Learning, Improvement and Training Group is primarily responsible for;

- processes in place to identify the multi-agency training and development needs of staff and volunteers in Bedfordshire.
- building on the current joint training and development strategy
- ensuring that the content of the Partnership's training programme is based on latest research/clinical evidence about 'what works' when working with children, young people and families.
- ensuring lessons from all types of reviews and audits are disseminated with a view to embed into practice
- overseeing the commission arrangements and ensure relevant and competent trainers are utilised with a broader range of skills
- monitoring and evaluating the quality and impact of training on practice and take appropriate & timely action

Commissioning:

External expertise is commissioned where required to ensure the quality of learning/training. Expertise from across Bedfordshire services is also drawn upon where available to support the learning/training programme.

Evaluation and impact of training on practice:

The BBSCP will be provided with a robust approach to evaluating the learning/training delivered through the Pan Bedfordshire Training Unit, measuring both the quality of the training delivered and to evidence the impact on practice.

For more information, please see **Appendix C**

A child-centred approach to safeguarding

A child centred approach is fundamental to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of every child. A child centred approach means keeping the child in focus when making decisions about their lives and working in partnership with them & their families.

All practitioners should follow the principles of the Children Act 1989 and 2004 that states that the welfare of the child is paramount and that they are best looked after within their families, with their parents playing a full part in their lives, unless compulsory intervention in family life is necessary.

Children and young people may be vulnerable to neglect, abuse and/or exploitation from within their family and from individuals they come across in their daily lives. These threats can take a variety of different forms, including: sexual, physical and emotional abuse; neglect; exploitation by criminal gangs and organised crime groups; trafficking; online abuse; sexual exploitation and the influences of extremism leading to radicalisation. Whatever the form of abuse or neglect, practitioners should put the needs of the child first when determining what action to take.

Children are clear about what they want from effective safeguarding systems;

- Everyone who works with children has a responsibility for keeping them safe. Everyone who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns; sharing information and taking promote action.
- In order that organisations, agencies and practitioners collaborate effectively, it is vital that everyone works with child and families, including those who work with parents/carers, understand the role they should play and the role they should play and the role of other practitioners. They should be aware of, and comply with, this document and associated [Pan Bedfordshire Interagency Child Protection Procedures](#).
- There is no age limit on the right of the child or young person to express their views freely. All children and young people, including those of pre-school age, school age and those who have left full-time education, have a right to be heard in all matters affecting them, their views being given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity.

The voice and lived experiences of children and young people is a golden thread running through the work of the BBSCP and all subgroups.

Voice of the Child

As part of the Bedford Borough Safeguarding Arrangements there is a Pan Bedfordshire Voice of the Child Group which is responsible for;

- reviewing how local partners are hearing the voice and lived experiences of children and young people and how they are acting upon this.
- carrying out work directly with young people either through surveys or workshops to gain their views about the safeguarding services they receive.

- consultation activities usually in the form of focus groups with practitioners working with young people to gain their views on how systems and processes are working and their views on the services and support opportunities that are provided to young people and their families.
- reviewing relevant organisational policies, developments and initiatives with young people and thus ensure the voice and lived experiences of children and young people is captured as part of the process of their development; this will ensure their effectiveness and transparency and where feedback states otherwise, the Group will offer recommended actions.
- recommending changes to policies and procedures.
- sharing examples of good practice between partner agencies and across Bedfordshire.

In addition to the above:

- All Partnership reports are asked to consider the voice and lived experience of children and young people.
- All audits consider the voice and lived experiences of children and young people.
- Families are contacted to participate in local child safeguarding practice reviews.

Links to local Threshold Guidance:

Bedford Borough has in place multi-agency guidance related to the thresholds of needs for children and young people.

This guidance is designed for anyone working with children & young people and their families:

- To show the criteria for access to services for children based on a multi-agency needs/risk matrix
- To outline the four levels of prevention, need and risk, including safeguarding thresholds
- To set out the key principles for service provision to children, young people and families
- To know what action to take if they are worried about a child's welfare or safety
- To understand what will happen if a child is referred to children's social care
- To outline the threshold between Early Help and Children's Social Care, although in some circumstances both services will be involved.

[Link to the Bedford Borough A Child Centred System: Understanding Thresholds document.](#)

This document will be revised and launched in early 2023.

Child Death Review processes (CDOP)

As per Working Together 2018 our child death review partners are Bedford Borough Council, Central Bedfordshire Council, Luton Borough Council, Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board. The statutory requirements and responsibilities for child death review partners are set out in Working Together 2018 (page 95 -97).

Bedfordshire and Luton CDOP will produce an annual report for child death review partners on local patterns and trends in child deaths, any lessons learnt and actions taken, and the effectiveness of the wider child death review process in order to assist child death review partners to prepare their report.

Bedfordshire and Luton CDOP in liaison with Milton Keynes CDOP will consider when writing their annual reports whether there are any common themes and learning from the year to undertake joint communication campaigns across Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes. This will reflect a wider footprint and the Integrated Care System (ICS) across Bedfordshire Luton and Milton Keynes (BLMK) which includes the BLMK Commissioning Collaborative.

Professional Practice Guidance

All partners will continue to follow the existing [Pan Bedfordshire Inter-Agency Child Protection Procedures](#). This will underpin expected standardised process & practice across Bedfordshire. Adoption of these procedures will provide consistency to practitioners who are already familiar with these procedures.

These procedures will be refreshed in accordance with legislative and statutory guidance changes and national & local learning. This will be progressed through the work of the Pan Bedfordshire Policies & Procedures sub group.

Dispute resolution:

Safeguarding partners will work together locally to resolve any disputes. To aid any disputes [the Pan Bedfordshire Escalation Procedures](#) have been amended to reflect these new arrangements.

If the BBSCP receives any complaints that fall outside of the Pan Bedfordshire Complaints arising from Child Protection Conferences, then the complaint will be forwarded to the appropriate agency and copied to their complaints departments. A request will be made that the BBSCP is kept informed of the status of the complaint and the outcome when resolved.

At a meeting of the Pan Bedfordshire Strategic Leaders of Children's Services Group on the 4th March 2019 Bedfordshire Police requested that the following question and action be added to this Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangement;

How do we demonstrate that our Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements are effectively safeguarding children and young people?

Actions:

To agree the scope of a review to take place within the year of 2020/21 – to be reported back to the Pan Bedfordshire Strategic Leaders of Children's Services Group by August 2020.

Funding arrangements will remain the same as reported above for 2022 - 2023.

Terms of reference of the Bedford Borough Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements Determined by the Children and social Work Act 2017 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

Introduction:

Chapter 2, Section 16 of the Children and social Work Act 2017 requires the safeguarding partners for a local authority area in England and Wales to make arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

Safeguarding partners:

A safeguarding partner in relation to a local authority area in England is defined under the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act, 2017) as:

- a) The local authority (Bedford Borough Council)
- b) An Integrated Care Board for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area (Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board)
- c) The chief officer of police for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area (Bedfordshire Police)

Geographical area:

The geographical footprint for the arrangements is based on local authority areas, however the safeguarding partners for two or more local authority areas may choose to be treated as a single area in relation to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements.

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements for Bedford Borough cover the local authority area of Bedford Borough.

Statutory and Legislative Duties:

The safeguarding partners for a local authority area in England (listed above) must make arrangements for:

- a) The safeguarding partners, and
- b) Any relevant agencies that they consider appropriate

To work together for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and identifying and responding to the needs of children in the area.

The arrangements must also include a process for identifying and conducting Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews:

- a) To identify serious child safeguarding cases which raise issues of importance in relation to the area, and
- b) For those cases to be reviewed under the supervision of the safeguarding partners, where they consider it appropriate.

The purpose of reviews of serious child safeguarding cases is to identify improvements to be made to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Reviews should help to understand whether there are systemic issues and whether policy and practice need to change. Reviews should seek to prevent or reduce the risk of recurrence of similar issues.

Local safeguarding partners must make arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases which, in their view raise issues of importance in relation to their area. Local arrangements must commission and oversee the review for those cases where they consider it appropriate that a review be undertaken.

Key functions:

The purpose of the local arrangements is to enable local organisations and agencies to work together in a system where:

- Children are safeguarded, and their welfare promoted
- Partner organisations and agencies collaborate, share and co-own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children.
- Organisations and agencies challenge appropriately and hold one another to account
- There is early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues and emerging threats
- Learning is promoted and embedded in a way those local services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice.
- Information is shared effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and families

To work together effectively the arrangements should also:

- Facilitate and drive action beyond usual institutional and agency constraints and boundaries
- Ensure the effective protection of children is founded on practitioners developing lasting and trusting relationships with children and their families.

Within the arrangements relevant agencies and safeguarding partners will need to:

- Assure themselves that relevant agencies have appropriate and robust safeguarding policies and procedures in place
- Ensure information is shared amongst relevant agencies and the safeguarding partners
- Communicate on a regular basis about the work that they will do together
- Have in place procedures for escalation and resolving disputes.

Relevant Partners/Membership of the Bedford Borough Arrangements:

Relevant agencies are those organisations and agencies whose involvement the safeguarding partners consider is required to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children.

Within the Bedford Borough the relevant safeguarding partners have been identified as:

- Independent Chair and Scrutineer
- CAFCASS (Children and Family Courts Advisory and Support Service)
- Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board
- Local Authority, including Adult Services, Children's Services (includes Education and Early Years) and Public Health
- Bedfordshire Youth Offending Service
- Bedfordshire Police
- Bedfordshire Hospital NHS Trust
- National Probation Service
- 2 lay members
- Schools
- Further Education
- East London Foundation Trust

- Cambridgeshire Community Services
- Representation from the Voluntary Sector (Voluntary Organisations for Children, young people & families, VOCypf and FACES)

Links to other Boards and Partnerships:

To be effective the Bedford Borough Multi-Agency Safeguarding arrangements for children and young people will need to link into other local partnerships and boards such as:

- Bedford Borough Health and Wellbeing Board
- Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough Safeguarding Adult Board
- Bedfordshire Channel Panel
- Bedford Borough Community Safety Partnership
- Bedfordshire Local Family Justice Board
- Bedfordshire MAPPA
- Bedford Borough Council Improvement Board
- Any local improvement Boards

Independent scrutiny:

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements must have in place arrangements for independent scrutiny which provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of the multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the local area. The scrutiny arrangements will also be involved in identifying and reviewing serious child safeguarding cases.

Safeguarding partners will need to ensure that the independent scrutiny arrangements are objective acts a critical friend and promotes reflection and drives continuous improvement.

Within Bedford Borough it has been agreed that independent scrutiny will be carried out and overseen by an Independent Chair who is responsible for considering how effectively are safeguarding arrangements working for children, families and practitioners and how well are the safeguarding partners providing strong leadership.

The three named lead representatives will delegate supervision and oversight of the independent chair to one of the Chief Executive officers.

Information sharing:

Multi-agency systems are strong when information is shared effectively amongst and between multi-agency partners to improve outcomes for children and families. Safeguarding partners (and therefore their multi-agency arrangements) may require any person or organisation/agency to provide them, any relevant agency for the area, a reviewer or another person or organisation/agency with specified information. This must be information which enables and assists the safeguarding partners and their arrangements to perform their functions to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area, including information related to local and national child safeguarding practice reviews.

As public authorities the safeguarding partners should be aware of their own responsibilities under relevant information law and have regard to guidance provided by the Information commissioner's Office when issuing and responding to requests for information.

Governance and Accountability:

The lead representatives for the local safeguarding partners have equal and joint responsibility for putting in place the local Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements, within Bedford Borough these are:

- The Chief Executive of Bedford Borough Council
- The Accountable Officer of Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board
- The Chief Constable for Bedfordshire Police

In situations where a clear and single point of leadership is required the three safeguarding partners will decide who will take the lead.

If the lead representatives chose to delegate their functions they remain accountable for any actions or decisions taken on behalf of their agency. 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 in the local arrangements.

The representative or their chosen delegated officer 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
- Hold their own organisation or agency to account on how effectively they participate and implement the arrangements.

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Structure and Sub-Groups:

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements in Bedford Borough will be known as the 'Bedford Borough Safeguarding Children Partnership' and consists of:

- A **Bedford Borough Strategic Board** – Overseeing, leading and scrutinising the multi-agency safeguarding work for children and young people in Bedford Borough.
- A **Bedford Borough Case Review Group** – This group is responsible for identifying serious safeguarding cases and taking forward local Safeguarding Practice Reviews.
- A **Pan Bedfordshire Co-ordinating Group** - Overseeing the work carried out by the sub-groups to implement multi-agency work around the agreed local safeguarding priorities.
- A **Pan Bedfordshire Policies and Procedures Group** – overseeing the development and updates of child protection policies, procedures and guidance across Bedfordshire.
- A **Pan Bedfordshire Voice of the Child Group** – A group taking forward consultation with children, young people, families and practitioners to help inform work and service provision.
- A **Pan Bedfordshire Learning, Improvement and Training Group** – This group is responsible for taking forward a schedule of local multi-agency audits, implementing actions and embedding the learning and oversees arrangements for local multi-agency safeguarding training.
- A **Pan Bedfordshire Neglect Group** – This group is responsible for taking forward multi-agency work to implement the aims, objectives and actions outlined in the Bedfordshire Neglect Strategy
- A **Pan Bedfordshire Strategic Exploitation and Missing Group** – This group is responsible for taking forward multi-agency work to implement the aims, objectives and actions outlined in the Bedfordshire CSE and Missing Strategy
- A **Bedfordshire Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Network Group** – This group takes forward multi-agency work to help promote the mental wellbeing of young people.

Reporting:

In order to bring about transparency the safeguarding partners must publish a report at least every 12 months which sets out what has been done as a result of the arrangements including information on child safeguarding practice reviews and how the arrangements have been in practice.

The report should also include:

- Evidence of the impact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements have had including information about training and the outcomes for children and families from early help to looked after children and care leavers.
- An analysis of any areas where there has been little or no evidence of progress on agreed priorities.
- 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, including any resulting improvements.
- Ways in which partners have sought and utilised the feedback from children and families to inform their work and influence service provision.

The report should be widely available, and a copy of the report should also be sent to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care within 7 working days of being published.

Publication of arrangements:

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements will be published in accordance with Working Together 2018 and will include the following information:

- Arrangements for safeguarding partners to work together
- Arrangements for commissioning and publishing local child safeguarding practice reviews
- Arrangements for independent scrutiny
- Who the local safeguarding partners are
- Geographical boundaries
- Relevant agencies
- Information about how early years and education settings will be included in the arrangements
- Information about how youth custody and residential homes will be included in the arrangements
- How the partners will use data and intelligence to assess the effectiveness of help being provided
- Information about how training will be commissioned, delivered and evaluated
- How the arrangements will be funded?
- Process for undertaking local child safeguarding practice reviews and implementing the learning
- How arrangements will include the voice of the children and families
- Links to the local threshold document

Dispute resolution:

Safeguarding partners will work together to resolve any disputes locally.

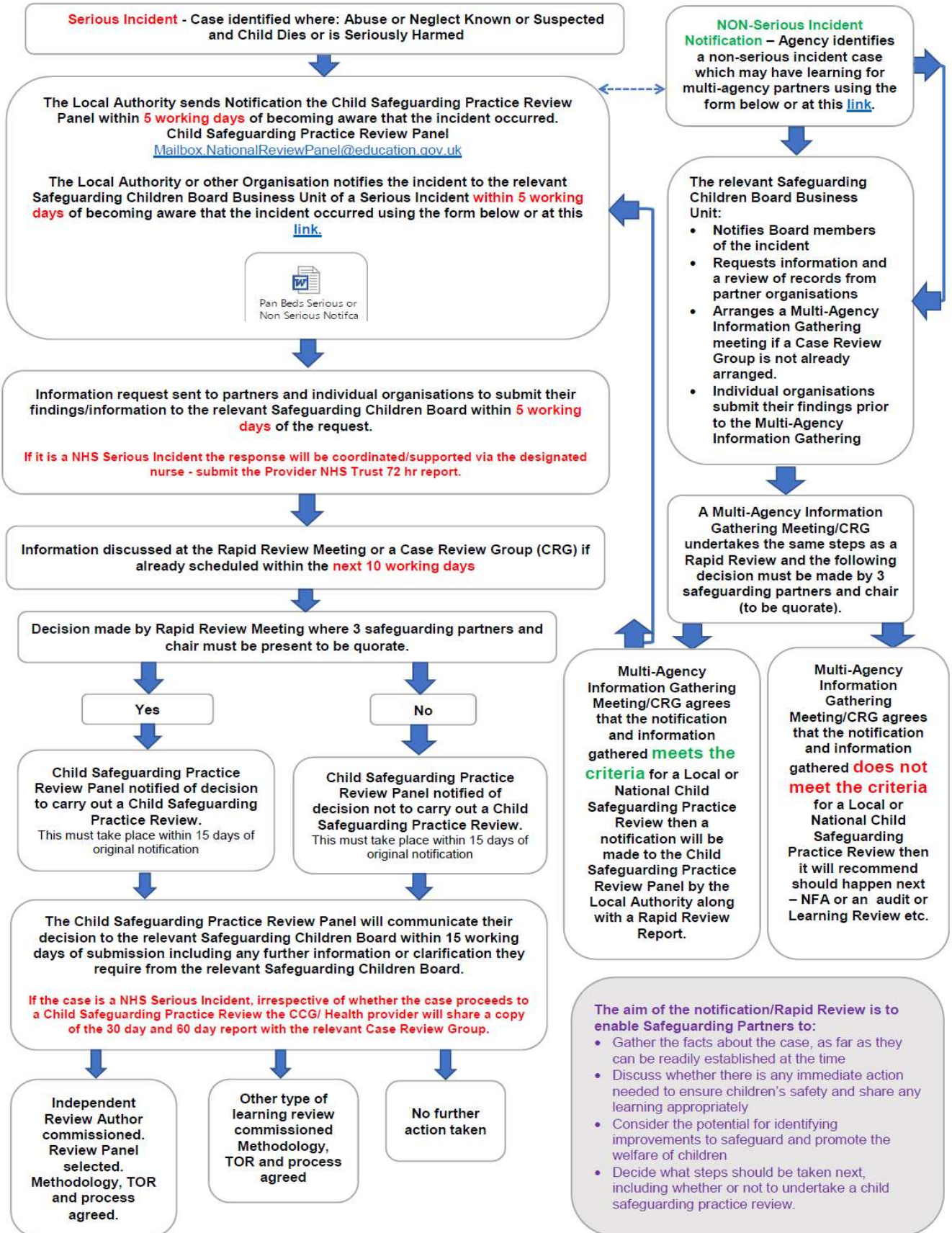
Funding:

Funding for the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements including covering the costs of local child safeguarding practice reviews will be agreed by the local safeguarding partners. Funding arrangements should be equitable and proportionate and outline any appropriate funding from relevant agency

Appendix B – Serious Incident Notification and Rapid Review Process



Pan Bedfordshire Serious Incident Notification & Rapid Review Process



The aim of the notification/Rapid Review is to enable Safeguarding Partners to:

- Gather the facts about the case, as far as they can be readily established at the time
- Discuss whether there is any immediate action needed to ensure children's safety and share any learning appropriately
- Consider the potential for identifying improvements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- Decide what steps should be taken next, including whether or not to undertake a child safeguarding practice review.

Appendix C – Pan Bedfordshire LSCP Training

Training:

The Pan Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership's training unit offers an extensive range of safeguarding training to people working with children, young people and their families. The programme aims to add value to individual partner agency specific training (single agency) by; supporting practitioners to gain essential knowledge and competencies for multi-agency working to safeguard children and young people. These multi-agency competencies do not replace the partner agencies responsibility to ensure their staff are equipped with their role specific competencies, required to comply with their agency specific responsibilities; to promote the well-being and protection of children and young people. The multi-agency working competencies are aimed at enabling all practitioners in accordance with their role specific responsibilities to gain and develop multi-agency interactive skills. They seek to add value to the professionals' experience; supporting and valuing their agency specific responsibilities whilst enhancing their understanding of, and effectiveness in, multi-agency working – thus enabling sound decision making about vulnerable children in collaboration with partner professionals.

The Pan Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership's training unit provides multi-agency training which places an emphasis on effective multi-agency partnership skills. These are skills that cannot be acquired solely through single agency specific training/processes. In this way, multi-agency training enhances professionals' skills sets - by enabling the development of multi-agency, interactive communications skills when working with highly complex families with very vulnerable children.

The training places an emphasis on inter-personal, communication and partnership skills. The practitioners learning experience will therefore help them enhance these skills. Knowledge transfer is important, and a variety of methods will be used to ensure this takes place. The agreed skills set links to national and local experience, with particular reference to serious case reviews. Practitioners must therefore meet single agency role specific competencies at the very least before attending multi-agency events.

Evaluation

Evaluation of training is based upon the following:

How well are we doing?

- The quality of the learning/training (has it met participants learning needs and course objectives?)
- The immediate impact of the learning/training (has the learning/training had an impact on the participant's knowledge and confidence levels?)
- What difference are we making? - The longer-term impact of the training (has the learning/training had an impact on participants practice and specific outcomes for children and young people?)

Quality assurance of training takes place through a triangulated process of collection of participant feedback, trainer feedback and capturing the voice of children and young people with a specific role of quality assurance and transfer of learning into practice. The process used to evaluate training has been broken down into the levels below:

1. Pre-Course Evaluation - Participants are asked to scale themselves between 1 (little) and 10 (extensive) on their level of knowledge and confidence in relation to the specific area of training which they are attending. This form is treated as the baseline for each participant's level of knowledge and confidence. The pre-evaluation is incorporated into online post evaluation questionnaire.

2. End of course evaluation (Reaction and Learning) - Participants are again asked to scale their knowledge and confidence levels at the end of the course and this data is then compared to the baseline evaluation and will evidence whether the course has had an immediate impact on their knowledge and confidence levels.
3. A range of questions are also asked which explore whether; the training was pitched appropriately for the audience, has met its objectives and measures what the participant has learned from the training session. Participants are also asked to list 3 key learning points and list 3 objectives that they will implement into their practice. The end of course evaluation is completed online and enables participants to download an attendance certificate.
4. An end of course evaluation form is also completed by the facilitator(s) which includes questions about content, delivery, participation of attendees and peer review of the session where applicable. Post course evaluation (Behaviour) - The Pan Bedfordshire Training & Development Group have identified that a number of courses will be followed up at 3 – 6 month post evaluation stage. It is not possible to undertake a 3 - 6 month post evaluation of every course. The courses identified are selected by the Pan Bedfordshire Training Unit and will rely on a number of factors. Such as new course, new trainer, existing trainer minor changes.

The two different approaches identified at the 3-6 month follow up are via an electronic survey to the participant to ascertain if the participant has been able to implement the 3 objectives they identified as being able to put into practice and/or by inviting participants back to attend a focus group/session 3-6 months after the course to explore how they have embedded their learning into practice and if there have been any barriers to this. Face to face or telephone feedback with participant manager.

The purpose of this level of evaluation is to assess training transfer. Examples of training transfer and any issues arising are directed to the Pan Bedfordshire Training and Development Group for noting and action if necessary.

All of these sources of data are routinely reviewed and analysed and where issues are identified these are followed up as appropriate by an identified Learning and Improvement and Training Group member.

The Pan Bedfordshire Training Unit will provide a quarterly training report for each Safeguarding Arrangements, reporting on training uptake and evaluation. This report will support the Pan Bedfordshire Learning and Improvement and Training Group annual and quarterly reports to the three Bedfordshire Safeguarding Arrangements.

Signatures

Signature of Bedford Borough Council



(Laura Church – Chief Executive, Bedford Borough Council)

Signature for Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Clinical Commissioning Group



(Felicity Cox - CEO Designate of the ICB for the Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board.)

Signature for Bedfordshire Police



(Sharn Basra on behalf of Garry Forsyth– Chief Constable, Bedfordshire Constabulary)

Date: 6.12.22