



# **Luton Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements**

**Final Version Revised September 2024**

## Contents

<b>Geographical Area covered by arrangements:</b> .....	3
<b>Local Safeguarding Partner Agencies:</b> .....	3
<b>Our Lead Safeguarding Partners are:</b> .....	3
<b>Our Delegated Safeguarding Partners are:</b> .....	3
<b>Relevant Agencies</b> .....	4
<b>How we will work together to safeguard children:</b> .....	4
<b>Educational Settings:</b> .....	5
<b>Early Years Settings:</b> .....	6
<b>Carers including young carers:</b> .....	6
<b>Youth Custody and Residential Homes:</b> .....	6
<b>Guiding principles for the partnership</b> .....	6
<b>Values</b> .....	7
<b>Governance</b> .....	7
<b>Chairing Arrangements: Strategic Board</b> .....	8
<b>Reporting Arrangements:</b> .....	8
<b>Arrangements for Independent Scrutiny:</b> .....	9
<b>Voice of Children and Families:</b> .....	10
<b>Information Sharing:</b> .....	11
<b>Performance and Quality Monitoring Arrangements</b> .....	11
<b>Arrangements for undertaking Multi-Agency Audits:</b> .....	11
<b>Arrangements for Inter-Agency Training:</b> .....	12
<b>Training:</b> .....	12
<b>Commissioning:</b> .....	12
<b>Evaluation and impact of training on practice development:</b> .....	12
<b>Professional Practice Guidance:</b> .....	12
<b>Threshold Guidance: Effective Support</b> .....	12
<b>Dispute Resolution/Escalations:</b> .....	13
<b>Whistleblowing:</b> .....	13
<b>Child Death Overview Process (CDOP):</b> .....	13
<b>Appendix B: Information Sharing Principles:</b> .....	17
<b>Appendix C: Arrangements for disseminating and embedding Learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Multi Agency Audits:</b> .....	18
<b>Appendix D: Arrangements for commissioning Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews:</b>	19
<b>Appendix E: Funding Arrangements – updated July 2024</b> .....	20
<b>Signatures of Lead Safeguarding Partners</b> .....	21

## **Name of the Arrangements: Luton Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP)**

### **Geographical Area covered by arrangements:**

The arrangements cover the geographical area of Luton Borough Council. However, Pan Bedfordshire arrangements provide synergy in the three Multiagency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) across Bedfordshire and for joint enterprise against its strategic priorities which are priority or practice theme led.

### **Local Safeguarding Partner Agencies:**

- Luton Borough Council
- Bedfordshire, Luton & Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board (BLMK ICB)
- Bedfordshire Police

### **Our Lead Safeguarding Partners are:**

- The Chief Executive of Luton Borough Council
- The Chief Executive of Bedfordshire, Luton & Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board (BLMK ICB)
- The Chief Constable of Bedfordshire Police

### **Our Delegated Safeguarding Partners are:**

- The Director of Children's Services and Service Director, Safeguarding Quality Assurance and Practice Innovation: Luton Borough Council
- Chief Nursing Director and Deputy Chief Nurse: Bedfordshire, Luton & Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board (BLMK ICB)
- Assistant Chief Constable and Detective Chief Superintendent, Head of Crime and Public Protection: Bedfordshire Police

### **Designated Police Officers:**

The multi-agency safeguarding arrangements will receive support from named Detective Superintendents and Detective Chief Inspectors as safeguarding system leaders and subject experts according to agreed terms of reference.

### **Designated health professionals:**

Designated doctors and nurses, as senior professionals, clinical experts and strategic leaders, are a vital source of safeguarding advice and expertise for all relevant organisations and agencies. They also provide advice and support to other health practitioners across the health economy. The NHS commissioners and providers should ensure that designated professionals are given sufficient time to be fully engaged, involved and included in the new safeguarding arrangements.

### **Local Authority officers:**

The multi-agency safeguarding arrangements will receive support from safeguarding system leaders and subject experts including the Director of Adult Services, the Service Director Children's Operations, the Service Director for Education, Service Director for Housing, Service Director Public Health, Head of Service for Safeguarding Quality Assurance, Practice Improvement and Principal Social Worker, and Head of Service for Youth Offending Services.

## Relevant Agencies

The [Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Relevant Agencies \(England\) 2018](#) set out the requirements for relevant agencies who are under a statutory duty to cooperate and collaborate with the lead safeguarding partners. Relevant agencies are those organisations and agencies whose involvement the lead safeguarding partners consider is required to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children.

The relevant agencies will also be asked to contribute to the work of the LSCP by nominating representation on subgroups, task and finish groups, attendance at practice learning events, at LSCP Development Days, and by providing practitioner feedback on specific issues.

Relevant agencies are required to participate in multi-agency auditing as part of the Quality Assurance Framework and to provide assurance about single-agency action to embed learning as part of the Learning and Improvement Framework. Relevant agencies are required to contribute to the Rapid Review process following a serious incident notification and, where necessary, contribute to child safeguarding practice reviews and other learning.

In addition to the statutory safeguarding partners the relevant agencies of the Luton Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements are listed below.

- All Education Settings including alternative provision, further education and schools
- Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Bedfordshire NHS Hospitals Foundation Trust
- Bedfordshire Probation Service
- Cafcass (Children and Family Courts Advisory and Support Service)
- Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust
- Department for Work and Pensions
- East London Foundation Trust
- Home Office: Borderforce
- Independent Scrutineer
- Lay Members (as participant observers and to provide community representation)
- Representation from the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise Sector including the NSPCC and Luton Food Bank

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

## How we will work together to safeguard children:

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 and 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 may be vulnerable to neglect and abuse 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 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.

As mentioned already, the voice and lived experiences of children and young people is a golden thread running through the work of the Luton Safeguarding Children Partnership and all its subgroups and work streams.

#### **Educational Settings:**

The Luton Safeguarding Children Safeguarding Partnership Strategic Board currently has representation from the Local Authority, Education Director along with senior representatives from a local secondary school, primary school, alternative education setting and further education college. Representatives from the Local Authority, Safeguarding Education Team currently sit on the Luton Joint Case Review Group and Joint Quality Assurance Group as education representatives.

The Pan Bedfordshire Safeguarding Education Group is chaired by the three Local Authority Chief Officers for Education (on a rotating basis) and has representatives from schools across Bedfordshire. The purpose of the group is:

*The Pan Bedfordshire Safeguarding Education Group is a strategic group, tasked to bring education as the fourth safeguarding partner and reporting directly to the Pan Bedfordshire Coordinating Group. It will ensure that the voice of the education sector within Bedfordshire is heard and represented across Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire, and Luton Safeguarding Children Partnership structures, building a shared understanding of priorities.*

*The Pan Bedfordshire Safeguarding Education Group will actively work with the three Safeguarding Children Partnerships to perform their duties in safeguarding by monitoring safeguarding activities across the county to improve outcomes for children and young people.*

*This group provides a communication channel between education settings, including Governors, local Designated Safeguarding Lead forums and the three Safeguarding Children Partnerships. It provides support and Governance to the local cluster/ hub arrangements as they share themes, challenges, and good practice in their safeguarding work.*

There is a dedicated section of the regular Schools Designated Leads (DSL) Forum, where schools can raise issues or information that they would like to feedback to the Pan Bedfordshire Safeguarding Education Group. The Safeguarding Education Manager and the Strategic Business Manager of Luton Safeguarding Children Partnership attends the DSL forum to provide updates on behalf of the partnership, and local schools and colleges are invited to take part in relevant audits and case reviews.

There is a proposal for a network of Educational Providers, Schools and Settings, who can contribute to decision making at a strategic level. To enable Education to be a fourth Safeguarding Partner, we will establish a small team of leaders who have the relationships with early years, primary and secondary schools, and post 16 colleges.

The Luton Safeguarding Children Partnership communicates with schools via its newsletters and is also developing a dedicated page on its website for communication with schools.

#### Early Years Settings:

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements are currently in the process of developing their links with the Luton Early Years Forum.

#### Carers including young carers:

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements has agreed to receive assurance reports regarding the implementation of the Luton Carers Strategy.

#### Youth Custody and Residential Homes:

There are no Youth Custody establishments located in Luton (or Bedfordshire) however, young people from Luton at times will be placed in Juvenile Secure Custody across England and Wales. These young people will be overseen by the manager of Luton Youth Partnership Service who is a member of the Luton Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements.

In relation to residential homes, private children's homes, and 16+ units, the Service Director for Children's Operations, who is responsible for the Corporate Parenting is a member of the Luton Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements.

#### Guiding principles for the partnership

Strong effective multiagency safeguarding arrangements do not just happen, as they demand an active commitment to collaboration and a common purpose. Effective protection of children and the promotion of their wellbeing can only be secured through working well together. In accordance with Working Together 2023 (para 63):

*Strong leadership and clear accountability are crucial for effective multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. To strengthen accountability, local safeguarding arrangements should separate the roles of partnership chair and independent scrutiny and be clear about the three distinct functions within effective local safeguarding arrangements:*

- ***the partnership chair has authority***, is decisive and enables resource allocation, with risk escalation to lead safeguarding partners at the executive
- ***a business management function*** with adequate resources and capacity to support the partnership chair



- *a rigorous and effective independent scrutiny function providing challenge to the safeguarding partners*

The partnership will be driven by the following guiding principles:

- Delivering collaborative arrangements that align to [Working Together to safeguard children 2023](#) and the Luton Families First for Children (FFC) Pathfinder programme. The FFC Pathfinder programme will focus on the following areas:
  - **Family Help** - An enhanced offer of help and support at an earlier point of need
  - **Child Protection** - A dedicated multi-agency child protection team responding to the needs of children who require protection.
  - **Family Networks** - Utilising the strengths of families and communities in supporting children to remain in the care of their parents.
  - **Overarching System Level Reform** - Changes to safeguarding partnership arrangements with the introduction of education as an additional partner.
- Safeguarding arrangements for children and young people being built, sustained, tested and continuously improved in line with [Stable Homes Built on Love](#).
- Safeguarding the rights of vulnerable children consistently across the county while not losing the focus on needs of children and young people with Luton Borough and aligned to the [Luton 2024 Child Friendly Town](#).
- Where required work will have an all-age focus to address cross-cutting priorities and practice themes, these will be reflected in our governance arrangements.

#### Values

- All partners will keep the child in focus when making decisions about their lives and work in partnership with them and their families.
- All partners to champion a continuous cycle of learning, to further develop and improve service provision and delivery to support the child and their family.
- All partners, including all schools, colleges and other educational providers, to respond to the duty to co-operate.
- The partnership will ensure independent challenge, authority and resources to fulfil both required statutory functions and ensure learning and improvement.
- 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.

#### Governance

The Governance for the Luton Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements sits with the Statutory Partners Safeguarding Chairs Assurance Group and is overseen via the three statutory lead safeguarding partners.

#### Statutory Partners Chairs and Safeguarding Assurance (Executive)

The meeting will be chaired by the Lead Safeguarding Partner (LBC Chief Executive). The focus of the meeting will be to seek assurance relating to the quality, performance, value for money and effectiveness of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in Luton to safeguard and protect the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. Its function is:

- *To oversee and seek assurance that the Luton Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) meet their statutory obligations within Working Together 2018 to effectively safeguard and promote the welfare of children.*

- *To oversee and seek assurance that the Luton Safeguarding Adult Board meet their statutory obligations within the Care Act 2014 to effectively safeguard vulnerable adults.*
- *To ensure that any identified improvements from both local and national reviews are implemented locally, and that the learning and improvement from these reviews are sustained through regular monitoring so that they make a real impact on improving outcomes for children and vulnerable adults.*
- *To have an overview of the current risks, including emerging risks, strategically, operationally and financially within the safeguarding system, which could negatively impact on delivering effective services to protect vulnerable children and adults from harm and abuse.*

#### Chairing Arrangements: Strategic Board

The Luton Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements will be chaired by a delegated safeguarding partner which will rotate across the three statutory partners and the current partnership chair of is the Local Authority, Director of Children’s Services. The function of the partnership chair is to:

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

#### Reporting Arrangements:

The Safeguarding Partners will produce a yearly report, outlining the work they have undertaken together over the previous 12-month period.

The report should be transparent and easily accessible to families and professionals. The focus of the report will be on its multi-agency priorities, learning, impact, evidence, and improvement and any child safeguarding practice review undertaken.

The report should also include the following *Working Together (2023), page 39-40 para 107*:

- *The contribution of each safeguarding partner to the functioning and structure of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements*
- *Any themes emanating from aggregated methods of scrutiny, for example, reviews and scrutineer activity and multi-agency audits.*
- *Evidence of the impact of the work of the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies, including training, on outcomes for children and families*
- *An analysis of any areas where there has been little or no evidence of progress on agreed priorities.*
- *An analysis of learning from serious incidents*
- *A record of key decisions and actions taken by the safeguarding partners in the yearly cycle, including in relation to implementing the recommendations from any local and national child safeguarding practice reviews and the impact this has had.*



- *Ways in which the safeguarding partners have sought and utilised feedback from children and families to inform their work and influence service provision.*
- *The breakdown of costs in delivering the arrangements for that period, including the financial contributions of individual partners, any changes to funding and an assessment of the impact and value for money of this funding*
- *Evidence of how safeguarding partners are ensuring the adequate representation and input of education at both the operational and strategic levels of the arrangements.*
- *An overview of how data is being used to encourage learning within the arrangements and evidence of how information sharing has improved practice and outcomes.*
- *A review of the impact and learning from independent scrutiny arrangements to ensure the leadership is strong and the arrangements are leading to the desired and necessary impact.*
- *Any updates to the published arrangement with the proposed timescale for implementation*
- *Evidence that national reforms have been implemented, taking into account key decisions and actions taken by safeguarding partners in response to reforms, and any issues or concerns encountered within the yearly cycle.*

The report will be published on the [Safeguarding Bedfordshire](#) website, by the statutory deadline of 30 September 2024, and a copy will also be sent to the [National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel](#) and the [What Works Centre for Children's Social Care](#) within seven working days of being published.

#### **Arrangements for Independent Scrutiny:**

The Luton Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements has an Independent Scrutineer in place whose role is defined by *Working Together 2023, page 37* as:

- Provide safeguarding partners and relevant agencies with independent, rigorous, and effective support and challenge at both a strategic and operational level.
- Provide assurance to the whole system in judging the effectiveness of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements through a range of scrutiny methods.
- Ensure that statutory duties are being fulfilled, quality assurance mechanisms are in place, and that local child safeguarding practice reviews and national reviews are analysed, with key learning areas identified and effectively implemented across the safeguarding system.
- Ensure that the voice of children and families is considered as part of scrutiny and that this is at the heart of arrangements through direct feedback, informing policy and practice.
- Be regarded as a 'critical friend' and provide opportunities for two-way discussion and reflection between frontline practitioners and leaders. This will encourage and enable strong, clear, strategic leadership.
- Provide independent advice when there are disagreements between agencies and safeguarding partners and facilitate escalation procedures.
- Evaluate and contribute to multi-agency safeguarding published arrangements and the annual report, alongside feeding into the wider accountability systems such as inspections.

The Independent Scrutineer will be responsible for chairing relevant assurance meetings.

#### **Luton Joint Quality Assurance and Learning Group:**

Responsible for reviewing and scrutinising the Luton Joint Multi-Agency Performance Scorecard and thematic Highlight Reports on a quarterly basis. To underpin and facilitate a culture of continuous learning and improvement across the whole of the adults and children's safeguarding system via local operational practice, audits, training, Children Safeguarding Practice Reviews, Domestic Homicide Reviews, Safeguarding Adult Reviews, and Serious Incidents. To show commitment in implementing and embedding in improvements identified from action plans resulting from reviews across adults and children and from statutory inspections.

#### **Luton Joint Case Review Group:**

Responsible for carrying out Rapid Reviews following Serious Incident Notifications and taking forward Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, Safeguarding Adults Reviews and Local Learning Reviews where appropriate. The Group also oversees the progress of implementing the relevant follow-up action plans in an all-age approach.

#### **Pan Bedfordshire Children's Assurance and Improvement Group:**

Responsible for taking forward a programme of Pan Bedfordshire Multi-Agency Audits and overseeing the implementation of the learning and any actions (including the setting up of any task and finish groups as required). The group will also receive assurance through the presentation of a range of single audits. The Assurance Group will also ensure that learning from audits and case reviews are transferred into the Partnership's Multi-agency Training Offer.

The Independent Scrutineer will also be asked to complete independent deep dive audits at the request of the LSPs and DSPs in relation to themes identified by the Strategic Leads. The findings will be reported back to both the MASA Executive and Partnership Strategic Board meetings.

#### **Pan Bedfordshire Voice of the Child Group**

The multi-agency safeguarding arrangements will reinstate the Pan Bedfordshire Voice of the Child Group, chaired by the principal of a further education college. The Group actively seeks to ensure that our partner agencies are seeking the voice and lived experiences of children and young people when they are developing their services through a range of approaches including an annual conference. There may also be some task and finish groups to address themes and work streams. It will be responsible reviewing and scrutinising the work of our multi-agency partners on a quarterly basis. The voice of children and young people is a golden thread throughout our work.

#### **Voice of Children and Families:**

The voice of children and young people is a golden thread throughout our work, which is overseen by the Luton Voice of the Child Group. The Group actively seeks to ensure that our partner agencies are seeking the voice and lived experiences of children and young people when they are developing their services. The Voice of the Child Group also works to hear the voices of children and young people directly through activities such as the annual Voice of the Child Conference. Work is also underway within the FFC Pathfinder Programme to develop a participation interface with children and young people.

In addition:

- All board reports are asked to consider the voice of the child.

- All audits consider the voice of the child(ren) and families.
- Families are always contacted to participate in local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and rapid reviews where appropriate.

#### Information Sharing:

The Luton Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements will work together, and share information based on the 7 Golden Rules of Information Sharing and Pan Beds Information Sharing Tier 2 Protocol.

#### Performance and Quality Monitoring Arrangements

The Luton Safeguarding Arrangements have in place a multi-agency performance framework which is monitored and scrutinised by the Luton Joint Quality Assurance and Learning Group on a quarterly basis to understand local emerging trends and themes. Information is reported via highlight reports up to the Luton Safeguarding Children Partnership Strategic Board at its quarterly meetings. In addition, performance indicators linked to themes and priority areas will also be developed by the priority area subgroups for discussion and scrutiny within the individual subgroups. This local analysis will further be strengthened by a Pan Bedfordshire Data Analyst (this function is currently being developed under the auspices of Luton Borough Council). The key elements of this project/post will be to:

- Develop and maintain positive relationships with colleagues, including key partners and stakeholders across Pan Beds
- Provide specialist expertise to undertake collection and analysis of a range of information
- Create performance reports in order to ensure decision making and planning is based on robust evidence base that links to the requirements for Families First for Children Pathfinder
- Implement and oversee performance management frameworks, service plans and prioritise work deliverables
- Manage and maintain processes, systems and procedures in accordance with governance and data quality guidance
- Support case selection and audit collation for Pan Beds audits
- Explore and make recommendations for data solutions to meet Pan Beds needs
- Support implementation of identified data solution ensuring sustainability of reporting
- Have an analytical eye, presenting data in different formats that tell a story and test hypothesis and provide recommendations. Findings to be presented at a high standard to inform decision making.

It will be important to work closely with our Pan Bedfordshire partners to share the progress, learning and impact of the Pathfinder work across the Pan Beds space.

#### Arrangements for undertaking Multi-Agency Audits:

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements have in place processes to carry out the following activities related to multi-agency audits:

- Development and implementation of a 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 Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and audits are fed in to training and 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.

### **Arrangements for Inter-Agency Training:**

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

Local place-based training is overseen by the Luton Joint Quality Assurance and Learning Group. Multi agency training across Bedfordshire is organised and commissioned via Safeguarding Bedfordshire, our Pan Bedfordshire Training Unit funded by the three local area Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements.

### **Training:**

The Pan Bedfordshire Children's Assurance and Improvement Group is responsible for the following in relation to training activities:

- Ensuring processes are 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 Pan Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership training programme is based on latest research/clinical evidence about 'what works' when working with children, young people and families.
- Ensuring lessons from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, other 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 development 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 development:**

Safeguarding Bedfordshire aims to provide each Partnership with a robust approach to evaluating the learning/training delivered through Safeguarding Bedfordshire, measuring both the quality of the training delivered and to evidence the impact on practice development.

### **Professional Practice Guidance:**

All partners will continue to follow the existing Pan Bedfordshire Interagency Procedures. These will underpin the expected standardised process and practice across Bedfordshire. Adoption of these procedures will provide consistency to practitioners who are already familiar with these procedures.

### **Threshold Guidance: Effective Support**

Luton Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements has in place multi-agency guidance *Effective Support for Children and Young People* related to delivery of the thresholds of needs and support for children and young people.

This guidance is designed for anyone working with children and young people and their families: <http://lutonlscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Effective-Support-for-Children-and-Young-People-in-Luton-v0.12-1.pdf>

- 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.

This document is being updated to reflect the principles and outcomes required from the Luton Families First for Children Pathfinder Programme.

#### Dispute Resolution/Escalations:

Safeguarding partners will work together locally to resolve any disputes using the [Pan Bedfordshire Escalation Process](#). The local safeguarding partners will also be able to discuss and resolve local disputes through the Pan Bedfordshire Strategic Leaders of Children's Services Board.

If the Luton Safeguarding Children's Board receives any complaints that fall outside of the Pan Bedfordshire [Complaints arising from Child Protection Conferences](#) procedure, then the complaint will be forwarded to the appropriate agency and copied to their complaints departments. A request will be made for the Safeguarding Board to be kept informed of the status of the complaint and the outcome when resolved.

#### Whistleblowing:

The Partnership promotes the importance of people raising concerns at work in the public interest or 'whistleblowing' is recognised by employers, workers, trade unions and the general public. The Whistleblowing procedure can be found [here](#).

#### Child Death Overview Process (CDOP):

As per Working Together 2023 our Child Death Review Partners are Bedford Borough Council, Central Bedfordshire Council, Luton Borough Council and Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board. The statutory requirements and responsibilities for child death review partners are set out in Working Together 2023 (Chapter 6).

Bedfordshire and Luton Child Death Overview Panel (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.

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

Following Working Together 2018 and 2023, the Child Death Overview Panel process no longer forms part of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements, however locally, our processes ensure reporting arrangements between the CDOP and the Luton Safeguarding Children

Partnership are in place along with arrangements by which the CDOP will be able to refer cases to the Luton Safeguarding Children Partnership for consideration of a Child Safeguarding Practice Review.



# Luton Safeguarding Children Partnership Structure

Statutory Partners Chairs Safeguarding Assurance (MASA) Meeting (x 4)  
chaired by LBC Chief Executive as Lead Safeguarding Partners

## Pan Bedfordshire Strategic Leaders of Children's Services Group

Chaired by Delegated Safeguarding Partners

Meets 4 x a year – The Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs) attend twice year to agree priorities, funding and sign off Annual Reports

## Luton Safeguarding Children Partnership Meetings

Strategic Board (x 4) chaired by Delegated Safeguarding Partners  
Joint Case Review Group (x 6) (additional meetings held for rapid reviews)  
Joint Quality Assurance & Learning (x6)

**Pan Bedfordshire webinars to share the learning from Reviews and audits.**  
(Frequency to be agreed)

## Pan Bedfordshire Children's Assurance & Improvement Group (x4 a year)

Chaired by Independent Scrutineer and responsible for scrutinising safeguarding effectiveness and the coordination of improvement activities.

## Pan Bedfordshire Neglect Group (4 x year) Chaired by Andrew Skea (NSPCC)

Themes: Physical neglect - Educational neglect - Emotional neglect - Medical neglect - Supervisory neglect - Environmental Neglect. There may also be some task and finish groups to address themes and work streams.

## Pan Beds Safeguarding Education Group (4 x year) Chaired by LA Chief Officer

Education: Themes: (TBC) S175, Safeguarding Boards in Schools, Safeguarding/Exclusions, Child on Child Abuse, Radicalisation. There may also be some task and finish groups to address themes and work streams.

## Pan Bedfordshire Policy and Procedures Group (2 x year).

Chaired by Sally Stocker

Task and Finish Groups will undertake the work as appropriate.

## Pan Bedfordshire Exploitation and Missing Group (4 x year)

Chaired by Jonathan Churchill

The purpose of the Group is to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategic and operational multi-agency response to Exploitation and Missing across Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire, and Luton. There may also be some task and finish groups to address themes and work streams.

## Pan Bedfordshire Voice of the Child Group (4 x year)

chaired by Sarah Mortimer. The voice of children and young people is a golden thread throughout our work. The Group actively seeks to ensure that our partner agencies are seeking the voice and lived experiences of children and young people when they are developing their services through a range of approaches including an annual conference. There may also be some task and finish groups to address themes and work streams.

**Golden threads throughout the individual Partnership's and Pan Bedfordshire  
Groups:**

**Voice & engagement of children young people and their families**

**Child Exploitation and Missing**

**Cultural Competency**

**Data monitoring and analysis**

**Effective application of thresholds and alignment of place-based MASH/IFD  
interface**

**Impact of Domestic Abuse on children and young people**

**Impact of emotional wellbeing and mental health on young people**

**Impact of Neglect on children and young people**

**Learning from practice reviews**

**Legal Literacy**

**Links to other Partnerships action plans & strategies**

**Multi-agency & single agency audits**

**Preparing for Adulthood**

**Safeguarding aspect of attendance and exclusions**

**Stable Homes Built on Love and the Family Help model**

**Voice & engagement of frontline practitioners including the voluntary, community  
or social enterprise organisations.**

**Luton 2040 Child Friendly Town**

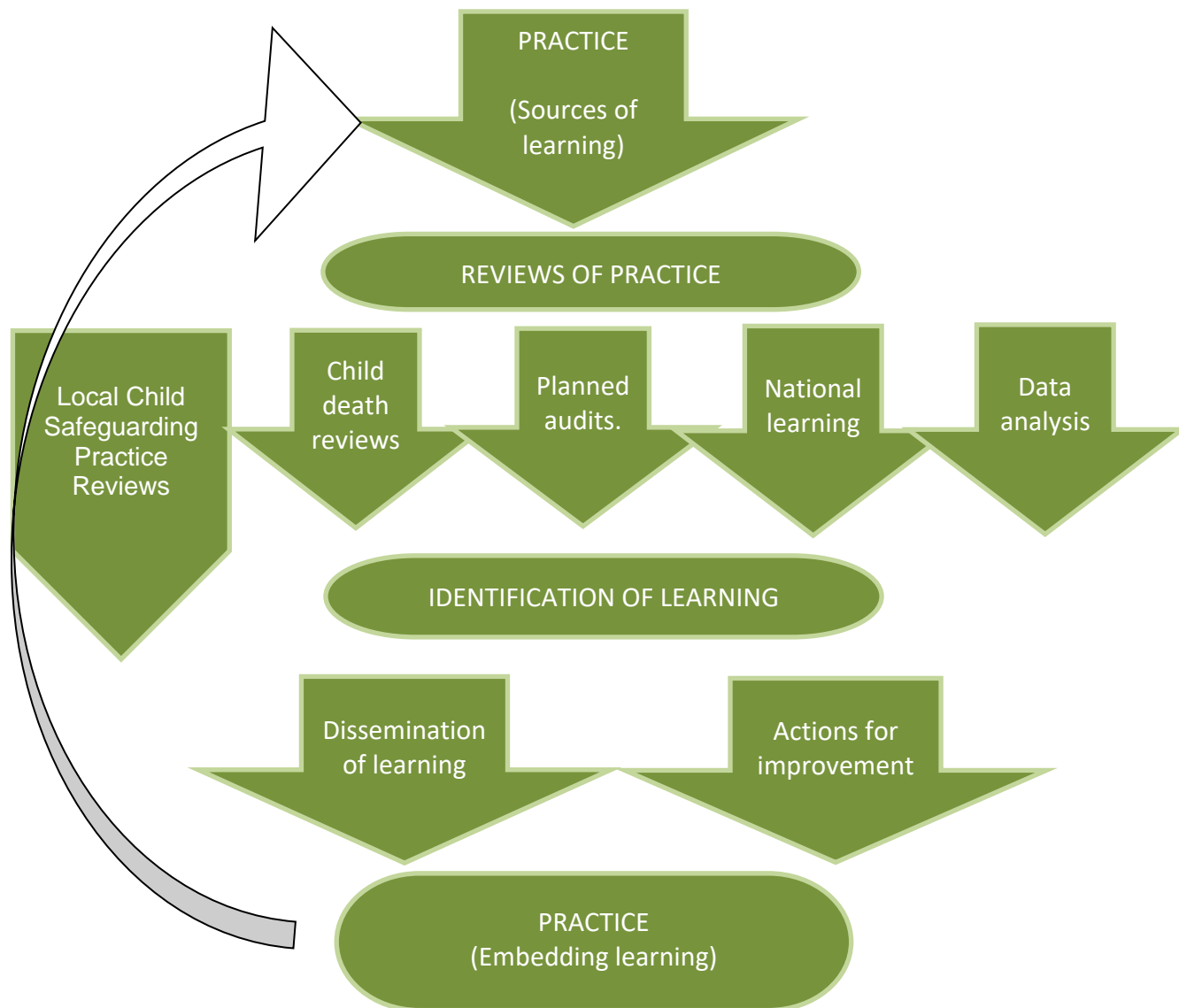
## Appendix B: Information Sharing Principles:

### The Seven golden rules for sharing information (including personal information):

- 1. All children have a right to be protected from abuse and neglect. Protecting a child from such harm takes priority over protecting their privacy, or the privacy rights of the person(s) failing to protect them.** The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) provide a framework<sup>1</sup> to support information sharing where practitioners have reason to believe failure to share information may result in the child being at risk of harm.
- 2. When you have a safeguarding concern, wherever it is practicable and safe to do so, engage with the child<sup>2</sup> and/or their carer(s), and explain who you intend to share information with, what information you will be sharing and why.** You are not required to inform them, if you have reason to believe that doing so may put the child at increased risk of harm (e.g., because their carer(s) may harm the child, or react violently to anyone seeking to intervene, or because the child might withhold information or withdraw from services).
- 3. You do not need consent to share personal information about a child and/or members of their family if a child is at risk or there is a perceived risk of harm.** You need a lawful basis to share information under data protection law, but when you intend to share information as part of action to safeguard a child at possible risk of harm, consent may not be an appropriate basis for sharing. It is good practice to ensure transparency about your decisions and seek to work cooperatively with a child and their carer(s) wherever possible. This means you should consider any objection the child or their carers may have to proposed information sharing, but you should consider overriding their objections if you believe sharing the information is necessary to protect the child from harm.
- 4. Seek advice promptly whenever you are uncertain or do not fully understand how the legal framework supports information sharing in a particular case.** Do not leave a child at risk of harm because you have concerns you might be criticised for sharing information. Instead, find out who in your organisation/agency can provide advice about what information to share and with whom. This may be your manager/supervisor, the designated safeguarding children professional, the data protection/information governance lead (e.g., Data Protection Officer<sup>5</sup>), Caldicott Guardian, or relevant policy or legal team. If you work for a small charity or voluntary organisation, follow the NSPCC's safeguarding guidance.
- 5. When sharing information, ensure you and the person or agency/organisation that receives the information take steps to protect the identities of any individuals (e.g., the child, a carer, a neighbour, or a colleague) who might suffer harm if their details became known to an abuser or one of their associates.**
- 6. Only share relevant and accurate information with individuals or agencies/organisations that have a role in safeguarding the child and/or providing their family with support, and only share the information they need to support the provision of their services.** Sharing information with a third party rarely requires you to share an entire record or case-file – you must only share information that is necessary, proportionate for the intended purpose, relevant, adequate and accurate.
- 7. Record the reasons for your information sharing decision, irrespective of whether or not you decide to share information.** When another practitioner or organisation requests information from you, and you decide not to share it, be prepared to explain why you chose not to do so. Be willing to reconsider your decision if the requestor shares new information that might cause you to regard information you hold in a new light. When recording any decision, clearly set out the rationale and be prepared to explain your reasons if you are asked.

## Appendix C: Arrangements for disseminating and embedding Learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Multi Agency Audits:

The Luton Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements has in place a Learning and Improvement Framework (shared with Pan Bedfordshire) to help set out a process for continuously improving practice via the learning loop shown below.



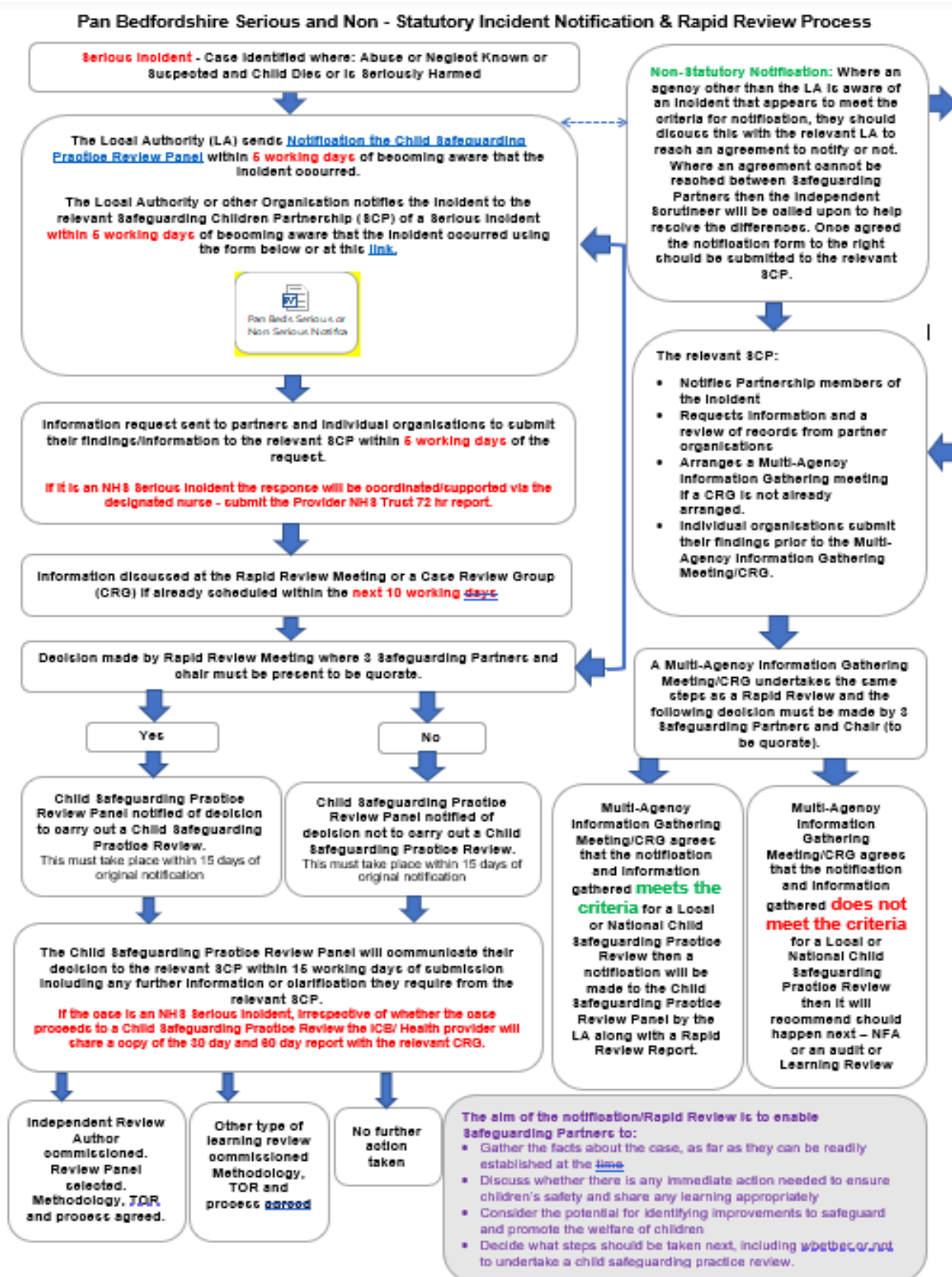
Learning from the above activities (LCSPRs and audits) are disseminated using a range of methods including:

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

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

## Appendix D: Arrangements for commissioning Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews:

The [flowchart](#) below outlines the process for receiving serious incident notifications and considering/commissioning Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.



## Appendix E: Funding Arrangements – updated July 2024

Current funding arrangements include the costs of both the Luton Strategic Business Unit and Luton’s contribution to the Safeguarding Bedfordshire Training Unit.

The lead safeguarding partners are required to agree the level of funding secured from each partner, which should be equitable and proportionate, and any contributions from each relevant agency to support the local arrangements each financial year.

The lead safeguarding partners make payments towards expenditure incurred in conjunction with local multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Details of the Luton Safeguarding Children Partnership annual budget and how it has been spent will be reported on in its corresponding Yearly Report.

<b>Provider</b>	<b>Approx % contribution</b>	<b>Funding (000's)</b>
Bedfordshire Hospitals University Trust	8.5%	£24.4
BLMK ICB	8.5%	£24.4
Bedfordshire Police	9%	£24.4
Cambridgeshire Community Services	8.5%	£24.4
East London Health Foundation	8.5%	£24.4
Luton Borough Council	56%	£140.4
National Probation Service	<1%	£2.2
	<b>Total Contribution</b>	<b>£264.6</b>



Signatures of Lead Safeguarding Partners

**Signature of Local Authority Chief Executive**



**(Robin Porter – Chief Executive, Luton Borough Council)**

**Signature of the accountable officer for Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board**



**(Chief Executive, Felicity Cox Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes ICB)**

**Signature of the Chief Constable**



**(Trevor Rodenhurst – Chief Constable, Bedfordshire Police)**

**Date: 01 October 2024**