

# *Tameside Safeguarding Children Partnership* **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements**



**December 2024**

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# Introduction

There is a statutory requirement for local safeguarding partners to review and agree multi-agency safeguarding arrangements (MASA), informed by the updated guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023.

Tameside safeguarding arrangements take on board changes to legislation and statutory guidance.

- Children and Social Work Act 2017
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023

This document evidences the consideration to inform and update the MASA for Tameside Safeguarding Children Partnership (TSCP). The arrangements specify the requirements of Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs) and Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs), their roles to oversee and instruct effective multi-agency cooperation in order to help, protect and promote the welfare of children.

Robust arrangements and the promotion of a shared responsibility can ensure that information about a child and their family is shared effectively; the risk of harm is correctly identified and understood; and that children and families receive targeted services that meet their needs in a co-ordinated way. The overarching duty is to seek assurances on the effectiveness of local arrangements specific to both safeguarding practice and systems.

The purpose of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements is to ensure that, at a local level, organisations and agencies are clear about how they will work together to safeguard children and promote their welfare. This means:

- There is a clear, shared vision for how to improve outcomes for children locally across all levels of need and all types of harm.
- When a child is identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm there is a prompt, appropriate and effective response to ensure the protection and support of the child.
- Organisations and agencies are challenged appropriately, effectively holding one another to account.
- The voice of children and families combined with the knowledge of experienced practitioners and insights from data, provides a greater understanding of the areas of strength and also those that require improvements within arrangements and practice.
- Information is sought, analysed, shared, and broken down by protected characteristics to facilitate more accurate and timely decision-making for children and families, and to understand outcomes for different communities of children.
- Effective collection, sharing and analysis of data, enables early identification of new safeguarding risks, issues, emerging threats, and joined-up responses across relevant agencies.
- Senior leaders promote and embed a learning culture which supports local services to become more reflective and implement changes to practice and systems.
- Senior leaders have good knowledge and understanding about the quality of local practice and its impact on children and families.

TSCP provides a framework for the safeguarding arrangements under which the statutory partners and relevant agencies work together to identify and respond to the needs of children. This includes the commissioning and publishing of Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPR), as well the provision of effective scrutiny and review to seek assurance on the effectiveness of local arrangements.

Helping and protecting children through a coordinated approach to safeguarding is everyone's responsibility through collaborative efforts across both statutory and relevant agencies who work with children, young people and families. The ambition of our arrangements is support the prevention of harm and to respond to incident of harm appropriately. It is important that everyone can recognise, respond, and fulfil their responsibilities to ensure that children, young people, and families are effectively safeguarded, and their welfare is promoted.

Our governance structure has been streamlined to enable a clear line of sight to front line practice for senior leaders and facilitates an ability to understand the effectiveness of arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of vulnerable children. We have established new strategic groups, chaired by senior leaders from the statutory partners. We have made improvements to the Learning and Development Framework, Quality Assurance and Performance Framework with a revised multi-agency data set and scorecard. Our child safeguarding practice review process, effective multi-agency audit schedule and comprehensive multi-agency training programme continue to be a core part of the arrangements and have been reviewed under the new arrangements.

TSCP frameworks and supporting documents that are referenced in the document can be located on the partnership website – <https://tamesidescp.org.uk>

# Vision and Strategic Priorities

Strong leadership and clear accountability is critical to effective multi-agency safeguarding.

Through the Executive Safeguarding Children Board, Tameside LSPs and DSPs, will lead on a shared vision for how to improve outcomes for children across all levels of need and all types of harm. This includes the responsibility of statutory partners and relevant agencies to challenge appropriately and hold one another to account.

Senior leaders will also work to embed a learning culture which supports services to become more reflective and implement changes to practice and systems.

TSCP has agreed the following strategic priorities, to take forward into 2025 and beyond. All oversight and activity must consider and incorporate local challenges such as the prevalence and impact of Domestic Abuse and to remain responsive to emerging trends associated with the potential abuse and neglect of children in Tameside.

## **TSCP – Strategic Priorities**

- Partnership effectiveness, improvement, stability and maturity, in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023
- MASH – Effectiveness of the Front Door, Multi-Agency response and application of Thresholds
- Neglect and Early Help – harm prevention, identification and response
- Transitions

A review will be undertaken in early 2025 to consider the TSCP subgroup structure.

Concerted efforts will focus on a reflection and appraisal of local challenges and the current position of services for children and the partnership. Inspection reports, commissioner's report and local improvement plans will be reviewed in order to achieve a sense of what core aspects need to remain in focus for the partnership and how a revised structure and approach to business can help to achieve this.

There is an opportunity with new leadership to review the journey travelled and to be realistic about what can be achieved over the next 12 months. This can include practice and system priorities and assurances on areas such as; the effectiveness and impact of the local response to safeguarding; identifying and responding to risk and safety planning.

The MASA will remain in place as a working document and is to be reviewed, updated and re-published on a regular basis. Advice has been sought as to whether it is appropriate to have a continually evolving MASA from National Safeguarding Advisors (DfE) and this is seen as good practice by them.

# Scheme of Delegation

The Scheme of Delegation shown in **APPENDIX 1**, sets out respective responsibilities to ensure decision making is aligned to the governance and accountability arrangements made under Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023. It sets out responsibilities on key areas including:

- Strategic planning
- Rapid Reviews and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews
- Financial oversight and management
- Risk management
- Policy development

The LSPs are responsible for the overall strategic direction of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. Strategic decisions may be delegated to DSPs, TSCP Executive Board and/or its Strategic Groups.



# Delivery of Tameside MASA

LSPs will meet with DSPs a minimum of once a year. This will allow for the collective review and leadership oversight specific to the effectiveness of arrangements and partnership working to safeguard children in Tameside. In order to practicably deliver this approach, on occasion, LSPs may need to delegate within their respective organisations.

The LSPs will also be members of the Greater Manchester Safeguarding Alliance, which will meet at least twice a year to provide collective leadership and deliver mutual assurance of strategic and operational safeguarding partnership arrangements for children and young people in Greater Manchester.

The term Chief Officers Group identified within the structure diagram refers to the monthly meetings of DSPs and incorporates the dates for LSP attendance.

The DSPs work closely together at a locality level, with primary responsibility for implementing the local MASA and to provide strong leadership that ensures they are effective in bringing together relevant partner agencies. Local arrangements currently outline that Tameside DSPs will meet monthly. This also includes close connection and involvement with Tameside's appointed Independent Scrutineer.

The joint functions of the DSPs are:

1. Delivery and monitoring of multi-agency priorities and procedures to protect and safeguard children in the local area, in compliance with published arrangements and thresholds.
2. Close partnership working and engagement with education (at strategic and operational level) and other relevant agencies, allowing better identification of and response to harm.
3. The implementation of effective information sharing arrangements between agencies, including data sharing that facilitates joint analysis between partner agencies.
4. Delivery of high-quality and timely rapid reviews and local child safeguarding practice reviews, with the impact of learning from local and national reviews and independent scrutiny clearly evidenced in yearly reports.
5. The provision of appropriate multi-agency safeguarding professional development and training.
6. Seeking of, and responding to, feedback from children and families about their experiences of services and co-designing services to ensure children from different communities and groups can access the help and protection they need.
7. Escalate risks and issues they cannot resolve between them to the LSPs for resolution. This will ensure that accountability is clear, that strategic decisions are achievable and deliverable, and that progress is driven at all levels.
8. Co-ordinate the views of children, and families about the services they receive and feed key learning, issues, and good practice to the LSPs.
9. Support effective engagement with relevant agencies in their local area so that they understand their roles and responsibilities, which includes strengthening the input from education providers at operational and strategic level decision-making.
10. Chair, attend or be reported to on regular multi-agency operational meetings and subgroups, to ensure common threads across the arrangements.

DSPs will discharge the core partnership functions including:

- Approving rapid reviews on cases notified to the National Panel.
- Approving the recommendations and publication as appropriate of local safeguarding practice reviews into such cases.
- Approving proactive and reactive communications in relation to cases subject to review.

TSCP current governance structure (under review at December 2024) are detailed in **APPENDIX 2**.



# Tameside Safeguarding Children Partnership (TSCP)

The remit of Tameside Children's Safeguarding Partnership Board is to provide strategic oversight and scrutiny of the safeguarding arrangements across Tameside by holding partners to account. The Executive Safeguarding Children Board, with the support of the strategic groups will ensure effective safeguarding practice.

TSCP Executive Safeguarding Children Board meets quarterly and is chaired by the DSP, Chief Superintendent, GMP. Membership is made up of DSP's, chairs of the strategic groups and executives from across partners and relevant agencies, including education, and an appointed Independent Scrutineer.

The position of Chair is to be reviewed on an annual basis and can be rotated amongst DSPs. The position of Vice Chair is appointed to a DSP.

TSCP is responsible for delivering the following outcomes and working relationships:

- Ensuring that there is a clear, shared vision for how to improve outcomes for children locally across all levels of need and all types of harm
- Ensuring that there is a prompt, appropriate and effective response to ensure the protection and support of the child when a child is identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.
- Effectively holding one another to account and challenging appropriately.
- Ensuring that the voice of children and families combined with the knowledge of experienced practitioners and insights from data, provides a greater understanding of the areas of strength and/or improvement within arrangements and practice.
- Facilitating more accurate and timely decision-making for children and families and understanding outcomes for different communities of children by seeking information which is analysed, shared, and broken down by protected characteristics.
- Effective collection, sharing and analysis of data, to support early identification of new safeguarding risks, issues, emerging threats, and joined-up responses across relevant agencies
- Promoting and embedding a learning culture which supports local services to become more reflective and implement changes to practice.
- Having good knowledge and understanding about the quality of local practice and its impact on children and families.
- Oversight of the quality and compliance of the delivery of agreed shared priorities.
- Ensure processes are in place to provide assurance that multi-agency practice is reviewed and operating well. Where this is not evident, TSCP members should have the capacity and resource from their own agencies to engage, respond and improve operational systems and practice.
- Endorse the yearly report and recommend its publication to the LSPs.

- Oversee and be responsible for the analysis, intelligence, and timely collection of data to support functions, such as:
  - getting an accurate local picture of how effectively services are being delivered through regular communication across relevant agencies
  - advising the statutory safeguarding partners of the key challenges and emerging priorities
  - coordinating the joint multi-agency strategic plan, ensuring that statutory safeguarding partners and their delegates feed into and own the plan in the local area
  - overseeing the quality of practice and local outcomes for children and families
- Review and promote consistent understanding and application of referral and intervention thresholds across agencies so that the right children receive the right support at the right time.
- Co-ordinate the views of children, and families about the services they receive and capture key learning, issues, and good practice.
- Use learning from local practice and serious incident notifications to prompt reflection and analysis of where improvements need to be secured and action taken.
- Strengthen system conditions for effective multi-agency child protection work.
- Ensure that relevant agencies are provided with information about how to escalate concerns and how any disputes will be resolved. This should include details of the independent scrutiny and whistleblowing procedures.

Where a key decision needs to be made that will impact arrangements and/or services, this will involve the LSPs.

# Relevant Agencies

Tameside's DSPs will discharge their joint functions through collaboration with relevant agencies through TSCP and its strategic groups. This includes relevant agencies as identified in Working Together 2023 and detailed in APPENDIX 3.

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

Relevant agencies have confirmed their intention to cooperate by nominating their executive or senior lead and deputy representative for the arrangements. The Executive Safeguarding Children Board will reserve the right to invite other relevant agencies to join the partnership in response to emerging need and new strategic priorities.

TSCP recognise the importance of Education, across all settings and all ages. This is firmly embedded within the structure and arrangements. In addition to the Assistant Director for Education chairing the Education Strategic Group, the Executive Safeguarding Children Board maintains Headteacher representatives from Primary and Secondary schools in Tameside.

TSCP will also seek the voice of education by collaborating with existing groups and networks that are established in Tameside. For example, the Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) Network.

The MASA have been developed in consultation with a wide a range of partner agencies and the arrangements now reflect their commitment to improving outcomes for children and young people. Each relevant agency has been provided with details of their ongoing responsibilities and the expectations placed on them by the new TSCP arrangements.

TSCP cannot operate and achieve the desired impacts by working in isolation and partnership connections include close working with:

- Tameside Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board (TASPB)
- Community Safety Partnership (CSP)
- Health and Wellbeing Board
- Tameside Children's Improvement Board
- Corporate Parenting Board
- SEND Improvement Board
- Early Help Board
- Domestic Abuse Steering Group
- Youth Justice Partnership
- Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE)

# Strategic Groups

Priorities and work of TSCP will be instructed to the strategic groups. Membership of the groups include representatives from statutory partners and relevant agencies.

The strategic groups will:

- Deliver against strategic priorities for the partnership.
- Seek assurance and promote effective challenge.
- Receive instruction and report on progress to the Executive Safeguarding Children Board.
- Keep the executive updated on emerging threats, patterns, good practice and gaps in safeguarding delivery.
- Consider and take forward any learning and recommendations arising from local and national child safeguarding practice reviews. To implement and track required actions.

TSCP currently has five strategic groups within its structure and they meet every two months. The Chair positions are appointed by DSPs to ensure statutory partner representation is maintained and relative seniority in the position. Strategic group chairs are including within membership of the Executive Safeguarding Children Board, with responsibility to report on activity undertaken and the effectiveness of their arrangements. TSCP Strategic Groups include:

- MASH Strategic Group
- Learning and Review Strategic Group (audit and assurance; case review; learning and development)
- Exploitation Strategic Group
- Neglect Strategic Group
- Education Strategic Group

# Learning and Assurance

The Learning and Review Strategic Group has responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of learning and assurance. This includes learning from practice, reviewing data, commissioning audits and ensuring that multi-agency training programme is robust and responsive to emerging practice themes.

A multi-agency dataset and scorecard has been re-established for the partnership, in order to inform activity in seeking necessary assurances. Without this it is virtually impossible for partners to assure themselves on the effectiveness of local practice and systems.

How the safeguarding partners will use data and intelligence to assess the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families, including early help, how multi-agency training will be commissioned, delivered, and monitored for impact, and how they will undertake any multi-agency and inter-agency audits.

The Learning and Review Group has recently instructed a review of local frameworks and the update of a Learning and Development Framework; and a Quality Assurance and Performance Framework.

## Learning and Development Framework

TSCP Learning and Development Framework demonstrates how learning is identified and how this will inform training to support safeguarding practice and systems. The framework is central to local arrangements and the ongoing assessment of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

TSCP works to provide a programme of multi-agency safeguarding learning and development opportunities. Through the training offer, practitioners and organisations can access a variety of courses, workshops, virtual materials and webinars. This will be primarily for professionals working in a safeguarding role with children and families who live in Tameside.

The aim of training is to bring professionals together to develop skills and knowledge whilst working collaboratively to deliver positive outcomes for children and families. It is important to note that all agencies working with children and families are responsible for ensuring that staff receive appropriate safeguarding training relevant to their role and responsibilities.

In line with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023, multi-agency training is essential to support and understand the local need and services available to children and young people. Within the guidance, one of the roles of TSCP is to deliver effective and quality training and to evaluating its effectiveness to meet local needs.

## Quality Assurance and Performance Framework

The focus of all QAPF activity should be on improved outcomes for Children and Young People (CYP), families and communities. Our activities will focus on:

- Practice. Exploring practice-based issues that affect vulnerable groups.
- Organisational context- how organisations approach safeguarding

It is important for TSCP to establish and make clear a consistent approach to the way in which all related activity is planned, supported, overseen and monitored. The framework subsequently informs agencies of individual and combined responsibilities in actively contributing to all processes linked to multi-agency quality assurance and performance monitoring.

# Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR)

Following a referral of a significant incident related to a child, a screening panel is held to consider the criteria for whether a Serious Incident Notification (SIN) is met and whether to proceed to a notification being made and a Rapid Review instructed

DSP representatives from the statutory safeguarding partners must be made available to attend a screening panel within guided timescales of the referral being received. The DSP representatives have delegated authority to consider whether the measure for a SIN is met. In exceptional circumstances where agreement cannot be reached, the Independent Scrutineer will liaise with the DSPs to make a determination and escalate to the LSPs where required.

If a SIN is agreed, it is the responsibility of the Local Authority Children's Services to make the notification to the National Panel.

The Business Unit will be responsible for informing the Lead Safeguarding Partners of the decision from the screening panel, for their oversight. If a SIN notification is made, the DSP representatives will meet to commence a Rapid Review of the circumstances and makes recommendations. A decision is then needed to determine whether the case meets requirements for a LCSPR.

The Rapid Review process is to be chaired by a senior lead from one of the statutory partners and authored by the TSCP Business Manager. LCSPRs will be completed and published within six months unless there are extenuating circumstances such as an ongoing criminal investigation, inquest or future prosecution.

Responsibility for the approval and publication of LCSPRs is with DSPS and the Executive Safeguarding Children Board. Any delay to the completion or publication of a review will be approved by the DSPs and the reasons notified to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. LSPs will have oversight as appropriate.

LSPs will have regular oversight of learning from LCSPRs. The Executive Safeguarding Children Board and relevant strategic group will provide assurance to the LSPs that recommendations are implemented and future reporting is timetabled.

Publication of LCSPRs or information about the improvements that should be made will be via TSCP website. Published reports will also be shared with the NSPCC who maintains a national case review repository where case reviews remain available electronically for five years.

In some circumstances the partnership may consider it inappropriate to publish a review report in which case arrangements will be made to publish information about the improvements that should be made following the review. The partnership will set out for the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel the justification for any decision not to publish the report.



# Voice of the Child

Tameside Youth Council has consulted with children and young people across Tameside and agreed, as part of a wider Voice of the Child Strategy, a series of standards that they expect all professionals working with, and for, children and young people to use in their day to day practice. They have called these their 'Statement of Expectations'.

In addition, Tameside Children in Care Council has developed the 'Tameside Pledge' which all safeguarding partners have signed up to and are committed to delivering against.

The Voice of the Child Strategy launched in 2018, has been updated. The Youth Council have been commissioned to deliver Voice of the Child training as part of Tameside Safeguarding Children Partnerships Training Programme twice a year.

# Providing help, support, and protection, threshold document

Tameside Threshold Document has been updated (September 2025) and developed in collaboration with strategic partners and relevant agencies. The document sets out the local criteria and application for action and referral.

TSCP must gain assurance on the effective application of thresholds and also has a key role in facilitating the delivery of threshold awareness and training to all partners.

## **Section 17 Lead Practitioner Role**

The role will continue to be Children's Social Care and any review of this will be updated accordingly.

# Strategic Partnership Arrangements

All four Strategic Partnerships (Tameside Safeguarding Children Partnership, Tameside Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board, Community Safety Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board) have signed up to the Memorandum of Understanding. This will be an opportunity to ensure that all four strategic partnerships are aligning their work and resources and supporting each other by delivering a whole family and neighbourhood approach to secure better service delivery and outcomes. Each partnership forum will deliver against an agreed work plan relating to a strategic priority and will report to the relevant strategic partnership.

The TSCP is committed to maintaining existing regional and national links and will continue to work with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

The DSPs, relevant agencies leads, TSCP Business Manager and support team will lead on and attend any national initiatives where relevant. The Business Manager attends the GM Business manager forum to explore opportunities for sharing best practice and to reduce duplication of efforts.

# Independent Scrutiny

Safeguarding partners must ensure that there are arrangements in place for effective independent scrutiny for their local area.

The role of the Independent Scrutineer is to provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases. This independent scrutiny will be part of a wider system which includes the independent inspectorates' single assessment of the individual safeguarding partners and the Joint Targeted Area Inspections.

TSCP has in place an Independent Scrutineer whose role it is to provide the following to the partnership: (as outlined in Working Together, 2023)

- 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 as requested to multi-agency safeguarding published arrangements and the annual report, alongside feeding into the wider accountability systems such as inspections.

The Independent Scrutineer will also be asked to:

- Complete a quarterly assurance report on the effectiveness of the arrangements and work against the priorities. The findings will be reported to the Executive Safeguarding Children Board.
- Complete independent deep dive assurance exercises 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 Chief Officers Group and Executive Safeguarding Children Board.

# Annual Report

In order to bring transparency for children, families and all practitioners about the activity undertaken, the TSCP will publish an annual report on the activity undertaken as a result of the arrangements, including:

- Evidence of the work undertaken by the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies, including learning, training, information sharing and an analysis of the difference it has made for children and families from early help to looked-after children and care leavers.
- Evidence of how safeguarding partners are ensuring the adequate representation and input of education at both the operational and strategic levels of the arrangements.
- Progress on agreed priorities and analysis of any areas where there has been little or no evidence of progress.
- Analysis of learning from serious incidents including a record of decisions and actions taken by the partners to implement the recommendations of any local and national child safeguarding practice reviews, including any resulting improvements.
- Activity that sought and utilised feedback from children and families to inform their work and influence service provision.
- Financial contributions and expenditure and an assessment of the impact and value for money of this funding.
- 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
- Contribution of each safeguarding partner to the functioning and structure of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements any updates to the published arrangements.

# Information Sharing

No single agency or practitioner can have a full picture of a child's needs and circumstances. Information sharing is therefore essential for effective safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

Practitioners should be proactive in sharing information as early as possible to help identify, assess and respond to risks or concerns about the safety and welfare of children. Information sharing is also essential for the identification of patterns of behaviour when a child is at risk.

TSCP will facilitate the sharing of information where it will help and support children, young people and their families. Sharing information between agencies should not be a barrier and TSCP operate within the existing Greater Manchester Safeguarding Policy guidelines.

A data sharing protocol and agreement is in place, to ensure there is effective information sharing arrangements between agencies, including data sharing that facilitates joint analysis between partner agencies.



# Dispute Resolution and Escalation Process

All agencies working with children in Tameside remain subject to the Greater Manchester Safeguarding Procedures and its 'Resolving Professional Disagreements/Escalation Policy'. This sets out the general principles of resolution as well as the specific processes to be followed.

The TSCP and all relevant agencies will be expected to adhere to the policy. When a disagreement arises between members of the Children's Safeguarding Executive Partnership, then the general principles of resolution will still apply, in particular:

- When the disagreement is between two agencies, then they should seek to meet and find a satisfactory resolution;
- Where the disagreement cannot be resolved, or involves a more complex set of partner agencies, then it will be for the full Children's Safeguarding Partnership to seek a resolution;
- Where necessary, the three statutory safeguarding partners have primacy in determining the resolution to a disagreement;
- Where there is disagreement between the DSPs, then the Independent Scrutineer should be asked to mediate and negotiate a satisfactory solution.
- Where necessary, the DSPs may escalate to the LSPs.

If the issue remains unresolved between the three statutory safeguarding partners and their local networks the next stage of escalation is to the Secretary of State.

Whistleblowing Procedures provide an additional important route for staff to raise concerns in a safe process that protects their position, if this is a concern. Members of TSCP Executive will each adhere to their own whistleblowing procedures within the borough.

# Funding

LSPs are responsible for ensuring that adequate funding is allocated to deliver the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. The level of funding needed has been delegated to the DSPs. Funding will be reviewed by DSPs on a quarterly basis to ensure ongoing financial needs of the arrangements, including:

- Business and analytical support
- Independent scrutiny
- Infrastructure
- LCSPR
- Multi-agency training, development and learning events.

DSPs have agreed contributions will remain unchanged in 2024/2025. The table below highlights the contributions made by the statutory and relevant agencies how funding is spent to ensure core functions of the partnership are maintained.

## TSCP Funding Arrangements 2024/25

| Total    | LA                 | ICB                | Police            | Other  |
|----------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--|
| £279,914 | £74,357<br>(26.6%) | £74,357<br>(26.6%) | £13,200<br>(4.7%) | Schools and Academies: £113,000<br>(40.3%)<br><br>Other non-statutory partner contributions (including probation): £5000<br>(1.8%) |

## Breakdown of key elements of TSCP Expenditure 2024/25

| Budget Area   | Amount   |
|---|--|
| Staffing  | £220,350   |
| Supplies and Services<br>* This incorporates Independent Scrutiny, partnership training and professional services associated with the CSPR process) | £59,564<br>*Independent Scrutiny - £18,000<br>*TSCP Training - £16,000 |

# Business Unit

To ensure the multi-agency arrangements are effectively delivered the TSCP employs a business management function with adequate resources and capacity to support activities and assurance outlined in the arrangements. The business unit is hosted by TMBC.

- Business manager (1 FTE)
- QA Officer (1 FTE)
- Training Organiser (1 FTE)
- Business support (1.4 FTE)

**TSCP  
Business Manager**

**TSCP  
QA Officer**

**TSCP Training  
Organiser**

**TSCP  
Administrator**

**TSCP  
Administrator**

Responsibilities include:

- Getting an accurate local picture of how effectively services are being delivered through regular communication across relevant agencies
- Advising the statutory safeguarding partners of the key challenges and emerging priorities
- Facilitate effective Child Safeguarding Practice Review process.
- Dissemination of local and national learning including from serious child safeguarding incidents via appropriate subgroup activity.
- Analysis and reporting of multi-agency key performance indicators including statistics, performance measures and emerging safeguarding trends with the support of data teams from across the partnership.
- Ensure multi-agency safeguarding statutory audits (Section 11 and Section 157/175) case file audits (MACFA) feature as part of Partnership activity.
- Facilitate the development of Practitioner and partnership challenge events.
- Design, commission and evaluate multi-agency training.
- Provide support to the Executive to ensure the compilation of the Yearly Report.
- Facilitate the meetings and support the work of the Executive Board, Partnership and the subgroups.
- Provide specialist support and guidance to chairs of subgroups and 'task and finish' groups which enable progress to areas of focus to help ensure that outputs are delivered in a timely way.
- Support the arrangements which bring strategic leads from the relevant safeguarding partners together to drive forward these arrangements.
- Promote best multi-agency practice to improve outcomes for children and families.
- Provide support to the work of the independent scrutineer and ensure that findings from scrutiny activity are fed into the safeguarding effectiveness subgroup.
- Support the Partnership on the development of multi-agency policies, procedures and practice guidance;
- Co-ordinate communications (including website management) in connection with the local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

# APPENDIX 1 – SCHEME OF DELEGATION

## Scope

This Scheme of Delegation sets out respective responsibilities to ensure decision making is aligned to the governance and accountability arrangements made under Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 (WT23).

The Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs) are responsible for the overall strategic direction of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. Strategic decisions may be delegated to the Tameside Safeguarding Children Partnership (TSCP) with decisions made by the Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs).

## Scheme of Delegation: Responsibilities

This Scheme of Delegation sets out the respective responsibilities of LSPs and DSPs for key areas of responsibility:

- Strategic planning.
- Financial oversight and management.
- Risk management.
- Implementation of learning and improvement.

## Strategic Planning

### LSP functions – WT23

- Set the strategic direction, vision, and culture of the local safeguarding arrangements, including agreeing and reviewing shared priorities and the resource required to deliver services effectively.
- Lead their organisation’s individual contribution to the shared priorities, ensuring strong governance, accountability, and reporting mechanisms to hold their delegates to account for the delivery of agency commitments.
- Review and sign off key partnership documents: publish MASA, including plans for independent scrutiny, shared annual budget, yearly report, and local threshold document.
- Provide shared oversight of learning from independent scrutiny, serious incidents, local child safeguarding practice reviews, and national reviews, ensuring recommendations are implemented and have a demonstrable impact on practice (as set out in the yearly report).

### DSP functions – WT23

- Delivery and monitoring of multi-agency priorities and procedures to protect and safeguard children in the local area, in compliance with published arrangements and thresholds.
- Delivery of high-quality and timely rapid reviews and local child safeguarding practice reviews (LCSPRs), with the impact local and national reviews and independent scrutiny clearly evidenced in yearly reports.
- Monitor implementation of actions in plans.
- Seeking of, and responding to, feedback from children and families about their experiences of services and co-designing services to ensure children from different communities and groups can access the help and protection they need.
- Oversee and be responsible for the analysis, intelligence, and timely collection of data to support functions, such as:
  - getting an accurate local picture of how effectively services are being delivered through regular communication across relevant agencies
  - advising the statutory safeguarding partners of the key challenges and emerging priorities
  - coordinating the joint multi-agency strategic plan, ensuring that statutory safeguarding partners and their delegates feed into and own the plan in the local area
  - overseeing the quality of practice and local outcomes for children and families

### Procedure

- Strategic priorities and business plan agreed annually.
- Business plan delivery updates presented each quarter to TSCP Executive Board.
- Annual review of business plan provided by the Independent Scrutineer to TSCP Executive Safeguarding Children Board.
- MASA reviewed annually with recommendations to Executive Safeguarding Children Board.
- Yearly report to be developed.
- Rapid Reviews signed off by DSPs
- LCSPRs approved by TSCP
- DSPs to approve proactive and reactive communications in relation to cases subject to review.
- Provide regular assurance reporting from Learning and Review Strategic Group to Rapid Reviews and LCSPRs.
- Provide regular assurance on learning from case reviews and LCSPRs and impact of training.

## Strategic Planning

| LSP functions – WT23  | DSP functions – WT23   | Procedure  |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure all relevant agencies, including education settings, are clear on their role and contribution to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.</li> <li>• Ensure multi-agency arrangements have the necessary level of business support, including intelligence and analytical functions, such as an agreed data set providing oversight and a robust understanding of practice.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close partnership working and engagement with education (at strategic and operational level) and other relevant agencies, allowing better identification of and response to harm.</li> <li>• Review and promote consistent understanding and application of referral and intervention thresholds across agencies so that the right children receive the right support at the right time.</li> <li>• Provide capacity from each agency to support the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements e.g. rapid review authors, audit work.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi agency L&amp;D training programme</li> <li>• Section 11 audit</li> <li>• Section 157/175 audit in education</li> <li>• DSP is Partnership Chair</li> <li>• Annual review of funding contributions considered by the Executive.</li> </ul> |

## Financial Oversight and Management

| LSP functions – WT23   | DSP functions – WT23  | Procedure   |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve annual budget of the safeguarding partnership.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delegated responsibility for the day-to-day running of the partnership to the Business Manager.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarterly budget reports presented to DSPs.</li> </ul> |

## Risk Management

| LSP functions – WT23  | DSP functions – WT23   | Procedure   |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oversight of risk register.</li> <li>• Review identified risks and ensure yearly report comments on the key risks faced by the BSCP and the effectiveness of the controls in place.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain risk register and process to review and identify key risks that the partnership faces and implement controls to mitigate these.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report bi-annually on the risk register to the Executive.</li> </ul> |



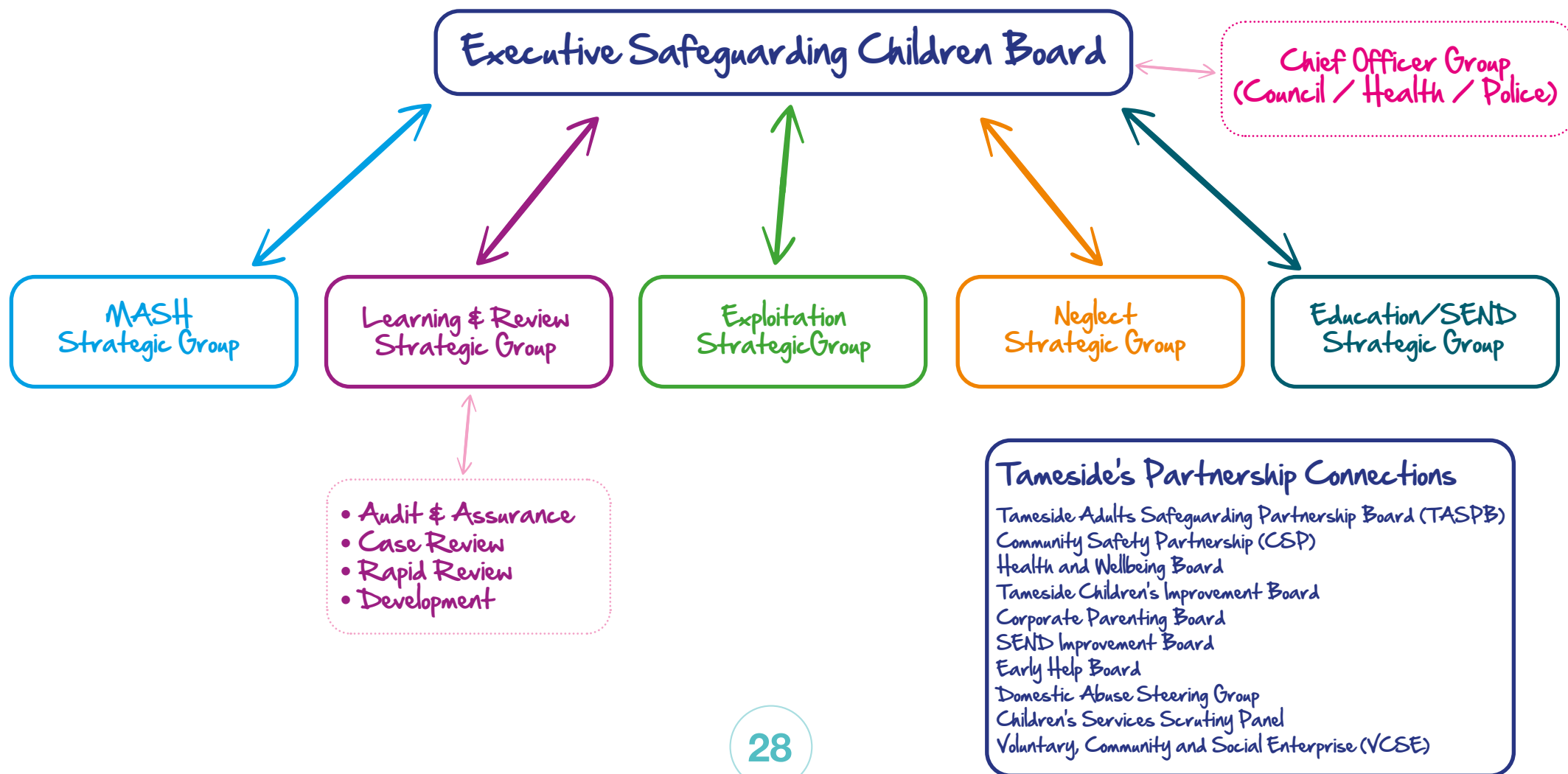
## Implementation of Learning and Improvement

| LSP functions – WT23  | DSP functions – WT23  | Procedure   |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval of the information sharing agreement.</li> </ul>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The implementation of effective information sharing arrangements between agencies, including data sharing that facilitates joint analysis and learning between partner agencies.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Escalation issue in place as required.</li> </ul>                          |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure professional development and training is led by local insight.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The provision of appropriate multi-agency safeguarding professional development and training.</li> <li>Use learning from national reviews, local practice and serious incident notifications to prompt reflection and analysis of where improvements need to be secured and action.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>L&amp;D programme in place</li> <li>Impact of training reported</li> </ul> |

# APPENDIX 2 – TSCP GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS



## Tameside Safeguarding Children Partnership (TSCP)



# APPENDIX 3 – RELEVANT AGENCIES

The list of relevant agencies and organisations requirement to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children, defined by Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 (Chapter 4 – Organisational responsibilities)

## Tameside MBC

Who are represented by:

- Children’s Social Care
- Early Help
- Youth Justice Service
- Adult Social Care

- Strategic Housing
- Public Protection which includes licensing and trading standards
- Population Health
- Leisure Services

## Health

Who are represented by:

- NHS Greater Manchester Integrated
- NHS Tameside and Glossop Integrated Foundation Trust
- Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust
- North West Ambulance Service

## Key Partners

- Early Years
- Education Providers
- The National Probation Service

- Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service
- Healthwatch Tameside

The term key partners includes all educational and pre-school provision from Early Years to Further Education within the geographical area. This includes alternative provisions, special and the Virtual School.

TSCP identify and engage with key partners within voluntary, charity, social enterprise, faith-based organisations and private sectors. As set out in WT23 full consideration extends to local agencies and providers within the sports sector and related services to children and families in Tameside.

