



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

June 2026

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1. Introduction and Context

Helping, supporting and protecting children through a co-ordinated approach to safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility. The ambition of the North East Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NEL SCP) Local Arrangements is that everyone is able to recognise, respond and fulfil their responsibilities to children, young people and families in order to build their resilience and ensure that they are safeguarded.

[The Local Arrangements 2025-2026](#) sets out the arrangements for helping, supporting and protecting children, facilitating joint working and receiving and providing assurance. Safeguarding children and building their resilience is achieved by putting children at the centre of the system and by every individual and agency playing their full part. Organisations, agencies and practitioners should be aware of, and comply with, the plan set out by the safeguarding partners.

Partnership working is at the centre of our NEL SCP Local Arrangements and there is a commitment to working together to improve outcomes for children, young people and families in the area. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlines the commitment of local safeguarding partners and their organisations to fulfil their statutory duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to work under the auspices of the NEL SCP Local Arrangements.

The MOU provides clarity regarding:

- The safeguarding partners
- Local vision and principles
- The legal framework and the underpinning policies and procedures
- Roles and responsibilities
- Responsibilities around information sharing and information governance
- Funding responsibilities
- Dispute resolution and escalation processes
- Partnership arrangements including relationships with wider partnership boards

This MOU will be reviewed on an annual basis, or sooner if required, and will be subject to regular scrutiny.

2. Safeguarding Partners

As defined in the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work 2017) and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023, safeguarding partners are:

(as amended by the Children and Social Work 2017) safeguarding partners are:

- The local authority
- An integrated care board for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area
- The chief officer of police for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area

In North East Lincolnshire the safeguarding partner organisations and the lead safeguarding partners are:

- Sharon Wroot, Chief Executive, North East Lincolnshire Council
- Teresa Fenech, Executive Director of Quality and Nursing, Integrated Care Board
- Chris Todd, Chief Constable, Humberside Police

All three lead safeguarding partners have equal and joint responsibility to make arrangements to:

- Work together as a team to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in North East Lincolnshire
- Include and develop the role of wider local organisations and agencies in the process
- 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: published multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, 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)
- 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
- Ensure all relevant agencies, including education settings, are clear on their role and contribution to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements

Locally, the lead safeguarding partners have delegated their functions to:

- Ann-Marie Matson, Director of Children’s Services, NELC
- Paula South, Director of Nursing – Core Statutory Partnerships/ Deputy Executive Nurse NHS Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) Humber and North Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership
- Craig Nicholson, Chief Superintendent South Bank Local Policing Command, Humberside Police

These delegated safeguarding partners have the responsibility and authority for ensuring full participation with the NEL SCP Local Arrangements, though the lead safeguarding partners remain accountable for any actions or decisions taken on behalf of their respective agency.

The NEL SCPB is chaired by Ann Marie Matson as one of the three safeguarding partners, it has been agreed the role will be shared a biannual rotational basis

It has been agreed as a minimum, that there be an annual meeting between the LSPs and the DSPs as part of the annual review process, to ensure LSPs are well cited on their delegated responsibilities. In addition, the lead safeguarding partners receive the SCP quarterly newsletter in providing assurance and impact on the effectiveness of local arrangements.

The lead safeguarding partners also have the option to ‘call in’ the Delegated Safeguarding Partners for additional meetings in year as required. Individual Delegated Safeguarding Partners are accountable to their Lead Safeguarding Partner through their respective organisational assurance functions.

3. Vision and Principles

Children, young people and families are at the centre of all we do and we want NEL to be a place our children can grow up happy and healthy, safe in their homes and communities with people that love them. We are ambitious for a child’s future with a focus on learning and aspiration so they can be the best they can be.

By being ‘stronger together’, we can achieve our vision of ‘Our Children, Our Future’.

For children and families

We want our children to:

- be safe from harm and enjoy growing up in loving homes
- have the best start in life and a happy, healthy, fun childhood
- start school ready to learn, do well at all levels of learning and have the skills and opportunities they need to enjoy a bright future
- be part of an inclusive, compassionate and thriving community
- be listened to, involved in the decisions on their future and respected

For our workforce

We want our workforce to:

- be passionate, motivated and proud of their work
- know, support and care for their children, families and communities
- be supported by caring and knowledgeable leaders and colleagues
- be supported to learn, develop, reflect on practice and feel valued, appreciated and respected
- have the tools and resources they need to make a difference

Across the partnership

We want to:

- have relationships that unite us, putting children at the heart and centre of our work
- have relationships where innovation and collaboration come together to create lasting change
- have a commitment to early conversations with the right support at the right time by the right person
- hold each other to account with open and honest conversations based on trusted relationships
- have a shared understanding of a collective vision, risk and thresholds with roles and responsibilities

Our core values and principles as follows:

- We want our children and young people to live in families, in local communities
- Children, young people and families are at the heart of all we do and we will work with them as experts in their own lives
- Children, young people and families should receive family help and intervention at the right time, in the right place, by the right person
- We want to build children, young people and families' resilience and help them find resolutions for themselves
- We are committed corporate parents to our children in care and care leavers and contribute to a collaborative offer to enable them to reach their potential
- We will provide high support and high challenge to each other and our partners to ensure we act in the best interests of our children, young people and families and that we consider 'would this be good enough for my child'
- We are committed to creating the conditions for a 'family feel' 'family first' culture underpinned by compassionate, clear and confident leadership at all levels, supported by open, transparent communication and engagement

4. Legal framework

The legislation relevant to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is set out below.

- Children Act 2004
- Education Acts including Education Act 2002, Education and Skills Act 2008 and Education Act 1996
- Children Act 1989
 - Provision of services for children in need, their families and others
 - Co-operation between authorities
 - Emergency protection powers
 - Exclusion requirements
 - Police protection powers
 - Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012
 - Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011
- Childcare Act 2006
- Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Housing Act 1996

This legislation should be read in conjunction with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026.

Locally, the statutory SCP policies and procedures and other key documents include:

- Early Help and Team Around the Child
- Managing individual cases where there are concerns about a child's safety and welfare
- Children in specific circumstances
- Individuals who pose a risk to children
- Complaints and professional disagreements
- Child death
- Significant incidents

All local statutory and supplementary policies and procedures, other guidance and key documents can be found on the [NEL SCP website](#).

5. Roles and Responsibilities

Safeguarding partners

All three safeguarding partners have equal and joint responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements underpinned by equitable and proportionate funding.

The lead representatives and those they have delegated their authority to, are able to:

- Speak with authority for the safeguarding partner they represent
- Take decisions on behalf of their organisation or agency and commit them on policy, resourcing and practice matters
- Hold their own organisation or agency to account on how effectively they participate and implement the NEL SCP Local Arrangements

Safeguarding partners will agree on ways to co-ordinate their safeguarding services, act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others and implement local and national learning including from serious child safeguarding incidents. To fulfil this role, the safeguarding partners must set out how they will work together with any relevant agencies.

Separated into logical sections, safeguarding partners responsibilities are that they will:

Leadership

- 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 including published multi agency safeguarding arrangements.
- In the event that an issue arises which requires a clear, single point of leadership, decide on who would take the lead on issues that arise (this would be agreed at a Safeguarding Children Partnership Board (SCPB) or virtually by all three safeguarding partners, depending on the urgency and circumstances involved)

Relationships and resolution

- Build positive relationships with other local areas to ensure that relevant information is shared in a timely and proportionate way
- Have in place a quick and straightforward means of resolving differences of opinion as outlined in the [Professional Resolution and Escalation Procedure](#).

Relevant agencies

- Make sure the relevant agencies are aware of the expectations placed on them by the NEL SCP Local Arrangements
- Be clear how they will assure themselves that relevant agencies have appropriate, robust safeguarding policies and procedures in place and how information will be shared amongst all relevant agencies and safeguarding partners
- Determine how regularly their list of relevant agencies will be reviewed
- Be clear on how agencies with a national remit should collaborate and take account of that agency's individual responsibilities and potential contributions towards a number of safeguarding arrangements

Information and communication

- Ensure all relevant agencies, including education settings, are clear on their role and contribution to the SCP
- Be aware of their own responsibilities under the relevant information law and have regard to guidance provided by the Information Commissioner's Office when issuing and responding to requests for information
- Communicate regularly with their relevant agencies and others they expect to work for them

Individual agencies and roles

- Consider how they will secure the clinical expertise of designated health professionals for safeguarding children within their arrangements
- Make arrangements to allow all schools, colleges and other educational providers in the local area to be fully engaged, involved and included in the safeguarding arrangements
- Name schools, colleges and other educational providers as relevant agencies and will reach their own conclusions on how best locally to achieve the active engagement of individual institutions in a meaningful way

Assessment and services

- Agree with their relevant agencies the levels for the different types of assessment and services to be commissioned and delivered
- Publish a levels of need (threshold) document, which sets out the local criteria for action in a way that is transparent, accessible and easily understood

Data and intelligence

- Use data and intelligence to assess the effectiveness of help being provided to children and families across the early help and safeguarding
- Use the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment to help them understand the prevalence and contexts of need, including specific needs relating to disabled children and those relating to abuse and neglect, which in turn should help shape services

Education and training

- Consider what education and training is needed locally and how they will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of any training they commission

Scrutiny and assurance

- Monitor the effectiveness of the arrangements for child protection conferences
- Ensure scrutiny is objective, acts as a critical friend and promotes reflection to drive continuous improvement
- Publish a report at least once in every 12-month period to set out what they have done as a result of the arrangements, including child safeguarding practice reviews, and how effective these arrangements have been in practice
- Agree arrangements for independent scrutiny of the report they must publish at least once per year
- Make sure the report is widely available and the published safeguarding arrangements should set out where the reports will be published
- Report any updates to the published arrangements in their yearly report and the proposed timescale for implementation

Funding

- 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 NEL SCP Local Arrangements
- Make payments towards expenditure incurred in conjunction with local multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children

Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

- Have regard to any guidance the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel publishes
- Make arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases and commission and oversee the review of those cases, where they consider it appropriate for a review to be undertaken
- Promptly undertake a rapid review of the case, in line with any guidance published by the national Panel and as soon as the rapid review is complete, they should send a copy to the Panel
- Have clear processes for how they will work with other investigations and work collaboratively with those responsible for carrying out those reviews
- Agree with the reviewer of a local child safeguarding practice review, the method by which the review should be conducted
- Seek to ensure that practitioners are fully involved in local child safeguarding practice reviews, and that families, including surviving children, are invited to contribute to the review
- Ensure the final report of a local child safeguarding practice review includes a summary of recommended improvements and an analysis of any systemic or underlying reasons why actions were taken or not in respect of matters covered in the report
- Consider carefully how best to manage the impact of the publication of local child safeguarding practice reviews on children, family members, practitioners and other closely affected by the case
- Should inform the national Panel and the Secretary of State of the reasons for a delay of a local child safeguarding practice review, set out any justification for any decision not to publish either the full report of information relating to improvements and have regard to any comments from the Panel and Secretary of State in respect of the publication
- Send a copy of the full report of the local child safeguarding practice reviews to the national Panel and Secretary of State
- Take account of the findings from their own local reviews and from all national reviews, highlight findings from reviews with relevant parties and regularly audit progress on the implementation of recommended improvements

Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews/Child Death Review process

- Safeguarding partners will need to respond to notification from the Child Death Review partners, of a child death where abuse or neglect is known or suspected, to determine whether the case meets the criteria for a child safeguarding practice review (as referenced in Child Death Review Statutory and Operational Guidance (England) 2018)
- Safeguarding partners will need to respond to notification from the Coroner that a child has died, and that the Coroner has decided to investigate the death or commission a post mortem (as referenced in Working Together 2026). In these circumstances, where abuse or neglect is known or suspected, the safeguarding partners will need to determine whether the case meets the criteria for a Child Safeguarding Practice Review
- The safeguarding partners will also need to respond to any safeguarding issues that fall out of the child death review process including Child Death Overview Panel

NEL SCPB members

The membership of the NEL SCPB is representative of the three safeguarding partners, as follows:

- Ann-Marie Matson, Director of Children's Services, NELC
- Paula South, Director of Nursing – Core Statutory Partnerships/ Deputy Executive Nurse NHS Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) Humber and North Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership
- Carig Nicholson, T. Chief Superintendent South Bank Local Policing Command, Humberside Police

In addition, schools, colleges and other education settings will be represented as necessary by an appropriate senior representative (e.g. Assistant Director Education, Inclusion and Integration, NELC).

The Cabinet Member for Children and Education and a number of other key officers are invited to the meeting as participatory observers.

Lead officers for underpinning partnership groups shall be required to attend to present reports and other officers will be invited to attend as required.

The Independent Scrutiny Officer(s) may also be required to attend to present their findings relating to scrutiny and assurance activities as appropriate.

Representatives from the SCP Business Team shall be in attendance to support the meeting as required.

SCPB members will:

- Speak with authority for the safeguarding partner they represent
- Take decisions on behalf of their organisation or agency and commit them on policy, resourcing and practice matters
- Hold their own organisation or agency to account on how effectively they participate and implement the NEL SCP Local Arrangements

Further details regarding the SCPB arrangements is outlined in the Terms Of Reference, which will reviewed on an annual basis or in year as required.

Safeguarding leaders

Working Together 2026 highlights strong leadership is critical for the NEL SCP Local Arrangements to be effective in bringing together various organisations and agencies. The North East Lincolnshire arrangements will be strongly led and promoted by local area leaders. This includes lead representatives from safeguarding partner organisations and those to whom they have delegated their authority to, the Cabinet Member for Children and Education and chief officers in all organisations and agencies.

Relevant agency representatives

Relevant agencies are those organisations and agencies whose involvement the safeguarding partners consider is required to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children. When selected by the safeguarding partners to be part of the local safeguarding arrangements, relevant agencies must act in accordance with the arrangements. Representatives that attend subgroups under the auspices of the NEL SCP Local Arrangements are expected to:

- make a commitment and prioritise attendance at meetings and on the occasion, they are unable to attend, they should identify an appropriate deputy who is authorised to enact the group members' responsibilities
- have the seniority to make decisions on behalf of their area of responsibility and to ensure the delivery and implementation of the NEL SCP Local Arrangements
- be in a position to access and share the information necessary to inform collective action
- be critically reflective, strengths based, solutions focussed and child centred within discussions to shape and influence practice
- take responsibility for identified actions and give oversight to these until completion

Independent Scrutiny Officer(s)

The NEL SCP Local Arrangements outline the arrangements for scrutiny and assurance.

The role of independent scrutiny is critical to provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of the NEL SCP Local Arrangements.

Independent Scrutiny Officers play a significant role in the scrutiny and assurance framework and there is a small pool of Independent Scrutiny Officers from a range of backgrounds. This ensures different perspectives and provide a degree of flexibility and capacity to contribute to the scrutiny and assurance arrangements as required.

Local arrangements for independent scrutiny will:

- Provide safeguarding partners and relevant agencies with independent, rigorous and effective support and challenge at both a strategic and operational level
- provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in North East Lincolnshire
- 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 the 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 practitioners and leaders.
- provide independent advice when there are disagreements between agencies and safeguarding partners and facilitate escalation procedures
- report to the safeguarding partners any recommendations from their scrutiny and assurance activities
- Evaluate and contribute to multi agency safeguarding published arrangements and the annual report, alongside feeding into the wider accountability frameworks such as inspections.

The Independent Scrutiny Officer(s) main responsibilities are to:

- provide independent scrutiny and evaluation pertaining to agency specific and thematic assurance events and to practice learning line of sight events
- scrutinise the arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases
- scrutinise how well the safeguarding partners are providing strong leadership
- have a direct interface and engage with children, young people and families to determine the impact of the NEL SCP Local Arrangements

- have a direct interface with front line practitioners in order to have an informed perspective on practitioners' skills, knowledge and practice which enables them to fulfil their responsibilities within the NEL SCP Local Arrangements
- prepare written reports in relation to scrutiny and assurance activity
- attend and contribute to the SCPB and other partnerships, events and meetings to present findings
- contribute to reciprocal peer review arrangements where arranged
- attend to represent an independent scrutiny perspective within individual safeguarding partners' scrutiny arrangements, if required
- attend and contribute to inspection activity as appropriate
- scrutinise the NEL SCP Local Arrangements and annual report prior to publication
- in the event of any dispute between the safeguarding partners and/or relevant agencies or any local disputes relating to multi-agency practice, an Independent Scrutiny Officer may also assist with the [dispute resolution process](#).

SCP Business Team

The SCP Business Team is responsible for the development and implementation of the NEL SCP Local Arrangements.

The SCP Business Team will:

- work with safeguarding partners to develop one overarching strategic approach
- develop and implement the NEL SCP Local Arrangements
- facilitate the SCPB and associated groups and workstreams
- work with key leads, officers and champions across the partnership to progress areas of focus and further developments
- bring strategic leads together to drive forward these arrangements
- develop and promote best and innovative multi-agency practice to improve outcomes relating to children's resilience and safeguarding
- work with partners to develop and implement new ways of working within the scope of the NEL SCP Local Arrangements
- lead on local and national learning including from serious child safeguarding incidents
- develop a scrutiny and assurance framework, including independent scrutiny, to provide high levels of assurance across the early help and safeguarding pathway
- contribute to the scrutiny and assurance process including through case audits
- lead on system change that allows partners to work together differently and more effectively across the early help and safeguarding pathway
- lead on engaging with relevant agencies on safeguarding arrangements
- lead and develop statutory guidance, policies, procedures, strategies and other key documents
- work with others to develop a workforce that is fit for the future
- facilitate performance, data and analysis to inform the arrangements and measure impact
- support and develop the SCP partnership and governance structure
- financial management including budget monitoring and routine reporting to board and safeguarding partners as appropriate
- develop, implement and review scrutiny and assurance
- develop, facilitate and evaluate the effectiveness of the education and training programme

- be responsible for stakeholder engagement and communication activity (including social media and website management)

The SCP Business Team will be responsive to need and demand and therefore take responsibility to ensure a collective delivery of the arrangements and prioritise developments agreed via the board.

The SCP Business Team will be funded through and/or via direct posts from across the safeguarding partner organisations.

6. Information sharing and information governance

There is a requirement for organisations to have arrangements in place, which clearly set out the processes and the principles for sharing information internally. In addition, these arrangements should cover sharing information with other organisations and practitioners, including third party providers to which local authorities have chosen to delegate children's social care functions as well as safeguarding partners.

Locally, safeguarding partner organisations will adopt their own information sharing protocols. This MOU serves as the information sharing protocol under the auspices of the NEL SCP Local Arrangements.

The NEL SCP Local Arrangements endorse the seven golden rules to sharing information, as outlined in the document [Information Sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers](#):

1. Remember that the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Data Protection Act 2018 and human rights law are not barriers to justified information sharing but provide a framework to ensure that personal information about living individuals is shared appropriately.
2. Be open and honest with the individual (and/or their families where appropriate) from the outset about why, what, how and with whom information will, or could be shared, and seek their agreement, unless it is unsafe or inappropriate to do so.
3. Seek advice from other practitioners, or information governance lead, if you are in any doubt about sharing the information concerned, without disclosing the identity of the individual where possible.
4. Where possible, share information with consent, and where possible, respect the wishes of those who do not consent to having their information shared. Under the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 you may share information without consent if, in your judgement, there is a lawful basis to do so, such as where safety may be at risk. You will need to base your judgement on the facts of the case. When you are sharing or requesting personal information from someone, be clear of the basis upon which you are doing so. Where you do not have consent, be mindful that an individual might not expect information to be shared.
5. Consider safety and wellbeing: base your information sharing decision on considerations of the safety and wellbeing of the individuals and others who may be affected by their actions.
6. Necessary, proportionate, relevant, adequate, accurate, timely and secure: ensure that the information you share is necessary for the purpose for which you are sharing it, is shared only with those individuals who need to have it, is accurate and up-to-date, is shared in a timely fashion, and is shared securely (see principles).

7. Keep a record of your decision and the reasons for it – whether it is to share information or not. If you decide to share, then record what you have shared, with whom and for what purpose.

The golden rules are set under the auspices of the information sharing protocol as follows:

To effectively share information,

- all practitioners should be confident of the lawful bases and processing conditions under the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK GDPR which allow them to store, and share, the information, including information which is considered sensitive, such as health data, known under the data protection legislation as ‘special category personal data’.
- where practitioners need to share special category personal data, they should be aware that the Data Protection Act 2018 includes ‘safeguarding of children and individuals at risk’ as a condition that allows practitioners to share information without consent
- information can be shared legally without consent, if a practitioner is unable to, cannot be reasonably expected to obtain consent from the individual, or if to gain consent could place a child at risk
- relevant personal information can be shared lawfully if it is to keep a child or individual at risk, safe from neglect or physical, emotional or mental harm, or if it is protecting their physical, mental or emotional wellbeing

Practitioners must have due regard to these data protection principles which allows them to share information. There is also greater significance on organisations being transparent and accountable in relation to their use of data. All organisations handling personal data need to have comprehensive and proportionate arrangements for collecting, storing and sharing information.

The UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 do not prevent, or limit, the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children and young people safe.

Safeguarding partners (as defined in Section 16E of the Children Act 2004) will play a strong role in supporting information sharing between and within organisations and addressing any barriers to information sharing. This will include ensuring a culture of appropriate information sharing is developed and supported as necessary by multi-agency training.

Safeguarding partners can require a person or body to comply with a request for information, as outlined in section 16H and 14B of the Children Act 2004, respectively. This can only take place when the information requested is for the purpose of enabling or assisting the safeguarding partners to perform their functions. Any request for information to a person or body, should be necessary and proportionate to the reason for the request. Safeguarding partners should be mindful of the burden of requests and should explain why the information is needed.

The organisations identified as having a duty under Section 11 of the Children Act, as detailed in the NEL SCP Local Arrangements, must have arrangements in place to safeguard and protect the welfare of children.

There are also a number of other similar duties, which apply to other organisations. For example, Section 175 of the Education Act 2002, which applies to local authority education functions and to governing bodies of maintained schools and further education institutions and Section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 which applies to the immigration, asylum, nationality and customs functions of the Secretary of State (in practice discharged by UK Visas and Immigration, Immigration Enforcement and the Border Force, which are part of the Home Office).

Information storage

The SCP Business Team will act as data controllers for information associated with the NEL SCP Local Arrangements, on behalf of safeguarding partners.

The SCP Business Team will hold information associated with the NEL SCP Local Arrangements, including, but not exhaustively:

- underpinning partnerships and groups (agenda, minutes, papers)
- business functions (training, communications, performance)
- funding
- child safeguarding practice reviews
- other scrutiny and assurance activity

Historical information pertaining to serious case reviews is inventoried and stored in NELC archives on behalf of the safeguarding partners.

It is proposed that any paper copies are scanned and stored electronically in due course.

Electronic copies of documents are held on the NELC server on behalf of the safeguarding partners and are the responsibility of the SCP Business Team as the data controllers.

Information requests

Information should be shared effectively, amongst and between, organisations and agencies, to improve outcomes for children and families. Safeguarding partners may require any person, organisation or agency to provide them, any relevant agency in the area, a reviewer or another person or organisation or agency, with specified information. This must be information that enables and assists the safeguarding partners to perform their functions to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area, including as related to local and national child safeguarding practice reviews.

The person or organisation to whom a request is made must comply with such a request and if they do not do so, the safeguarding partners can take legal action against them.

Safeguarding partners should be aware of their own responsibilities under the relevant information law and have regard to guidance provided by the Information Commissioners Office when issuing and responding to requests for information.

Subject Access Requests

The UK GDPR gives a right of access to an individual's personal information by the individual making a Subject Access Request.

Individual safeguarding partner organisations have a statutory responsibility to reply to SARs regarding the information they hold. However, NELC will lead on any Subject Access Requests relating to the SCPB and any requests will be processed by the NELC Information Governance Team.

All safeguarding partners should direct any Subject Access Requests to NELC without delay and within 24 working hours using the following email – transparency@nelincs.gov.uk

Subject Access Requests will be processed in accordance with legal and statutory obligations and where a request spans more than one safeguarding partner a joint response will be issued by NELC, after liaison with the other partner(s).

Freedom of information

The Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000 gives a right of access to the information public authorities' hold. The NEL SCP Local Arrangements are considered to be a public authority for the purposes of Freedom of Information.

The safeguarding partners acknowledge that they remain subject to the requirements of FOI arrangements and have a statutory duty to respond individually to the requests they receive.

Each partner will assist and co-operate with the others (at their own expense) to comply with information disclosure requests relating to the SCPB.

NELC will lead on any FOI requests relating to the NEL SCP Local Arrangements and any requests will be processed by the NELC Information Governance Team.

All safeguarding partners should direct any FOI requests made regarding the NEL SCP Local Arrangements on to NELC without delay and within 24 working hours using the following email – transparency@nelincs.gov.uk

Freedom of Information requests will be processed in accordance with legal and statutory obligations and where a request spans more than one safeguarding partner a joint response will be issued by NELC, after liaison with the other partner(s).

Privacy notice

A Record of Processing and a Privacy Notice for the NEL SCP Local Arrangements has been put together to set out information including how and what personal information is being processed, the lawful basis for the processing of this information and the retention period for this information.

Information governance

Each safeguarding partner will have in place appropriate information security policies and procedures in place to ensure personal, sensitive and confidential data is appropriately protected in accordance with Data Protection legislation. The information security policies and procedures of partners will be informed and where necessary comply with the following standards and guidance:

- a) ISO 27001
- b) NHS Data Security and Protection Toolkit
- c) PSN Code of Connection
- d) Health and Social Care Network
- e) DCB1596 (minimum non-functional requirements for secure email service)
- f) Cyber Security Essentials

The minimum standards to ensure personal data is appropriately protected to prevent unauthorised access, disclosure, deletion or alteration include:

- a) Unauthorised officers and other individuals are prevented from gaining access to personal data

- b) Visitors must be supervised at all times
- c) All electronic systems containing personal data must be password-protected, to prevent unauthorised access
- d) Passwords must be treated as private to the individual and NOT disclosed to others
- e) All electronic devices including PCs, laptops and smartphones must be 'locked' when unattended or not in use
- f) All personal data stored on mobile electronic devices such as laptops, USBs, smartphones etc., must be protected by encryption
- g) All resources (including mobile devices, printouts) containing personal data must be placed in secure locations when not in use, and only accessible to authorised officers
- h) Anti-virus checks are undertaken on software / removable media prior to use on networks / machine
- i) Data and documents are classified to indicate their sensitivity (in terms of the likely impact resulting from compromise, loss or misuse) and marked appropriately, when necessary, i.e. OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE. Further guidance can be found in the Government Protective Marking Classification Scheme; Caution is exercised in the use of e-mail, recipients are checked and personal data is only exchanged using secure e-mail
- j) Caution is exercised in the use of fax communications, the intended recipient of a fax containing personal data must be aware that it is being sent and has ensured security on delivery
- k) Where personal data is removed from a secure environment, appropriate security measures must be in place to keep it secure and protected
- l) Caution is exercised in the use and transport of personal data outside of its secure environment or in the public domain to prevent loss or unauthorised disclosure
- m) Information must be disposed of securely; and
- n) Personal data must not be disclosed to anyone other than the data subject unless you have their consent, or it is a registered disclosure, required by law, or permitted by Data Protection legislation

The SCP Business Team hold electronic and paper-based information on NELC and in NELC premises on behalf of the safeguarding partners.

NELC will lead on any information related complaint investigations relating to the NEL SCP Local Arrangements and any information complaints will be processed by the NELC Information Governance Team.

Other safeguarding partners should direct any information related complaints to NELC delay and within 24 working hours using the following email – transparency@nelincs.gov.uk.

Information Complaints will be processed in accordance with legal and statutory obligations following NELC's Information Complaints Policy and where an information complaint spans more than one safeguarding partner a joint response will be issued by NELC, after liaison with the other partner(s).

NELC will lead on the investigation and management of Data Breaches relating to the NEL SCP Local Arrangements and any Data Breaches will be processed by NELC Information Governance Team.

All safeguarding partners should direct any Data Breaches and potential Data Breaches to NELC without delay and if possible, within 24 hours using the following email – transparency@nelincs.gov.uk.

Data Breaches and Potential Data Breaches will be processed in accordance with legal and statutory obligations and following NELC's Information Security Incident and Data Breach Policy and where an investigation spans more than one safeguarding partner a joint investigation will be carried out by NELC, after liaison with the other partner(s). Notification of the incident to the Information Commissioner and/or Data Subjects and any response to a Data Breach complainant will be issued by NELC in liaison with other safeguarding partner(s) where necessary.

Any information breach is the responsibility of all safeguarding partners and any financial recompense should be met by all three safeguarding partners. Agreement will be reached through discussion at the SCPB.

7. Funding

Working in partnership means organisations and agencies should collaborate on how they will fund their arrangements.

The three safeguarding partner organisations will make payments towards expenditure incurred in conjunction with the NEL SCP Local Arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Funding allocations are agreed by delegated safeguarding partners through the SCPB.

The funding will contribute to the costs associated with the implementation and ongoing development of NEL SCP Local Arrangements including the SCP Business Team and independent scrutiny.

Contributions from safeguarding partner organisations will be direct funding and/or direct posts as deemed appropriate.

In addition, individual representatives from safeguarding partner organisations will contribute to the development and delivery of the training programme, communications, marketing, events and child safeguarding practice reviews.

Where agreed via the SCPB, specific relevant agencies funding will contribute to the costs associated with the implementation and ongoing development of the NEL SCP Local Arrangements, including the SCP Business Team and independent scrutiny.

Funding arrangements will be subject to an annual review and there will be further consideration and discussion regarding future funding rounds.

If any safeguarding partner organisations do not fulfil their funding responsibilities as identified in the NEL SCP Local Arrangements, the dispute resolution process, outlined in section 8, will be deployed.

8. Dispute Resolution

NEL SCP Local Arrangements dispute resolution

Working collaboratively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and families leading to better outcomes is at the heart of our NEL SCP Local Arrangements. Through effective leadership, openness, transparency and effective professional challenge, there is a commitment to resolving any disputes locally between the safeguarding partners, selected relevant agencies and other organisations and agencies in a timely fashion.

If a clear, single point of leadership is required, safeguarding partners will agree the most appropriate partner, who will act on behalf of and in the interest of all three safeguarding partners. This will be done through a discussion at the SCPB or if done outside of the Board arena, it shall be referenced and recorded at the SCPB as required.

The first point of resolution of issues would be through the three safeguarding partners. Any issues that cannot be resolved directly between the three safeguarding partners will be escalated to the lead representatives of the three safeguarding partners (Chief Executive – NELC, Executive Director of Nursing and Quality – Humber and North Yorkshire ICB and the Chief Constable – Humberside Police).

In the event that a resolution cannot be reached, the issue would be escalated to an Independent Scrutiny Officer in the first instance for consideration, mediation (if required) and resolution. If a meeting is required, the meeting will be chaired by an Independent Scrutiny Officer with an agenda agreed prior to the meeting by all parties involved.

It is acknowledged that any safeguarding partners that fail to comply with their obligations under law are held to account through a variety of regulatory and inspection activity for example, Ofsted, HMICFRS and CQC.

If no resolution can be reached, consideration should be given by the three safeguarding partners to seek formal independent arbitration via a professional body such as the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators to reach an acceptable conclusion.

Where necessary, legislation allows the Secretary of State to take enforcement action against any agency that is not meeting its statutory obligations as part of local safeguarding arrangements.

Multi-agency practice escalation processes

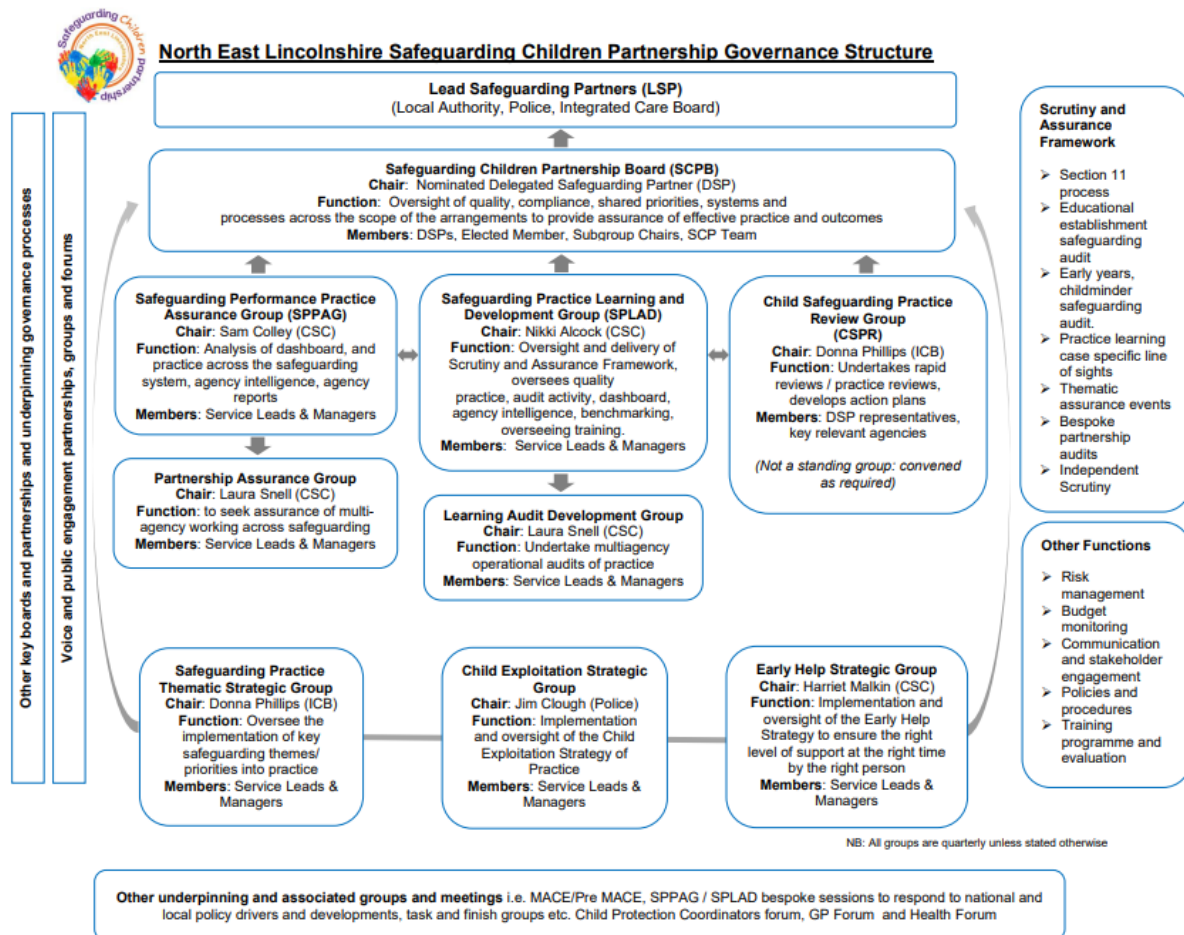
All agencies work within different structures and from a variety of professional backgrounds and perspectives, though they should work co-operatively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. This is reliant of all agencies complying with Working Together 2026 and the underpinning NEL SCP Local Arrangements policies and procedures.

In the event of any disagreement between practitioners involved in the NEL SCP Local Arrangements relating to multi-agency practice it is necessary to have in place a quick and straightforward means of ensuring safeguarding arrangements and resolving professional differences of opinion, as detailed in the [Professional Resolution and Escalation Procedure](#).

9. Partnership and governance arrangements

The NEL SCP Local Arrangements have been established in the context of wider partnership arrangements for the people and across the place of North East Lincolnshire. As such, the NEL SCP Local Arrangements link into other strategic partnership workstreams that support children, young people, families and adults.

The NEL SCP Local Arrangements are underpinned by a robust partnership and governance structure, as detailed below:



SCPB

The SCPB brings together the safeguarding partners, and other relevant officers, to oversee, innovate and develop the NEL SCP Local Arrangements and seek assurance regarding the standard of local implementation across the safeguarding system and to ensure children, young people and families are resilient and safeguarded.

Where deemed appropriate, the SCPB also serves as the 'gold' group in the context of the Child Exploitation governance arrangements, in that it can be enacted (with statutory safeguarding partner organisational representation as a minimum, and others if deemed appropriate) as a means to address any escalated issues for discussion, consideration and resolution as required.

Role and functions of the key partnership arrangements

An overview of the role and functions of the key partnership arrangements is as follows:

Early Help Strategic Group

This group brings together leads from across the partnership to seek assurance about effectiveness of multi-agency working and to provide strategic leadership to support the provision of effective early help. The chair of the Early Help Strategic Group will report into and attend the SCPB.

Safeguarding Practice Thematic Strategic Group

This group undertake work at a strategic level and oversee the implementation and impact through delivery of strategic plans for of key safeguarding themes/ priorities which are currently Neglect and Child Sexual Abuse into practice

Safeguarding Performance Practice Assurance Group (SPPAG) Group

This group brings together lead officers with responsibilities for oversight and quality assurance of multiagency working specifically within the early help and safeguarding pathway for children, including the interface between early help services and statutory safeguarding processes. The chair of the SPPAG will report into and attend the SCPB.

Safeguarding Practiced Learning and Development Group (SPLAD)

The group brings together representatives across the safeguarding partner organisations and other selected relevant agencies. The group is responsible for co-ordinating the outcomes of multi-agency scrutiny and assurance activity and will review, monitor and implement areas for development to ensure we positively impact on our commitment towards continuous improvements to front line practice. In addition, the group will disseminate learning from these and local and national child safeguarding practice reviews and other key national reports and research. The chair of the SPLAD will report into and attend the SCPB.

Child Safeguarding Practice Review Group (CSPR)

In the event of a serious child safeguarding case, a rapid review meeting is undertaken, overseen by the CSPR, which is made up of safeguarding partner representatives and co-ordinated and supported by SCP Business Team. Safeguarding partners are notified by the safeguarding partner representatives of their recommendation as to whether to undertake a local child safeguarding practice review (LCSPR) or not.

This group will facilitate communication with the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, Ofsted, the Secretary of State and Department for Education. In the event of a LCSPR, the CSPR would be responsible for overseeing the process, also development and monitoring of the action plan. The CSPR will continue to give oversight to the action plan until completion or with agreement from the safeguarding partners, the action plan will be monitored by the SPLAD. The action plan will be finally signed off by the safeguarding partners at the SCPB.

Child Exploitation Strategic Group

The Child Exploitation Strategic Group brings together both strategic and lead officers with responsibilities for protecting children who may be vulnerable to child exploitation. Exploitation involves being groomed, forced or coerced into doing something that you don't want to do for someone else's gain. It is a complex and hidden issue. People who are being exploited can find themselves in situations where they experience abuse and violence and may be forced to take part in criminal activities. Exploitation can happen anywhere where increasing numbers of vulnerable children and adults are being identified as victims.

The Child Exploitation Strategic Group also serves as the 'silver' group in the context of the Child Exploitation governance arrangements, in that it can be enacted (with statutory safeguarding partner organisational representation as a minimum, and others if deemed appropriate) as a means to address any issues for discussion, consideration and resolution as required (either within the context of the routine meeting, or in addition to).

Underpinning groups accountable to the Child Exploitation Strategic Group:

- **Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Group (MACE)** – Membership includes lead officers, managers and supervisors from across safeguarding partner and wider organisations including representatives from adult social care. Leads share information and risk analysis on identified cases to further establish connectivity, themes and trends to enable the group to agree further action to be undertaken. This does not replace the procedures and role of child in need meetings, child protection conferences or core group meetings. It can add value and make recommendations for consideration at children's individual meetings. *The MACE also serves as the 'bronze' group in the context of the Child Exploitation governance arrangements, in that it can be enacted (with statutory safeguarding partner organisational representation as a minimum, and others if deemed appropriate) as a means to address any issues for discussion, consideration and resolution as required (either within the context of the routine meeting, or in addition to).*
- **MACE Triage** – Membership includes lead officers, managers and supervisors from across safeguarding partner and wider organisations including representatives from adult social care. This meeting triages information, risk assessment and analysis for children at risk of or experiencing child sexual and/or criminal exploitation and decides which cases are discussed at MACE for partnership discussion and action.
- **Multi-Agency Missing Children Meeting** - Brings together lead officers, managers and supervisors from local agencies with specific responsibilities for missing children cases. Meets on a monthly basis and provides a focused opportunity to share information, intelligence and data and work collaboratively to prevent and reduce children going missing leading to better outcomes and experiences.
- **Channel Panel** – The Channel Panel brings together multi-agency partners to consider referrals to the police regarding PREVENT and the radicalisation of children and young people. The aim is to identify opportunities for partnership action and reduce the impact on children and young people

- **Harmful Sexual Behaviour Panel** – The Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) Panel brings together partnership representatives to provide a specialist service to children and young people who have engaged in or are considered as being highly likely to engage in HSB. The role and function of the Panel is to act as a steering group, acting as the referral and allocation route for the service, a source of knowledge, expertise and support for practitioners and providing senior management oversight of HSB work.

Other underpinning and associated groups, including task and finish groups and forums

Bespoke groups including task and finish groups to respond to national and local policy drivers and developments are convened as and when required.

Voice and public engagement partnerships, groups, networks and forums

There are established mechanisms in place where children, young people and families can have their say, share their views and experiences, challenge and support local decision makers and shape and influence strategic planning, commissioning and service provision at an individual, service and strategic level. Emerging issues, themes, impacts and outcomes of engagement are fed into partnership arrangements as appropriate. Some representatives from voice and public engagement partnerships, groups, networks and forums attend partnerships and boards to represent people's views and experiences.

Other functions

The other functions clarify the underpinning workstreams which support and enable local safeguarding arrangements e.g., in relation to training and communications. There are also a range of reports that are required to be fed into SCP partnership and governance structure or associated strategic partnerships and boards. This ensures compliance and provides opportunities to share information and learning, challenge and support as required and impact on improved practice across partners. Reporting through to the SCPB will be on an exceptions basis and the Board will seek assurance regarding children and area specific issues.

Scrutiny and assurance framework

There is an ongoing commitment to an open and transparent culture, where ongoing learning and improvement is fundamental to successfully implementing our organisational model leading to better outcomes for our children and families. The scrutiny and assurance framework provides more detailed regarding our NEL SCP Local Arrangements.

10. Endorsement

We the undersigned, endorse the content of this MOU and accept responsibility for working under the auspices of the conditions outlined above.

We will listen, learn, review and adapt as we embed our NEL SCP Local Arrangements, supported by this MOU. As such, this MOU will be reviewed and refreshed on an annual basis or sooner if required. If changes are more significant than 'sense' checks, we acknowledge that we will be consulted and required to re-sign as appropriate.

Craig Nicholson
Chief Superintendent
Humberside Police

Ann Marie Matson
Director of Childrens Services
North East Lincolnshire
Council

Paula South
Director of |Nursing
Governance
North and North East
Lincolnshire