



Kingston and Richmond Safeguarding Children Partnership
Strategic Leadership Group Terms of Reference – February 2024¹

The Strategic Leadership Group (SLG) meets quarterly to provide leadership and to ensure the partnership is delivering on its strategic aims and that children and young people in Kingston and Richmond are effectively protected from abuse, neglect and exploitation. The role of the SLG is an executive for the partnership and they are responsible for ensuring that local arrangements are effective in engaging all relevant agencies in local safeguarding. The members of the SLG in Kingston and Richmond are as follows:

Statutory Safeguarding Partners:

Ian Dodds, Director of Children’s Services for Kingston & Richmond
Fergus Keegan, Director of Quality, NHS South West London Integrated Care Board (SWL ICB)
Ian Cameron, Detective Superintendent, SW Borough Command Unit, Metropolitan Police Service (SW BCU MPS)

Advisory SLG Members

Alison Twynam, Director of Children’s Social Care, Achieving for Children (AfC)
Caroline Mark, Associate Director for Quality and Review, AfC
Suzanne Parrott, Executive Head Teacher & Associate Director, Education Standards, Children with a Social Worker, AfC
Clare Meadows, Head of Learning and Development, AfC
Clive Vale, Detective Chief Inspector, SW BCU, MPS
Bas Dickson-Leach, Detective Inspector, SW BCU, MPS
Louise Doherty, Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children Kingston, SWL ICB
Michele Okuda, Designated nurse for Safeguarding Children Richmond, SWL ICB
Vanessa Impey, Designated Doctor for Safeguarding Children Richmond, SWL ICB

The SLG will meet with senior strategic and elected leaders from Councils, SWL ICB and MPS once a year to review progress against priorities, and the local safeguarding arrangements. The SLG will receive quarterly reports from partnership subgroup chairs and they and other officers will be invited to attend the SLG in order to contribute to discussions and the business plan. This will include representatives from the voluntary sector and local children and young people. The Independent Scrutineer will also be invited to report on their assurance activities.

¹ Please note these ToR have been amended February 2024 to update advisory subgroup members pending a planned comprehensive review to bring them into line with WT2023.

The statutory role of the partners is to:

- Exercise their shared and equal duty to make local arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children (Working Together 2018);
- Ensure that all relevant local agencies take a coordinated approach to ensure children are effectively safeguarded (Section 11 Children Act 2004);
- Link with other local partnership work, such as the Safeguarding Adults' Boards, Health & Wellbeing Boards, and Community Safety Partnerships, to maximise our resources and learning;
- Determine, when necessary, the resolution to a disagreement between any relevant agencies working in Kingston and Richmond;
- Lead local agencies in sharing a vision to improve outcomes for vulnerable children, holding each other to account, driving action beyond usual institutional and agency constraints and boundaries; and creating lasting and trusting relationships between workers and families;
- Financial planning and resourcing of the partnership team;
- Implement local and national learning from serious child safeguarding incidents;
- Decide on the need for local child safeguarding practice reviews in line with statutory guidance;
- To hold accountability meetings with their respective leaders, so that they are fully briefed upon the effectiveness of the safeguarding arrangements and are able to hold the leads to account;
- Identify and analyse new safeguarding issues and emerging threats;
- Ensure that the voice of local children is heard on all issues pertaining to the partnership; and,
- Publish on the KRSCP website by September each year, an annual report and local safeguarding assessment to include evidence of the impact of the work of the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies, including training, on outcomes for children and families from early help to looked-after children and care leavers, actions taken to implement identified learning, details of independent scrutiny together with an analysis of where there is little or no progress on any key local priorities, and any updates to the local arrangements (Working Together 2018).

Any partner functions which are delegated will be to officers who have the required level of responsibility to speak on behalf of the agency, take decisions, advise on policy, resources and practice, and hold their own agency to account.

The KRSCP chair will have the minimum of a year's tenure and there will be an annual review by partners to determine the chair for the following year.

The role of the chair involves:

- Chairing the quarterly SLG meetings;
- Leading the partnership; and,
- Ensuring the delivery of the business plan.

The KRSCP annual report will be shared with relevant Council and ICB Committees/Boards, the Health and Wellbeing Boards, and Community Safety Partnerships, in addition to the What Works Centre, and the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel.

Independent Scrutiny

Working Together 2018 outlines that the safeguarding partners should agree objective and reflective independent scrutiny, which includes the appointment of an independent scrutineer. This scrutiny will be part of a wider system of independent inspectorates’ single agency inspection, as well as joint agency inspection, peer review, and democratic local scrutiny.

The role of independent scrutiny is required to cover the following:

- Consider the overall effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements;
- Consider how well the safeguarding partners are providing strong leadership; and,
- Provide independent scrutiny of the annual report of the safeguarding partners.

Independent Scrutiny for the KRSCP will be provided through a combination of:

- Independent Scrutineer;
- Democratic scrutiny functions of each Council
- Peer reviews commissioned by the statutory partners;
- Learning from inspections; and,
- Learning from scrutiny by young people.

The Independent Scrutineer also has a role to deliver the following:

- To offer mediation to the three statutory partners and any other local agencies in dealing with any key areas of disagreement;
- To offer independent review of any escalated concern raised by relevant agencies or on behalf of children and families when requested by the partners;
- Make formal recommendations to the SLG; and,
- Support a culture and environment conducive to robust scrutiny and constructive challenge.

The Independent Scrutineer is a 30 day appointment in Kingston and Richmond per year. The Independent Scrutineer at present is Amanda Boodhoo.

Please contact the partners via [**lscb-support@kingrichlscb.org.uk**](mailto:lscb-support@kingrichlscb.org.uk)

Further information on the partnership arrangements:

[**https://kingstonandrichmondsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/about-krscp/local-safeguarding-arrangements/**](https://kingstonandrichmondsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/about-krscp/local-safeguarding-arrangements/)