

Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children Partnership



Arrangements Document

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FOREWORD

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 introduced a new duty to be placed on three agencies, namely the local authority, the chief officer of police and clinical commissioning group (referred to as Safeguarding Partners), to make arrangements for the safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area to achieve the best possible outcomes

Children and families need to receive targeted services to meet their needs in a coordinated way and that there should be a shared responsibility and effective joint planning between agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area.

In order to do this effectively, local agencies in Rochdale will develop processes that promote:

- the commissioning of services in a co-ordinated way; and
- co-operation and integration between universal services such as schools, GP practices, adult services, early years settings, youth services and colleges, voluntary and community and specialist support services.

Although the statutory duty to make local arrangements rests with the three safeguarding partners, in Rochdale there is strong commitment across the partnership to co-operate and drive forward these local safeguarding arrangements.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Children and Social Work Act (2017) and Working Together 2018 set out the requirement for the establishment of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangement (MASA) covering each local authority area. These arrangements reflect the statutory requirements to establish the MASA, the revised information sharing guidance and pre-existing statutory requirements regarding safeguarding children.
- 1.2 It identifies three key partners: the Local Authority, the Police and the Clinical Commissioning Group as accountable for these arrangements.
- 1.3 The accountability sits with the Chief Constable of GMP, the Accountable Officer for the Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale Clinical Commissioning Group and the Chief Executive of Rochdale Borough Council.
- 1.4 Responsibility for RBSCP has been delegated to the District Superintendent for Rochdale, the Head of Quality/Safeguarding and Deputy Executive Nurse of the CCG and the Director of Children's Services for the Council. They act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others
- 1.5 The Safeguarding Partners have produced and published this plan setting out how the arrangements will work in the Rochdale Borough Area and will produce an annual report on the work of the MASA. The partners have, giving due regard the essential role played by all agencies, identified other "relevant" agencies to be part of the arrangements. These specified agencies are required to play a full part in these arrangements. Whilst acknowledging their lead role, the partners take the view that much would be lost if arrangements did not continue to build on the strengths which come from effective multi-agency working.
- 1.6 While fully accepting the lead role given to them in the legislation, the key partners wish to retain the strong engagement of all partners and build on the benefits this has produced in the past
- 1.7 This document sets out how this statutory requirement is met in the Borough of Rochdale and details the objectives and functions of the Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children Partnership (RBSCP).

2. ROCHDALE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- 2.1 Rochdale borough's population is younger than that of other Greater Manchester areas, 42,634 children who are aged 0-15 years live within the Borough, and this comprises 19.9% of the total population.¹
- 2.2 The level of child poverty is worse than the England average with 21.6% of children aged under 16 years living in poverty. (Child health Profile 2018)
- 2.3 30.5% of borough residents live in areas which are among the 10% most deprived in the country, an increase from the 27% observed in 2010. Despite this, the number of areas in the borough that are amongst the 3% most deprived decreased from 16 to 11. Data shows an increase in the borough population living in the two most deprived population areas compared to 2011. The most deprived communities have a younger age profile compared to the borough average and our more affluent areas.
- 2.4 Overall, comparing local indicators with England averages, the health and wellbeing of children in Rochdale is worse than England and the North West. The infant mortality rate is similar to England with an average of 12 infants dying before age 1 each year.

¹ <http://psnc.org.uk/greater-manchester-lpc/wp-content/uploads/sites/118/2018/07/Rochdale.pdf>

3. RBSCP VISION & OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 As the Rochdale Borough Multi-agency Safeguarding Children Partnership, our vision is to deliver a child centred and co-ordinated approach with a focus on continuous improvement where safeguarding is "**everyone's business**" and children and their families are supported by flexible and responsive services at the right time.
- 3.2 The purpose of these local arrangements is to support and enable local organisations and agencies to work together in a system where:
- children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted;
 - partner organisations and agencies collaborate, share and co-own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children;
 - organisations and agencies challenge appropriately and hold one another to account effectively;
 - there is early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues and emerging threats;
 - learning is promoted and embedded in a way that supports local services for children and families to become more reflective and implement changes to practice; and
 - Information is shared effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and families.
 - policies and procedures in practice are underpinned by research and evidence
- 3.3 In order to work together effectively, RBSCP with other local organisations and agencies are responsible for developing processes that:²
- facilitate and drive action beyond usual institutional and agency constraints and boundaries; and
 - Ensure the effective protection of children is founded on practitioners developing lasting and trusting relationships with children and their

² Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 Page 74 Paragraph 9

families

- 3.4 To ensure these arrangements are effective the partners will maintain appropriate links to other strategic partnership work happening locally to support children and families This will include other relevant bodies including the Health and Wellbeing Board, Prevent, the Community Safety Partnership, the Local Family Justice Board, Corporate Parenting Board and MAPPAs.
- 3.5 The RBSCP has a particularly close relationship with the Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Adult's Board (RBSAB) and will continue to work closely in order to ensure effective and co-ordinated responses to transitional arrangements for children approaching adulthood and promoting of the Think Family approach. This will continue to draw on the benefits of being supported by a joint Business Unit and the use of joint sub-groups as appropriate.

4. VOICE OF THE CHILD

- 4.1 A child centred approach is fundamental to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of every child. A child centred approach means keeping the child in focus when making decisions about their lives and working in partnership with them and their families. (Working Together 2018)
- 4.2 Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children Partnership is committed to listening to the voices of children and their families and ensuring that their views are at the heart of our decision-making, planning, commissioning, design and delivery of services. This may mean individuals influencing decisions about their own lives, for example, children who are supported by social care, or it could mean that young people and their families influence the development and implementation of service delivery.
- 4.3 When working with services, children have said that they need:
- **Vigilance:** to have adults notice when things are troubling them;
 - **Understanding and action:** to understand what is happening; to be heard and understood; and to have that understanding acted upon;
 - **Stability:** to be able to develop an on-going stable relationship of trust with those helping them;
 - **Respect:** to be treated with the expectation that they are competent rather than not;
 - **Information and engagement:** to be informed about and involved in procedures, decisions, concerns and plans;
 - **Explanation:** to be informed of the outcome of assessments and decisions and reasons when their views have not met with a positive response;
 - **Support:** to be provided with support in their own right as well as a member of their family;
 - **Advocacy:** to be provided with advocacy to assist them in putting forward their views. (Working Together 2015)

4.4 The Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children Partnership will:

- Place the voice of the child and their journey at the heart of partnership structures and systems
- Champion the Think Family approach
- Develop and promote best practice standards
- Support multi-agency workforce access to training and resources
- Work collectively to maximise use of existing resources and forums
- Ensure that learning from Local and National Reviews supports continuous improvement and leads to better outcomes for children, young people and their families.

5. RBSCP CORE FUNCTIONS

5.1 Working Together 2018 sets out the following as core functions of the RBSCP:

- Publication of arrangements for RBSCP to work together to identify and respond to the needs of children in the area – policies and procedures;
- Arrangements for commissioning and publishing local child safeguarding practice reviews;
- Ensuring arrangements are in place for independent scrutiny of the effectiveness of the safeguarding arrangements both of the RBSCP itself and in multi-agency work with children and their families. In Greater Manchester, this is the Safeguarding Standards Board;
- Ensuring all relevant agencies are identified and setting out how RBSCP will work with them; why these organisations and agencies have been chosen; and how they will collaborate and work together to improve outcomes for children and families;
- Ensuring all early years settings, schools (including independent schools, academies and free schools) and other educational establishments are included in the safeguarding arrangements;
- Ensuring residential homes for children are included in the safeguarding arrangements;
- Establishing how data and intelligence will be used to assess the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families, including early help;
- Establishing how inter-agency training will be commissioned, delivered and monitored for impact and how any multiagency and interagency audits will be undertaken;
- Establishing how the arrangements will be funded;
- Establishing a process for undertaking local child safeguarding practice reviews and setting out the arrangements for embedding learning across organisations and agencies;
- Establishing how the arrangements will include the voice of children and families; and
- Establishing threshold criteria to ensure children and their families receive the right service at the right time.

- 5.2 These will be delivered through the establishment of a strategic partnership Board known as the Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children Partnership (RBSCP) and a series of sub-groups.
- 5.3 In addition to the core functions set out through Working Together 2018, RBSCP feels it appropriate to support inter-agency standards and policies.

6. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- 6.1 Safeguarding partners and relevant agencies must act in accordance with the arrangements published by the RBSCP, and will be expected to work together to resolve any disputes locally.
- 6.2 Agencies should be proactive in identifying issues as part of the local Escalation Policy and Procedure for the benefit of children and families and to improve practice.
- 6.3 Public bodies that fail to comply with their obligations under law are held to account through a variety of regulatory and inspection activity. In extremis, any non-compliance will be referred to the Secretary of State.

7. ANNUAL REPORT

- 7.1 In order to bring transparency for children, families and all practitioners about the activity undertaken, RBSCP will publish a report at least once in every 12-month period. The report will set out what has been done as a result of the arrangements, including on child safeguarding practice reviews, and how effective these arrangements have been in practice. Any updates to the published arrangements will also be included in the report.
- 7.2 The report is required to also include:
- evidence of the impact of the work of RBSCP and relevant agencies, including training, on outcomes for children and families from early help to looked-after children and care leavers
 - an analysis of any areas where there has been little or no evidence of progress on agreed priorities
 - a record of decisions and actions taken by the partners in the report's period (or planned to be taken) to implement the recommendations of any local and national child safeguarding practice reviews, including any resulting improvements
 - the ways in which the partners have sought and utilised feedback from children and families to inform their work and influence service provision
- 7.3 The report will be made available via the RBSCP website. A copy of all published reports will also be sent to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care within seven days of being published.

8. CHILD SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE REVIEWS

- 8.1 Sometimes a child suffers a serious injury or death as a result of child abuse or neglect. Understanding not only what happened but also why things happened as they did can help to improve our response in the future. Understanding the impact that the actions of different organisations and agencies had on the child's life, and on the lives of his or her family, and whether or not different approaches or actions may have resulted in a different outcome, is essential to improve our collective knowledge. It is in this way that we can make good judgments about what might need to change at a local or national level.

PURPOSE OF CHILD SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE REVIEWS

- 8.2 The purpose of reviews of serious child safeguarding cases, at both local and national level, is to identify improvements to be made to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Learning is relevant locally, but it has a wider importance for all practitioners working with children and families and for the government and policy-makers.
- 8.3 Understanding whether there are systemic issues, and whether and how policy and practice need to change, is critical to the system being dynamic and self-improving.
- 8.4 Reviews seek to bring out learning to prevent or reduce the risk of recurrence of similar incidents. They are not conducted to hold individuals, organisations or agencies to account, as there are other processes for that purpose, including through employment law and disciplinary procedures, professional regulation and, in exceptional cases, criminal proceedings. These processes may be carried out alongside reviews or at a later stage. Employers should consider whether any disciplinary action should be taken.

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR REVIEWS

- 8.5 The responsibility for how the system learns the lessons from serious child safeguarding incidents lies at a national level with the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (the Panel) and at local level with RBSCP.
- 8.6 The Panel is responsible for identifying and overseeing the review of serious child safeguarding cases which, in its view, raise issues that are complex or of national importance. The Panel should also maintain oversight of the system of national and local reviews and how effectively it is operating.

- 8.7 Locally, RBSCP has established arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases which are considered to raise issues of importance in relation to their area. The RBSCP commissions and oversees the review of those cases, where it is they considered to be appropriate for a review to be undertaken.
- 8.8 The Panel and RBSCP have a shared aim in identifying improvements to practice and protecting children from harm and will maintain an open dialogue on an ongoing basis. This will enable concerns to be shared, to highlight commonly-recurring areas that may need further investigation (whether leading to a local or national review), and to share learning, including from success, that could lead to improvements elsewhere.
- 8.9 RBSCP has regard to any guidance which the Panel publishes and these arrangements will be updated accordingly.
- 8.10 Working Together 2018 sets out the following criteria and guidance in respect of reviews.
- 8.11 Serious child safeguarding cases are those in which:
- abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected and
 - the child has died or been seriously harmed
- 8.12 Serious harm includes (but is not limited to) serious and / or long-term impairment of a child's mental health or intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development. It should also cover impairment of physical health. This is not an exhaustive list. When making decisions, judgment will need to be exercised in cases where impairment is likely to be long-term, even if this is not immediately certain. Even if a child recovers, including from a one-off incident, serious harm may still have occurred.
- 8.13 The local authority must notify any event that meets the above criteria both to the Panel and to RBSCP. They should do so within five working days of becoming aware that the incident has occurred. The local authority should also report the event to the RBSCP (and the Multi-agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) in other areas if appropriate) within five working days.
- 8.14 The local authority must also notify the Secretary of State and Ofsted where a looked after child has died, whether or not abuse or neglect is known or suspected.
- 8.15 The duty to notify events to the Panel rests with the local authority not with the

RBSCP. Others who have functions relating to children should inform the RBSCP of any incident which they think should be considered for a child safeguarding practice review. For Rochdale, this duty lies with the Director of Children's Services.

DECISIONS ON LOCAL AND NATIONAL REVIEWS

8.16 RBSCP has an established procedure to:

- identify serious child safeguarding cases which raise issues of importance in relation to the area **and**
- commission and oversee the review of those cases, where they consider it appropriate for a review to be undertaken

8.17 When a serious incident becomes known to the RBSCP, consideration is given as to whether the case meets the criteria for a local review.

8.18 Meeting the criteria does not mean that RBSCP must automatically carry out a local child safeguarding practice review. It is for the RBSCP to determine whether a review is appropriate, taking into account that the overall purpose of a review is to identify improvements to practice.

8.19 Issues might appear to be the same in some child safeguarding cases but reasons for actions and behaviours may be different and so there may be different learning to be gained from similar cases.

8.20 Decisions on whether to undertake reviews will be made transparently and the rationale communicated appropriately, including to families. Independent scrutiny and ratification of these decisions will be undertaken by the Independent Chair of RBSCP.

8.21 RBSCP gives due consideration to the criteria and guidance below when determining whether to carry out a local child safeguarding practice review. The criteria which RBSCP must take into account include whether the case:

- highlights or may highlight improvements needed to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, including where those improvements have been previously identified
- highlights or may highlight recurrent themes in the safeguarding and promotion of the welfare of children
- highlights or may highlight concerns regarding two or more organisations or agencies working together effectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children

- is one which the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel have considered and concluded a local review may be more appropriate

8.22 Regard must also be given to the following circumstances:

- where RBSCP have cause for concern about the actions of a single agency
- where there has been no agency involvement and this gives RBSCP cause for concern
- where more than one local authority, police area or clinical commissioning group is involved, including in cases where families have moved around
- Where the case may raise issues relating to safeguarding or promoting the welfare of children in institutional settings.

8.23 Some cases may not meet the definition of a 'serious child safeguarding case', but nevertheless raise issues of importance to the local area. That might, for example, include where there has been good practice, poor practice or where there has been a "near miss" event. RBSCP may choose to undertake a local child safeguarding practice review in these or other circumstances

THE RAPID REVIEW

8.24 RBSCP will promptly undertake a rapid review of the case, in line with any guidance published by the Panel. The aim of this rapid review is to enable safeguarding partners to:

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

8.25 The Independent Chair of RBSCP will have the final decision with regard to the recommendations in respect of conduct of reviews.

8.26 As soon as the rapid review is complete, RBSCP will send a copy to the Panel and also share with the Panel their decision about whether a local child

safeguarding practice review is appropriate, or whether it is thought the case may raise issues which are complex or of national importance such that a national review may be appropriate.

- 8.27 RBSCP may also do this if, during the course of a local child safeguarding practice review, new information comes to light which suggests that a national review may be appropriate. As soon as it has been determined that a local review will be carried out, RBSCP is required to inform the Panel, Ofsted and DfE, including the name of any reviewer they have commissioned.
- 8.28 Guidance on the criteria for the National Panel to consider before commissioning a national review will be published in due course and the RBSCP will be sighted on this and update the documentation accordingly.
- 8.29 In many cases there will need to be dialogue between RBSCP and the Panel to support the decision-making process. RBSCP must share further information with the Panel as requested.
- 8.30 The National Panel should inform RBSCP promptly following receipt of the rapid review, if they consider that:
- a national review is appropriate, setting out the rationale for their decision and next steps
 - further information is required to support the national Panel's decision-making (including whether RBSCP has taken a decision as to whether to commission a local review)
- 8.31 The National Panel will take decisions on whether to undertake national reviews and communicate their rationale appropriately, including to families. The national Panel should notify the Secretary of State when a decision is made to carry out a national review.
- 8.32 If the National Panel decides to undertake a national review they should discuss with the RBSCP the potential scope and methodology of the review and how they will engage with them and those involved in the case. There will be instances where a local review has been carried out which could then form part of a thematic review that the national Panel undertakes at a later date. There may also be instances when a local review has not been carried out but where the Panel considers that the case could be helpful to a national review at some stage in the future. In such circumstances, the national Panel should engage with RBSCP to agree the conduct of the review.

8.33 Working Together 2018³ indicates that alongside any national or local reviews, there could be a criminal investigation, a coroner's investigation and/or professional body disciplinary procedures. A clear process for working alongside other investigations, including Domestic Homicide Reviews, multi-agency public protection arrangements reviews or Safeguarding Adults Reviews, and work collaboratively with those responsible for carrying out those reviews will be established. This is to reduce burdens on and anxiety for the children and families concerned and to minimise duplication of effort and uncertainty.

COMMISSIONING A REVIEWER OR REVIEWERS FOR A LOCAL CHILD SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE REVIEW:

8.34 RBSCP is responsible for commissioning and supervising reviewers for local reviews. In all cases it will consider whether the reviewer has the following:

- professional knowledge, understanding and practice relevant to local child safeguarding practice reviews, including the ability to engage both with practitioners and children and families
- knowledge and understanding of research relevant to children's safeguarding issues
- ability to recognise the complex circumstances in which practitioners work together to safeguard children
- ability to understand practice from the viewpoint of the individuals, organisations or agencies involved at the time rather than using hindsight
- ability to communicate findings effectively
- whether the reviewer has any real or perceived conflict of interest

LOCAL CHILD SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE REVIEWS:

8.35 RBSCP will agree with the reviewer(s) the method by which the review should be conducted, taking into account this guidance and the principles of the systems methodology recommended by the Munro review. The methodology should provide a way of looking at and analysing frontline practice as well as organisational structures and learning. The methodology should be able to reach recommendations that will improve outcomes for children. All reviews should reflect the child's perspective and the family context.

³ Working Together to Safeguard Children Page 88 Paragraph 29

- 8.36 The review should be proportionate to the circumstances of the case, focus on potential learning, and establish and explain the reasons why the events occurred as they did.
- 8.37 RBSCP will continue to use the Rochdale Learning and Improvement Framework⁴ which is our local model, for the conduct of reviews which has the benefits of providing some continuity along with meeting the requirements set out in Working Together 2018.
- 8.38 As part of the duty to ensure that the review is of satisfactory quality, the RBSCP seeks to ensure that:
- practitioners are fully involved in reviews and invited to contribute their perspectives without fear of being blamed for actions they took in good faith
 - families, including surviving children, are invited to contribute to reviews. This is important for ensuring that the child is at the centre of the process. They should understand how they are going to be involved and their expectations should be managed appropriately and sensitively
- 8.39 RBSCP must supervise the review to ensure that the reviewer is making satisfactory progress and that the review is of satisfactory quality. RBSCP may request information from the reviewer during the review to enable them to assess progress and quality; any such requests must be made in writing. The President of the Family Division's guidance⁵ covering the role of the judiciary in SCRs will also be noted in the context of child safeguarding practice reviews.

EXPECTATIONS FOR THE FINAL REPORT:

- 8.40 RBSCP will ensure that the final report includes:
- a summary of any recommended improvements to be made by persons in the area to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
 - an analysis of any systemic or underlying reasons why actions were taken or not in respect of matters covered by the report
- 8.41 Any recommendations should be clear on what is required of relevant agencies and others collectively and individually, and by when, and focussed on improving outcomes for children.

⁴ [Rochdale Learning and Improvement Framework](#)

⁵ [Judicial Cooperation with SCR's](#)

- 8.42 Reviews are about promoting and sharing information about improvements, both within the area and potentially beyond, RBSCP will publish the report, unless they consider it inappropriate to do so. In such a circumstance, they must publish any information about the improvements that should be made following the review that they consider it appropriate to publish. The name of the reviewer(s) should be included. Published reports or information will be publicly available for at least one year.
- 8.43 When compiling and preparing to publish the report, RBSCP will consider carefully how best to manage the impact of the publication on children, family members, practitioners and others closely affected by the case. RMASA will ensure that reports are written in such a way so that what is published avoids harming the welfare of any children or vulnerable adults involved in the case.
- 8.44 RBSCP will send a copy of the full report to the national Panel and to the Secretary of State no later than seven working days before the date of publication. Where they decide only to publish information relating to the improvements to be made following the review, they must also provide a copy of that information to the national Panel and the Secretary of State within the same timescale. RBSCP will also provide the report, or information about improvements, to Ofsted within the same timescale.
- 8.45 Depending on the nature and complexity of the case, the report should be completed and published as soon as possible and no later than six months from the date of the decision to initiate a review. Where other proceedings have an impact on or delay publication, for example an ongoing criminal investigation, inquest or future prosecution, RBSCP should inform the national Panel and the Secretary of State of the reasons for the delay and should also set out the justification for any decision not to publish either the full report or information relating to improvements. RBSCP will have regard to any comments that the national Panel or the Secretary of State may make in respect of publication.
- 8.46 Every effort should also be made, both before the review and while it is in progress, to (i) capture points from the case about improvements needed, and (ii) take corrective action and disseminate learning.

ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO LOCAL AND NATIONAL REVIEWS:

- 8.47 RBSCP will take account of the findings from local reviews and from all national reviews, with a view to considering how identified improvements should be implemented locally, including the way in which organisations and

agencies work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. RBSCP will highlight findings from reviews with relevant parties locally and will regularly audit progress on the implementation of recommended improvements. Improvement should be sustained through regular monitoring and follow up of actions so that the findings from these reviews make a real impact on improving outcomes for children.

9. ACCOUNTABILITY AND INDEPENDENCE

- 9.1 While the three safeguarding partners fully accept the lead role given to them in the new arrangements they also fully recognise the essential contribution of other agencies in delivering effective safeguarding responses and will nominate “relevant” agencies to join them in delivering the Multi-agency Safeguarding Partnership Arrangements.
- 9.2 The RBSCP works closely with all RBSCP partners and particularly with the Director of Children’s Services as the Director of Children’s Services has the responsibility within the local authority, under section 18 of the Children Act 2004, for improving outcomes for children, local authority children’s social care functions and local cooperation arrangements for children’s services.
- 9.3 All RBSCP member organisations have an obligation to provide the RBSCP with reliable resources (including finance) to enable the RBSCP to be strong and effective. Members share the financial responsibility for the RBSCP in such a way that a disproportionate burden does not fall on a small number of partner agencies.
- 9.4 The budget for the RBSCP, for a financial year running from April to March, will be agreed in the previous December of each year. Working Together 2018 makes clear that both partners and relevant agencies will contribute to the budget. Contributions from the agencies are made in the following proportions/sums which are designed to be fair and proportionate.
- 9.5 Agencies making contributions to the RBSCP will have access to resources including training (with the exception of non-attendance fees).

INDEPENDENT SCRUTINY

- 9.6 The role of independent scrutiny 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.

- 9.7 Whilst the decision on how best to implement a robust system of independent scrutiny is made locally, safeguarding partners will ensure that the scrutiny is objective, acts as a constructive critical friend and promotes reflection to drive continuous improvement.
- 9.8 In Rochdale, the Partners are agreed that in order to ensure an equitable level of accountability, and provide independent challenge to the partners and relevant agencies, the appointment of an Independent Chair will support the work of the RBSCP. The Rochdale arrangements are fully engaged with the GM Standards Board in establishing effective quality assurance and scrutiny mechanisms that will add value to local audit scrutiny across Greater Manchester
- 9.9 It is the responsibility of the Chief Executive of the Council to appoint or remove the RBSCP chair with the agreement of a panel including RBSCP partners. The Chief Executive, drawing on other RBSCP partners, has delegated this role to the DCS who holds the Chair to account for the effective working of the RBSCP.
- 9.10 The Chair supports the partners in publishing an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area and takes responsibility for ensuring this is an accurate and open reflection of the strengths and challenges in evidence.
- 9.11 The report provides a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services identifies areas of strength and weakness, the causes of those weaknesses and the action being taken to address them as well as other proposals for action. The report also includes lessons from reviews undertaken within the reporting period.
- 9.12 The report lists the contributions made to the RBSCP by partner agencies and details of what the RBSCP has spent, including on Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, and other specific expenditure such as learning events or training.

10. INFORMATION SHARING

- 10.1 Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 sets out how effective sharing of information between professionals and local agencies is essential for effective service provision. RBSCP plays a strong part in supporting information sharing between and within organisations and addressing any barriers to information sharing. This includes ensuring that a culture of information sharing is developed and supported as necessary by multi-agency training. Government guidance on information sharing can be accessed via the link below:

[Information Sharing - Government Guidance](#)

- 10.2 Organisations and agencies within a strong multi-agency system should have confidence that information is shared effectively, amongst and between them, to improve outcomes for children and their families. RBSCP may require any person or organisation or agency to provide them, any relevant agency for the area, a reviewer or another person or organisation or agency, with specified information. This applies to information which 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.
- 10.3 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 may take legal action against them.

DATA PROTECTION AND GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS (GDPR)

- 10.4 The ICO has stated that, under data protection legislation, the RBSCP is a separate data controller from the local authority host and three safeguarding partners and should be registered as such.
- 10.5 The RBSCP safeguarding partners have agreement as to how to arrange to comply with Freedom of Information (FOI)/GDPR obligations, and in particular transparency obligations and individuals' rights. [The Partnership (Business Unit) has information governance support and advice from Rochdale Borough Council]

11. MEMBERSHIP

- 11.1 The responsibility for the RBSCP rests with the three safeguarding partners who have a shared and equal duty to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Rochdale. In Rochdale this includes, Rochdale Borough Council, NHS Heywood Middleton Rochdale CCG, and Greater Manchester Police.
- 11.2 The safeguarding partners have set out the relevant agencies, which are the organisations and agencies whose involvement is considered required as part of the RBSCP.
- 11.3 The relevant agencies are named as follows:
- National Probation Service
 - Community Rehabilitation Company
 - Early Break (Voluntary Sector Organisations)
 - Pathfinders (Drug and Alcohol Services)
 - Healthwatch Rochdale
 - Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service
 - Pennine Care Foundation Trust
 - Northern Care Alliance (NHS)
 - CAF/CASS
- 11.4 The members of the RBSCP are people with a strategic role in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children within their organisation. They can and do:
- speak for their organisation with authority;
 - Commit their organisation on policy and practice matters; and hold their own organisation to account and hold other members to account.
- 11.5 Schools, colleges and other educational providers have a pivotal role to play in safeguarding children and promoting their welfare. Their co-operation and buy-in to the new arrangements will be vital for success. All schools, colleges and other educational providers have duties in relation to safeguarding children and promoting their welfare.

- 11.6 In order to promote effective engagement early years setting, schools and colleges are identified as relevant agencies and will be represented on the RBSCP by:
- One Secondary Head
 - One Primary Head; and
 - One Further Education lead
- 11.7 Early Years settings and the youth offending service are represented by Rochdale Borough Council Children's Services
- 11.8 RBSCP maintains links with the Local Family Justice Board via common membership of Cafcass and through the GM Standards Board.
- 11.9 RBSCP also has a protocol in place regarding the relationships and mutual accountabilities with the Children and Young People's Partnership and the Health and Well-being Board.
- 11.10 The RBSCP also draws on appropriate expertise and advice from frontline professionals from all the relevant sectors. This includes a designated doctor and nurse who attend RBSCP meetings in an advisory capacity.
- 11.11 The lead member for Children's services will have a role on the Partnership as a participant/observer
- 11.12 The partnership also sees great benefit in having representatives of the local community on its partnership and will continue to have at least one Lay person as a member on the children partnership.
- 11.13 Funding arrangements will be set out in respect of key relevant members. Each funding member will be entitled to take advantage of the training provided by the RBSCP and all other elements of support provided. The Voluntary Sector is exempt from financial support to the new arrangements and will be eligible for training and ongoing support.

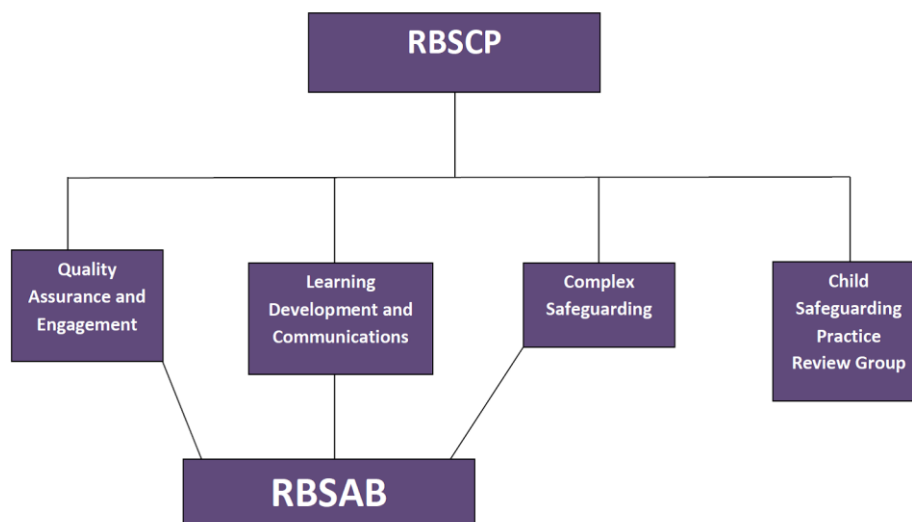
12. SUBGROUPS AND REMIT

12.1 The RBSCP has a number of sub-groups, on a standing basis and commissions “task and finish groups” as required to:

- carry out specific tasks, for example: maintaining and updating procedures and protocols; conduct of Child Safeguarding Practice reviews; and identifying and responding to inter-agency training needs
- bring together representatives of a sector to discuss relevant issues and to provide a contribution from that sector to RBSCP work, for example: schools, the voluntary and community sector, faith groups
- ensure collection of data and conduct of audits and reviews to promote the effective delivery of services and challenge on areas of concern.

12.2 Some of the RBSCP subgroups function as ‘joint’ subgroups with the Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Adult Board (RBSAB).

12.3 The following tables set out the RBSCP sub group structure with joint RBSCP/RBSAB sub-groups:



12.4 Individual subgroup remits:

a) Quality Assurance & Engagement

- Scrutiny and validation of the effectiveness of what is done by the RBSCP partners and relevant agencies both individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, report

this to the RBSCP, who can then in turn provide advice on ways to improve performance and quality

- To ensure engagement of partners and stakeholders in respect of Safeguarding

b) Learning, Development & Communication

- To ensure that safeguarding children's training is provided to all agencies providing services to children and young people
- Ensure that assurance is gathered so that safeguarding and child protection training assists practitioners to deliver effective services to children and families

c) Child Safeguarding Practice Review Group

- To monitor and review notifications, referrals and Rapid Reviews
- To ensure that, at a strategic level on behalf of the RBSCP, organisational lessons are learnt, and changes are instituted, from the review of Child Safeguarding Practice cases, to prevent future incidents of serious child abuse or death.

d) Complex Safeguarding

- The purpose of the subgroup is to receive thematic strategies/plans, developments (statutory/practice) and provide a challenge and support role within the context of the respective operational delivery in the following work streams and provide reassurance to both Boards:
 - Child sexual exploitation
 - Missing from home, care and education
 - Radicalisation
 - Female genital mutilation
 - Modern slavery
 - Extremism
 - Gangs & violence
 - Honour based violence
 - Prevent
 - County lines/Criminal exploitation

The strategies will reflect local needs.

10.5 Subgroup working arrangements:

- Each subgroup is Chaired by a member of the RBSCP
- Terms of Reference for each subgroup are agreed by the RBSCP
- Action plans, linked to the RBSCP strategic objectives are developed by each subgroup
- The subgroup Chairs provide quarterly reports to the RBSCP updating

the board on the implementation ,achievements and outcomes of their individual subgroup action plans

- 10.6 Through its members, the Board is involved with the Children and Young People's Partnership, the Domestic Abuse Partnership, the Health and Well-being Board, the Adult Safeguarding Board, the Clinical Commissioning Group, the Community Safety Partnership and many other strategic forums and Members are expected to raise relevant items that impact on the RBSCP's business priorities.
- 10.7 The RBSCP and its sub-groups work to a business plan. The strategic objectives are published annually.